



Kyoto Prefectural International Center

NEWS

Vol. 89

Autumn 2019

Table of contents:

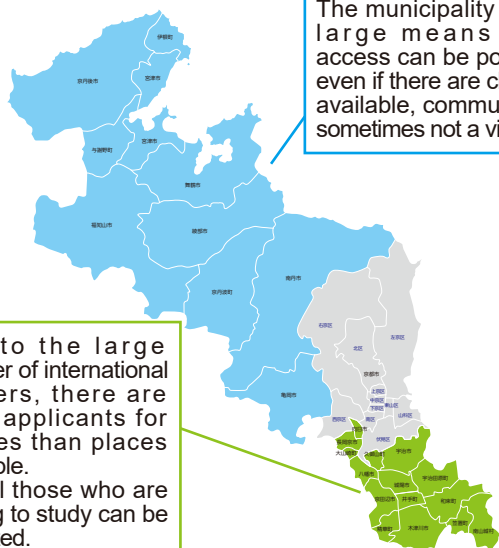
■ Survey regarding “Regional Japanese language education”	p.1
■ Current status of internationalization in Kyoto Prefecture	p.2
■ Creation of a life consultation desk for international residents	p.3
■ From Kyoto to France: A message of hope	p.3
■ Intercultural Communication Lecture report	p.3
■ Goodbye for now, Kyoto! (M.Hall)	p.4

Survey regarding “Regional Japanese language education”

The present condition of Japanese language classes within the prefecture

There are insufficient Japanese language study locations for International residents

Of the 26 municipalities in the region, 15 offer Japanese language classes



Classes being managed by volunteers

In areas where the population is aging, classes are closing down.

It is not easy to secure the necessary finances, or the locations to conduct classes.

“Act on the promotion of Japanese language education”

(brought into effect as of June, 2019)

➔ Providing Japanese language education services to residents as a public obligation.



Based upon national policies, Kyoto Prefecture is realizing fact finding surveys regarding “Regional Japanese language education” with the purpose of carrying out an “Establishment of comprehensive regional Japanese language education.” At the center, we have been entrusted with the duty of conducting this research, and we are doing so through the use of questionnaires and hearings directed at international residents and other related parties.

The results of these investigations will be used as the basic data in progressing the Japanese language education and lifestyle support services for international residents.

We would be grateful if you could cooperate on taking this survey.

Henceforth, along with all the related parties, we are working for the fulfillment of our efforts towards the formation of multicultural coexistence (※) within the entire prefectural region.

(※) “Multicultural coexistence” is...

Recognizing the differing cultures among the myriad of nationalities and ethnicities of the people around us and creating relationships of equality whilst striving to live together in harmony as members of regional societies.

(“Research Society Report on Multiculturalism Coexistence Promotion” March, 2006, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

Please provide your answers at the following <https://www.kpic.or.jp/nihongo/chousa.html>

(Available in 10 languages: English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Filipino, Indonesian, Nepali, Thai, French and Japanese.)



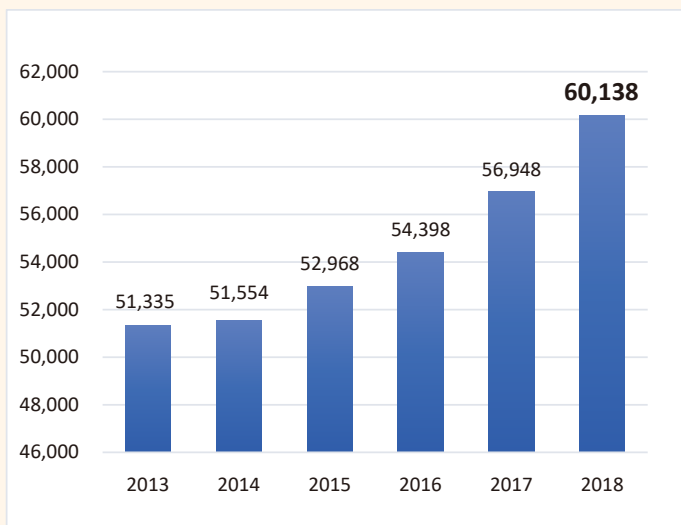
Current conditions of internationalization in Kyoto

1. The number of international residents is approximately 60,000, from 162 countries and regions

The number of those living within Kyoto prefecture exceeded 60,000 last year, and Kyoto Prefecture ranks 11th nationwide in total numbers of international residents. While the total population of Kyoto Prefecture was at its peak at 2,648,245 people in 2004, the number of international residents has been rising yearly since 2014, with the bulk of those people coming from Asia.

