



# KCC Newsletter

## March, 2025

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### Announcement

*Exchange Programs with  
Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa*

#### Recruitment for the 52nd Youth Delegation to Torrance

Dispatch Period: Monday, August 4 – Friday, August 22 (19 days)

**N** 8 (Residents or students in Kashiwa City born between April 2, 2005, and April 1, 2010)

Cost: Approximately 400,000 yen

Application Process: Attend the dispatch briefing session. Submit the application form in person at the KCC office between Monday, March 24, and Wednesday, April 2. Application forms will be distributed at the dispatch briefing session on Sunday, March 23.

Selection Process: First round: Sunday, April 20

Second round: Sunday, April 27

For details, please check the website.

*Exchange Programs with  
Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa*

#### Briefing Session for the 52nd Kashiwa Youth Delegation to Torrance

**D** Sunday, March 23, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Reception from 1:30 p.m.)

**P** Chuo Kominkan, 5th Floor, Auditorium

**C** Explanation about the application for the 2025 delegation students (application conditions, application method, application period, etc.)

● Application forms will be distributed. All applicants must attend. Those interested in the program are also welcome to join.

● After the session, a briefing on recruiting host families for Torrance students will be held at the same venue (3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.).

#### Request for Donations for Los Angeles Wildfire Relief

We appreciate your continued warm support.

#### Free Legal and Administrative Procedure Consultation for Foreign Residents

Are you experiencing any difficulties such as domestic violence, divorce, visa issues, or workplace troubles? Lawyers and administrative scriveners will be available to provide consultations. Please make a reservation.

**D** Wednesday, March 26, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**P** Palette Kashiwa A

**R** KCC Office

<Request> Make sure to include the event name, your name and phone number when you apply by email.

Personal information obtained by the Association will be handled strictly in accordance with the “Act on the Protection of Personal Information.” (KCC)

**D**Date & Time **P**Place **F**Fee **N**Number of applicants **L**Lecturer **C**Contents **A**Application **R**Reservation.

## Zoom and Communication – How a Single Word Can Spark Conversations (Small Additional Words) (1/19)

With Ms. Kumiko Yamaguchi as our instructor, we learned various tips for making Zoom communication more effective and smooth, which can be immediately implemented. On Zoom, you need to use more facial expressions than in-person communication, and listeners must also express themselves using more nods and eye contact than usual. We worked in pairs to experience the differences in how we felt when we talked to each other face-to-face and when we spoke to each other while the other person was facing sideways. Changing words such as “indecisive” and “timid” to more positive words can make human relationships smoother. What words do you replace them with? Being considerate of others is the key to lively conversations.

## World New Year's Party (1/26)

A total of 12 foreigners and 22 Japanese participants joined the event. Staff members, both foreign and Japanese, gathered in the Chuo Kominkan's cooking practice room in the morning to prepare traditional dishes from various countries.

- **Brazil:** Pastel (fried dumplings), Ninho (sweets made with powdered milk), Cajuzinho (sweets shaped like cacao)
- **Thailand:** Yum Woon Sen (spicy glass noodle salad)
- **China/Taiwan:** Boiled dumplings, grilled pork spare ribs
- **Philippines:** Chicken macaroni salad, Apritada (chicken and vegetable tomato stew)
- **Indonesia:** Nasi Kuning (turmeric rice), Sate Ayam (grilled chicken with peanut sauce)
- **Japan:** Chikuzen-ni (simmered chicken and vegetables), Datemaki (sweet rolled omelet), Gomoku Namasu (vinegared salad)

The Indonesian Nasikuneng means "yellow rice," as yellow is considered an auspicious color. The Datemaki was handmade by a participant from the Philippines. The boiled dumplings were made from scratch, starting from kneading the flour for the wrappers.

The venue was decorated with Chinese and Japanese New Year ornaments, and 12 round fruits were placed on the center of the tables, following a Filipino New Year tradition. Participants with children enjoyed tasting the unique dishes and had a warm and friendly exchange.



Delicious dishes we prepared with great care and effort



Chicken macaroni salad, Apritada (chicken and vegetable tomato stew)

## International Exchange through Tea Ceremony Experience (2/1)

The tea ceremony was attended by participants from a wide range of countries such as the U.S., Algeria, China, Spain, Latvia, and Japan, as well as from a wide age group including elementary and junior high school students. They enjoyed the atmosphere of a tea ceremony and had hands-on experiences of making tea.

First, after an explanation by the instructor, the participants tried making Japanese traditional green tea. First-timers were a little confused, but with the support of the instructor and staff, they tasted the tea they had made themselves. Next, the instructor performed a formal tea ceremony using *fukusa* (tea cloth). Everyone was enchanted by the instructor's beautiful performance. Afterwards, they enjoyed tea prepared by staff members along with delicious sweets.

The participants learned that the essence of Japanese hospitality is reflected in every single gesture of tea making and the way sweets are passed around, and they enjoyed a quiet and relaxing time.

The participants commented, “The tea and sweets were delicious and very enjoyable,” “I felt that the tea ceremony was too formal for me, but the detailed instruction made it enjoyable,” “I want to restart tea ceremony practice, now that I remember the old days,” and “I want to try it at home.”



