

Kyoto Prefectural International Center

NEWS

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Special Feature Multicultural coexistence initiates in Kyoto Prefecture

As of the end of December 2020, there are 61,139 international residents living in Kyoto Prefecture (survey conducted by Kyoto Prefecture International Affairs Division). To promote coexistence with the ever-increasing number of international residents, efforts are currently underway towards various community development initiatives.

In this issue, we will introduce the new initiatives of three groups that are a part of the municipal international exchange associations that are active within the prefecture.

A location for foreign resident support has opened in Galleria Kameoka!

For its 2020 administrative policies, Kameoka, a city that boasts policies for environmental sustainability and multicultural coexistence, established its Kameoka Foreign Resident Support in November of 2020. In addition to multilingual consultation desks and the registration and introduction of language supporters, they also provide information on a wide array of matters. Its operation is carried out by the Kameoka International Association on behalf of Kameoka City.

In addition to the presence of support staff at the counter, there is also cooperation with a Japanese language class which is carried out by volunteers, and the "Himawari Classroom", which provides learning support for parents and children with international roots, the goal of these activities being to promote coexistence through thinking together.

Awareness regarding this initiative is still low, and its track record thus far is short, but activities are still being carried out surely and steadily. In addition to explaining the local garbage disposal rules and introducing Kameoka City's unique coupons, they have provided winter clothing free of charge with the cooperation of the local "Reuse Association", which was warmly welcomed by technical trainees from Southeast Asia. Through this approach, we would first like to aim to become a reliable place to receive consultations in a relaxed manner, and to gain the trust of the people as we continue our activities.

IJIRI Hirotsugu
Secretary General, Kameoka International Exchange Association



かめおか多文化共生センター
Kameoka Foreign Resident Support

Through the use of interpreters, we support 14 different languages.

- Open Hours: Everyday 10am-4pm
(excluding the 4th Thursday of every month and Dec 29-Jan 3)
- Address: Galleria Kameoka, 3rd Floor
Takarakuho 1-1 Amarubecho, Kameoka, 621-0806
- TEL: 0771-56-8160 ■ FAX: 0771-56-8165
- E-mail: kameokatabunka@gmail.com
- URL: <https://kameokatabunka.studio.site/>



An agreement with Kyotamba Town was concluded to support international residents in the event of a disaster

On November 4th of last year, a cooperation agreement was signed between Kyotamba Town and the Kyotamba International Exchange Association.

In his greeting, Mr. Kitamura, Chairman of the Association, said that "This agreement allows the town and this association to smoothly promote support for international residents who are living or working in the town in the event of a disaster, and this is the first step in securing the safety for the more than 180 international residents who are currently living here", to confirm the purpose of the agreement. He then stated his determination that "The safety and security of international residents in the town cannot be achieved without mutual understanding through daily exchanges with local residents."

In cooperation with not only the local government, but also with the heads of wards, local welfare officers, fire departments, police, and various companies in the town that employ international residents, there is much consideration regarding what is necessary to deepen the understanding of international residents regarding the dangers of the area where they live and the actions that need to be taken in the event of a disaster, which will lead to the prevention of harm not only in the event of disasters but also in many aspects of daily life.



Agreement signatories, Mayor Ota (Left) and Chairman Kitamura (Right)

The lives of international residents living or working in our town, and those who do not have sufficient Japanese ability, are all equally precious and important.

In cooperation with the local government, we will help protect the safety of all international residents involved in our town.

KITAO Jun

Vice Chairman, Kyotamba International Exchange Association

The Seika Global Net Multicultural Playgroup "Ichigo Ichie", international resident counseling service has begun!

Five years have passed since the multicultural playgroup "Ichigo Ichie" was started as a co-sponsored project with Seika Town.

During that time, not only have we created a space where international residents and Japanese families can connect through exchange events, but we have also promoted various activities aimed at understanding the problems its participants are facing, and we strive to help them with these issues.

For the past year, "Ichigo Ichie" has been held online because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Given that this situation in which face-to-face meetings are difficult is still continuing, the number of personal consultations that we receive towards our staff is increasing.

Stemming from the desire to create a space where one can feel free to discuss any problems they might be facing, we have set up a consultation desk for international residents living in the southern part of Kyoto Prefecture and the northern part of Nara Prefecture, run by staff and volunteers.

Using LINE OpenChat, which lets you take part anonymously, interested volunteers can easily exchange information and provide consultations in Japanese, English, and Chinese.

To any international residents or Japanese people who want to help support international residents, please join us! We hope we can help to create a community where international residents and Japanese people can live together in harmony.



A scene from the playgroup "Ichigo Ichie"

多文化子育てひろば いちごいちえ
Multicultural Playgroup 多元文化育儿小组



Further details can be found here:

<https://seikaglobalnet.wixsite.com/english/ichigoichie>

SUDO Kazue

Contact, Seika Global Net "Ichigo Ichie"

Activity Reports

Holding of Kyoto Prefecture Regional Japanese Language Education Symposium (December 13, 2020)

In June 2019, the "Act on Promotion of Japanese Language Education" was promulgated and enforced, and Kyoto Prefecture also formulated the "Regional Japanese Language Education Promotion Plan" and actively promoted Japanese language education measures in cooperation with municipalities.