Hereafter, the even greater increase in international students and international workers is predicted, and there is a subsequent demand for regional planning focused on the formation of societies of multicultural coexistence.

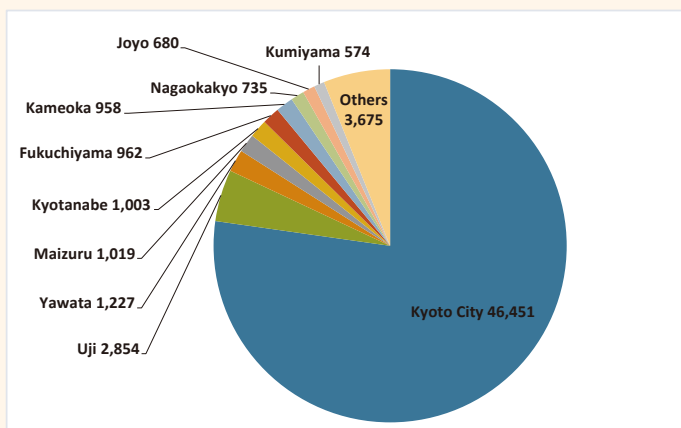
International resident's number



2. Approximately 80% of international residents reside in Kyoto City, with the remainder being spread across the region

Kyoto Prefecture's characteristic feature is that international residents are largely concentrated in Kyoto City, and that the remainder of its international residents are widely spread out among university cities like Uji City and Kyotanabe City, Yawata City which has many factories, along with Fukuchiyama City and other such similar areas.

International residents population by municipalities



Number of international residents in Kyoto Prefecture

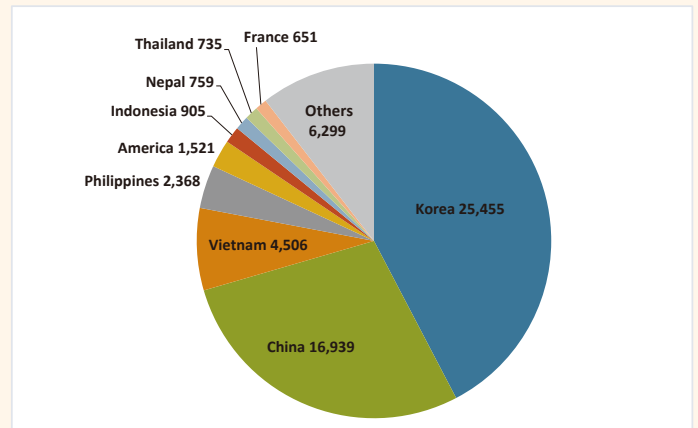
The total population of Kyoto prefecture: 2,590,658 people (as of 2019, January 1st)
 Of the total population, those who are international residents: 60,138 people (as of 2018, December 31st)
 Percentage of total population made up by international residents: Approximately 2.3%

3. Asian international residents are rapidly increasing

Vietnamese residents have increased by a factor of 15 and Nepalese residents have increased by a factor of 6. There is a noticeable influx in recent years of International residents from China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand.

With a particular magnification of an acceptance of residents from Vietnam and Nepal by the government, these past 10 years have seen an exceptional increase.

International residents by nationality



4. With the permanent settlement and increase in workers, permanent residents have increased by a factor of 1.5, with "technical skills → intern training" increasing by a factor of 5.

While those who hold the status of "Special Permanent Resident" have been on a downwards trend because of the declining birth rate, ageing population, naturalizations to Japan and so forth, holders of the "Permanent Resident" status have increased by a factor of 1.5 over the past 10 years.