Learning how to use *fukusa*



## Japanese Speech Presentation by Japanese Language Class (2/1)

Twenty-two learners gave their presentations at Palette Kashiwa. The event was held for the first time in 6 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Tran Trung Hau's Speech:

#### Experiences in Japan and My Future Goals

*My name is Hau. I am from Vietnam. I decided to study in Japan because I wanted to experience many things while I was young. When I came to Japan, I could not make friends because I could not understand what Japanese people were saying because of the language barrier. I was depressed when I could not understand the language at my part-time job. However, I recalled my purpose of coming to Japan and kept trying my best.*

*Gradually, my Japanese improved and I was able to talk with my Japanese colleagues. When they got sick or were busy at work, I was able to help them in their place. Those things gave me great satisfaction. I felt so happy to be able to help others as my Japanese got better, and that I decided to choose a career in nursing care. I believe that nursing care work is a perfect fit for me. I want to study Japanese more and be able to communicate fluently with Japanese people.*



Participants of the Japanese Speech Presentation

## Disaster Prevention and Safety Class for Foreign Residents (2/6)

A total of 17 foreign and Japanese residents of Kashiwa attended the class and listened to a lecture on past disasters and disaster prevention measures in Kashiwa city. The lecturers were the staff of the Disaster Prevention and Safety Division, Crisis Management Department of Kashiwa City. At the beginning, two materials, “Disaster Prevention Tips for You Living in Japan” and “Kashiwa City Disaster Prevention Guidebook” written in four languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean), were distributed. While answering simple questions, the participants learned how to confirm the safety of family members and how to stockpile food supplies by looking at actual emergency supplies brought by the city staff. In addition, by using hazard maps each of them confirmed their nearby “evacuation sites” (places such as large parks where people can escape danger for the time being) and “shelters” (places such as schools and neighborhood centers where people can temporarily stay overnight and receive water and food). Finally, long shelf-life emergency food (bread) at room temperature was handed out for tasting. All participants reaffirmed the importance of daily preparedness and awareness against disasters.



Participants are listening to the city staff very attentively

## The 14th English Speech Contest (2/9)

The 14th English Speech Contest was held at Amuser Kashiwa. Nine speakers, ranging from high school students to those in their 70s, participated in the contest. They presented in English on topics such as what they think and feel in their everyday lives, how they are involved with English, etc. The Kashiwa Mayor's Award went to Karen Iwai, the KIRA President's Award to Chihiro Kato, and both the Special Award and Audience Award (audience vote) to Hiroshi Igarashi.

The judges and evaluators praised the presenters and gave helpful advice on how to improve their presentations. We look forward to seeing many participants next year as a place to exchange opinions and to share the achievements of their daily English studies. (The speech manuscripts of the winners will be posted on our website.)



Contestants of the English Speech Contest

# March Events

## Japanese Shonan Classes (Spring Vacation 3/17-4/5)

### Online Classes

Sun	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary II; Chukyu kara Manabu Nihongo (Intermediate)</i>
Sun	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I</i>

### In-person Classes (Shonan Community Center)

Thu	10:00 a.m. - noon	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I (2 classes) Primary II</i>
Sun	10:00 a.m. - noon	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I (3 classes)</i>

## Japanese Kashiwa/Kashiwanoha Classes (Spring Vacation 3/16-4/7)

### Online Classes

Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I (Unit 30 - )</i>
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary
Wed	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary II (Unit 48 - )</i>
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation Elementary
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary II (Unit 28 - )</i>
Sat	9:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.	Conversation Intermediate

### In-person Classes (Palette Kashiwa)

Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Hiragana, Katakana; Minna no Nihongo, Primary I</i>
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary 1 (Unit 7, 18 - )</i>
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary II (Unit 26 - )</i>
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Hiragana, Katakana; Minna no Nihongo, Primary I</i>
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I (Unit 4, 16 - )</i>

### In-person Classes (Kashiwanoha Service Corner)

Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary (first half/second half)
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Hiragana, Katakana
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Intermediate

## Members Wanted! Kashiwa International Relations Association (KIRA)

Why don't you become a member and join us in international exchange activities? Let's interact with foreigners by planning and organizing various events. You don't have to speak English. You can also make friends. For more information, please visit our website. (Inquiries: the KCC office)

## Information for Foreign Residents from Kashiwa City

### Consultation for Foreign Residents

Available in English (Thu), Chinese (Wed and Fri), Spanish (Mon), and Korean (2nd and 4th Tue) from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Consultation Counter for Foreign Residents (City Hall Main Office Building, 3rd floor).

Tel: 04 - 7168 - 1033

No reservation required.

### Email distribution service from Kashiwa City

Sign up to receive email announcement from the city, such as information on natural disasters, crimes, and fires of your area in the language of your choice. Scan the QR code and register!



### Multilingual "Koho Kashiwa," monthly official city bulletin

Scan the QR code and select your language under "Foreign Language" to read the official city bulletin, "Koho Kashiwa," selected and translated for foreign residents.

## NHK World-JAPAN's website has been renewed. Available in multiple languages.

[https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/multilingual\\_links/](https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/multilingual_links/)



Questions?  
Please contact the office of  
Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center (KCC)

Tel: 04-7157-0281 Fax: 04-7165-7321  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.  
Closed on Sundays and national holidays