As part of this plan, an online symposium was held as an opportunity to deepen the prefecture's citizens' understanding about the significance of Japanese language education and to consider creating a system for regional Japanese language education.

In the keynote speech, it was said that in order to revitalize local communities, there is a need for multicultural coexistence and Japanese language education. Following this, the Agency for Cultural Affairs and the International Affairs Division of Kyoto Prefecture respectively introduced efforts to promote Japanese language education both within the country and inside Kyoto Prefecture.

In addition, Maizuru International Association, which had created a Japanese language class, made a presentation about classroom activities in the area, and our center also introduced the Japanese language learning support projects which have been made so far.

Holding of a Japanese language support volunteer training course

For the past year, we have held a training session for Japanese language learning support personnel in 9 areas of the prefecture (Miyazu, Kyotango, Fukuchiyama, Ayabe, Kyotamba, Nantan, Kameoka, Kumiya, Kyotanabe).

With the increase of international residents, the formation of a multicultural society is becoming more and more necessary, and it becomes extremely important to promote Japanese language education.

Our center will continue to work in that direction along with Kyoto Prefecture.



A scene from the Japanese language support volunteer training course in Miyazu City

Training for supporters for international residents during times of disaster

At our center, we are always looking for "supporters for international residents during times of disaster" to best assist foreigners with interpretation and translation in the event of a disaster. In order to let many people know about the activities of these supporters, for the past year we have conducted a hybrid training session both online and at a physical venue.

At the training event held in September, JICA Kansai staff and trainees from Pakistan talked about the culture of Vietnamese people, whose numbers in Japan have been

rising in recent years, and the ideal disaster prevention system which would best suit foreigners.

In addition to training supporters for international residents, our center also conducts disaster prevention training for foreign residents themselves.

In the future, we would like to continue searching for the ideal way of providing support during times of disaster, to prepare for such occurrences, and to improve the overall support system.



A scene from a training session in Kyoto Keizai Center



Report from KPIC's coordinator for international relations (CIR)

Holding of the exchange event "Valentine's Day in the world" ¹⁾ ARAZI Sandra

On Saturday, February 20, 2021, we held an online international understanding meeting which was called "Valentine's Day in the World and Love ways". Myself, from France, and Samuel Zeid (CIR in Kameoka City) from Canada, were the moderators of the event. Jalika (ALT in Kyotanabe City) from the United States participated as well as a guest speaker, and introduced us to the American Valentine's day and its history. Afterwards, we presented the ways that different countries spend Valentine's day, and we also held a psychological love test, alongside listening to the participants memories of



their own Valentine's day experiences.

In Japan, there is a unique way of spending this day.

Valentine's day symbolizes the "love confession day" for girls, and then white day is the day for boys to return (or not) their feelings.

In France and Canada, it symbolizes "the lovers' day".

The participants were surprised to hear that France, "the country of love" didn't celebrate it as much as in America or Canada, and they had an enjoyable time learning about different Valentine's day traditions from around the world.



INFORMATION FROM KPIC

ONLINE Japanese Classes for International Residents

Period:

1 Regular Course (Every Monday and Thursday)

May 13 (Thu) – July 19 (Mon), 2021

2 Conversation Course (Every Saturday)

May 15 (Sat) – July 17 (Sat), 2021

■Time: 10:30 – 12:45

■Course fee: ①6,000yen for 20 sessions ②4,000yen for 10 sessions

This is an online class being carried out via the web meeting system "Zoom". You can take part with an internet connected computer, tablet, etc.

For more information, visit: https://www.kpic.or.jp/english/learning_japanese/japanese_course/index.html



Kyoto Prefecture Multilingual Living Consultation Service

■TEL: 075-343-9666 (Call charges will apply)

■Operating hours: 10:00-17:00

(excluding the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month, national holidays, and the year-end/new year holidays)

■Supported languages (20 languages):

English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Nepali, Indonesian, Tagalog, Thai, Portuguese, Spanish, Khmer (Cambodian), Myanmar, Mongolian, Russian, Malay, Sinhala, French, German, Italian and Japanese

<https://www.kpic.or.jp/soudan/tagengo.html>



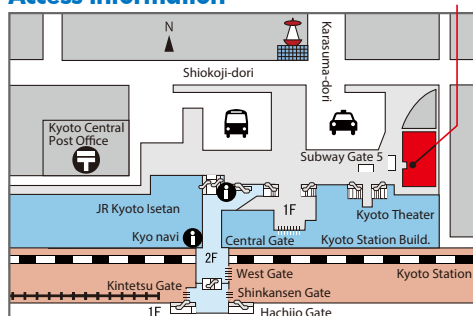
Living Info by Email

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

living-e@kpic.or.jp



Access information



Open hours : 10:00-18:00

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

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