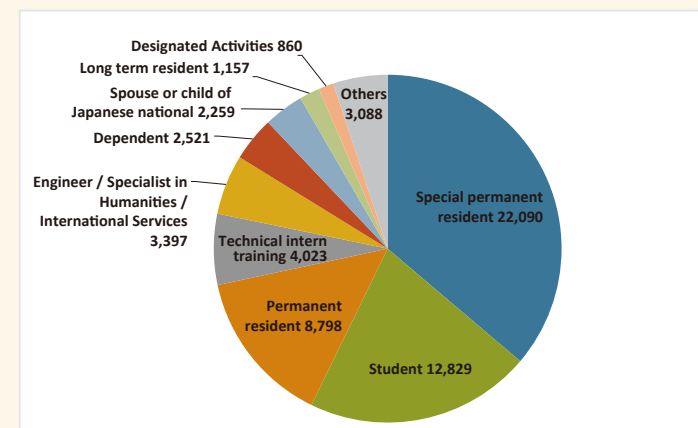
With the ongoing development of many Asian countries, and the promotion of active invitations to the country, the number of international students is also on the rise.

Within the international workers, "technical intern training" has increased by a factor of 5 over approximately the past 10 years. In April of 2019 the revised Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act came into effect, and the new status of residence "Specified Skilled Worker" ※ was established. With this, the number of international residents within the Prefecture is predicted to increase further.

※ "Specified Skilled Worker" refers to...

The establishment of a new status of residence created to secure a labor workforce in 14 various industries that are facing a serious labor shortage within Japan, this includes nursing care, restaurants, construction, agriculture, lodging, and so forth.

International residents by visa status



Creation of a life consultation desk for international residents

Kyoto Prefectural International Center opened a consultation desk to support the lives of international residents on the rise in the prefecture. We provide information and consultation on daily life such as residence procedures, employment, medical care, welfare, and education. Please feel free to contact us as we are available for both telephone call and visit.

■ **Consultation date/time: 10: 00-17: 00**

(Excluding 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, national holidays, and New Year holidays)

■ **Dedicated dial: 075-343-9666**

■ **Provided languages:** English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai, Portuguese, Spanish
(Three-party calling by phone)

* Automatic translators for languages other than the above are also available.



For those who live in Kyoto City please contact the Kyoto City International Foundation

■ **TEL 075-752-3511**

■ **9: 00-17: 00** (Closed on Mondays)

From Kyoto to France : A message of hope for the restoration of the Notre-Dame Cathedral

On April 15, 2019, a large-scale fire broke out in the Notre-Dame Cathedral, a cultural heritage site and symbol of France, resulting in its spire and parts of its roof being destroyed.

In light of these circumstances, the people of Kyoto Prefecture pray for the successful restoration of the Cathedral. They have created a video message of support and encouragement for the people of France.

This video message of support was handed in the form of a DVD directly from Governor T.Nishiwaki of Kyoto Prefecture to President E.Macron of France on his visit to Kyoto on June 27, 2019. Watch it and share it widely please.



←Scan the QR code to watch the video

Activity report • Kyoto City 9th June/Maia Hall (CIR)

Intercultural Communication Lecture report

On Sunday, June 9, I held an Intercultural Communication Lecture at the Kyoto Prefectural International Center. This became a very lively and interesting event, attended by people from all over Kyoto Prefecture!

Rather than focusing on a particular country or culture, I wanted to create a discussion about how to communicate with people from different backgrounds, even if you cannot speak the same language. We talked about some socio-anthropological and psychological theories that explain certain cultural differences and discussed how to actually use these in our real lives, reminding ourselves how important it is to be open-minded and give people the benefit of the doubt.

'Culture' is such a broad concept. Of course, we think of things like food, music, the arts, and language. But below that lie subconscious ways of thinking that dictate our behavior and interactions, including our values, learning styles, our conception of justice, family issues, how we think of the universe... It is these less visible cultural difference that often lead to misunderstandings and walls that form between people of different cultures. With this lecture, I think we successfully broke down some of these barriers.

Although this event was my last as a Coordinator for International Relations, it was a wonderful opportunity to talk openly with the people of Kyoto about such a complex but important topic. In this age of globalization, I hope that Kyoto Prefecture can continue to open its heart to the world. Thank you!



A Message from Maia Hall, Coordinator for International Relations

Goodbye for now, Kyoto! (M.Hall)

Hi everyone! I'm sad to say that my time as a CIR for Kyoto Prefecture is coming to a close. I have made countless wonderful memories and met so many different people here over these two years, and for that I will be forever grateful.

Some things I got up to during my time in Kyoto will stick with me in particular. With the Kyoto Prefectural International Center and at the International Affairs Division, I was involved in regional level sister-city events and projects; attended various festivals and events specializing in the wonders of Kyoto; met, guided and interpreted for foreign officials and organizations; helped residents with disaster preparedness, traffic and extreme weather safety; assisted international students and residents in Kyoto... the list goes on!

Through KPIC, I am especially glad to have been able to run a number of intercultural understanding lectures, where I had the opportunity to interact and debate with diverse people from all over the prefecture. Some of the topics we covered include introducing the culture, history, and politics of Scotland; Easter festivities where we also did a traditional European activity of dyeing eggs with natural onion skin dyes; talking about the real Grimms' Fairytales from Germany and how they relate to Japanese folklore and mythology, whilst making glass silhouette candle holders; and most recently, a lively workshop on

intercultural communication and the many socio-anthropological theories behind these differences, and how we as individuals can help cross cultural boundaries to make for a more open society. Living in Kyoto City has been incredible, but with the CIR role, I was also able to travel further afield, all around the whole of the beautiful prefecture that is Kyoto. I went on school visits where I felt like I was able to directly connect with and learn from the next generation of young people in Japan; helped out on tours; and worked at a kids' English Camp!

As I prepare to continue my studies in Public Policy (something I grew interested in through this position), all that remains is to say a huge thank you to all of my wonderful and supportive colleagues, both at KPIC and the International Affairs Division, and the welcoming and enthusiastic people of Kyoto Prefecture who have made my stint as a CIR an absolute dream. ありがとうございます！ I'll be back!



*In August the Center welcomed a new CIR called Adam Franklin.



INFORMATION FROM KPIC

At KPIC: International resident disaster support lecture

Date and time: November 16th (Saturday) 13:30 – 16:00

Location: Kyoto Keizai Center

Contents: Support for international residents in the event of a disaster
"Interpreting, translating experience" (Practice and roleplay)

Participation fee: Free

Details: <https://www.kpic.or.jp/saigai/kensyu.html>

Kyoto Prefecture CIRs common blog

<http://tabunkakyoito.wordpress.com/>



For more information, please refer to

Web <http://www.kpic.or.jp/english/>

GO

COUNSELING SERVICES for Kyoto's International Residents

1 Support Desk for International Students

Our counseling staff can give you information and advice for daily life, preparation for jobs, contacts with graduates working in Japan, etc. This service is free of charge.

- Consultation days and hours : Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 10:00-17:00
- Languages : Interpretation in English, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Spanish and Portuguese available. Reservation required for interpretation.
- Email : counsel@kpic.or.jp ■ TEL : 075-342-0088

2 Visa consultation

An expert can respond to your visa-related questions including those about changing or renewing your status of residence.
Please make a reservation at least one week in advance through the online or by fax.

- Date: Fourth Sunday of every month, 13:00-16:00 (30 minutes/person)
- Fee: Free of charge.
- Details: <http://www.kpic.or.jp/english/residents/consul.html>
- <http://www.kpic.or.jp/english/residents/consul.html>

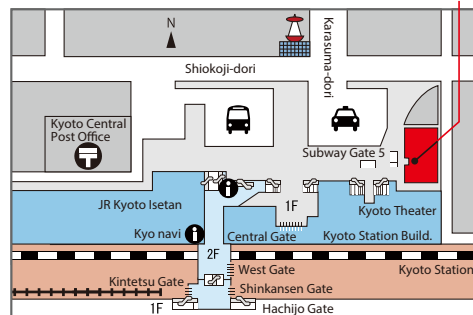
Living Info by Email

We send email messages full of useful living information twice a month. Please send your choice of language (English, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese or Japanese in the hiragana syllabary) to:

living-e@kpic.or.jp



Access information



Kyoto Prefectural International Center

B1F Mielparque Kyoto building, 676-13 Higashi shioikoji-cho, Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto 600-8216, Japan

Tel : 075-342-5000

Fax : 075-342-5050

E-mail : main@kpic.or.jp

<http://www.kpic.or.jp/>

Open hours : 10:00-18:00

Closed : 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month, national holidays, 12/29-1/3



Kyoto Prefectural International Center

