



『Im Bang-ul Traditional Korean Music Festival (Korean Performance)』

A performance of traditional Korean music (*gugak*) was held by the Kagoshima International Association, in co-hosting with Gwangju Metropolitan City, Korea, and under the management of the Im Bang-ul Gugak Promotion Association.

The performers included past prize winners, including this year's award recipients from the Im Bang-ul Gugak Festival, a prestigious and widely recognized traditional Korean music competition in Korea. Through a varied program, the audience was able to enjoy Korea's traditional music through singing, dance, and instrumental performance.

The event began with an elaborate, staged performance of Korean folk music (*pungmul pangut*) by a Korean performing arts group (*gutpaebidan*) from the audience seating area, featuring traditional Korean instruments and the dynamic spinning of long-ribboned hats (*sangmo*), creating an exciting opening to the stage.

This was followed by a series of performances including *pansori*, a form of traditional Korean vocal music (*sori*); *taepyeongmu*, a traditional dance which expresses wishes for safety and peace; a powerful instrumental *sanjo* performance characterized by strong rhythms; and *gayageum byeongchang*, a traditional musical genre in which performers sing while playing the Korean zither (*gayageum*).

During the *gayageum* performance, the common Korean audience response of “*Jota!*” (an expression of approval) was replaced with the Japanese equivalent of “*Yoshi!*” allowing for better interaction between performers and the Japanese audience.

Next, a splendid fan dance wishing for peace and prosperity of the people captivated the audience with its elegant fans and traditional Korean costumes.

Lastly, after a stereoscopic *pansori* vocal duet (*ipchechang*) performed by two or more singers, all performers returned to the stage for a wonderful finale featuring the *sogo* drum dance and *Namdo* folk songs.

This performance was made possible thanks to the support of many residents of Kagoshima Prefecture, five volunteer staff members who assisted with event operations, the administrative office of the Im Bang-ul Gugak Promotion Association, and many others involved.

『Kagoshima-Jeonbuk Cultural Exchange Program』

Kagoshima International Association, with the cooperation of the Jeonbuk Institute for International Cooperation Promotion in Jeonbuk Special Self-Governing Province (Jeonbuk), has held this program every other year since FY2020, alternating between the two regions, as a lecture-style exchange to learn about each other’s culture, history, and natural environment.



This fiscal year, the program was held in Jeonbuk. On 13 September (Saturday), a hands-on workshop was conducted for 35 Jeonbuk residents and 11 students from Jeonju University who are studying Japanese.

Kagoshima was first introduced to the participants, beginning with an overview of the prefecture and focusing on tourist attractions, cuisine,

festivals, and other highlights. After that, an explanation of Satsuma Kiriko (a traditional style of cut glass) was given before participating in a hands-on activity where Satsuma Kiriko glass fragments were used to create candle holders.

The parts of Kiriko glass that cannot be used in the standard production process were upcycled for this workshop. Although the time available was limited, participants were able to create candle holders that reflected their individual ideas and sense of style.

Participants commented that it was a valuable and fun experience and also it was also an enjoyable and educational activity connected to local culture.

『Projects for the Promotion of a Multicultural and Inclusive Society & Community Development』

In order to cultivate individuals who can support foreign residents in their communities, lecturers were dispatched upon request to neighborhood associations and other organizations within the prefecture.



They spoke about topics related to multicultural coexistence such as Easy Japanese, introductions to overseas cultures, and examples of multicultural coexistence initiatives. Cash tokens of appreciation and travel expenses associated with lecturer dispatch were covered, and lecturer arrangements were made upon request.



< Multicultural Society Promotion Project >

FY2025 Achievements

- Dispatch of Lecturers for Easy Japanese: 7 locations

Participants learned practical communication skills to improve interaction with foreign residents.

- Dispatch of Lecturers for Overseas Culture Introduction: 5 locations
Vietnamese lecturers were dispatched to promote mutual understanding through cultural exchange.
- Dispatch of Multicultural Coexistence Advisors: 2 locations
Lecturers were dispatched to provide advice and support on issues related to multicultural coexistence and Japanese-language education, as well as on future project development, thereby promoting a multicultural coexistence society. To promote community development in which Japanese and foreign residents live together, support was also provided to municipalities implementing model workshops and other initiatives in which local residents deepen their awareness of multicultural coexistence, and Japanese and foreign residents learn together.

< Community Development Project > FY2025 Achievements

- Satsuma Town: Case presentations for the Multicultural Coexistence Course, keynote lectures, course on Easy Japanese, disaster prevention information for foreign residents, workshops on multicultural coexistence.
- Kanoya City: Multicultural Community Development for the Fudamoto 1-chome District, Learning About Garbage Separation, Learning About Disaster Prevention, and a Mochi-pounding Festival.

『Training on Handling Consultations from Foreign Residents』



Training was conducted in order to improve the skills of personnel who respond to consultations from foreign residents in their daily duties.

This includes content about the characteristics of consultations from foreign residents and key support points, methods of listening at administrative service counters, and tips for conveying information effectively, with the aim of

acquiring efficient consultation techniques when working with foreign residents.

- Date and Time: 12 December 2025 (Friday), 13:30–16:00
- Venue: Kakuix Exchange Centre (Kagoshima Prefectural Citizens Exchange Centre), Large Training Room
- Lecturer: Ms. Kaori Yano, Director, Multicultural One-Stop Information Centre, Kitakyushu International Association
- Introduction of Related Institutional Initiatives: Ms. Kana Sakazume, Supervisory Immigration Inspector, Fukuoka Regional Immigration Services Bureau
- Participant Feedback (Excerpts):
 - ・ “The content was useful not only for assisting foreign residents at daily service counters but also for responding to Japanese residents.”
 - ・ “Through this session, I was able to reconfirm my role and motivation as a consultation staff member.”
 - ・ “I had felt a high barrier in supporting foreign nationals, but after attending today’s lecture, I feel that the language barrier has been lowered.”
 - ・ “It was beneficial to connect with other organizations in the prefecture that handle consultations for foreign residents and to learn about the kinds of support they provide.”

『Japanese Speech Contest for Foreign Nationals』

~Let’s Talk About the World in Kagoshima!~ 31st Japanese Speech Contest for Foreign Nationals saw 41 foreign residents from 14 countries and regions within the prefecture participate in the preliminary round.



From among them, 10 finalists representing nine countries delivered speeches at the final round held on 7 February 2026, at the Prefectural Hall

in the Kakuix Exchange Centre.

The Grand Prize was awarded to Ms. Buddhi Sita Kumari from Nepal, a student at Kamimura Gakuen Vocational School, for her speech titled “You can tell someone is Japanese at one glance.” Wearing beautiful traditional attire, she delivered her speech and captivated the audience of 194 attendees.

As with previous years, the contestants confidently spoke in Japanese about their diverse lives and experiences in Kagoshima and their personal thoughts. Their speeches vividly reflected their efforts in Japan to date and deeply moved the audience.

Japanese Language and Culture Class for Foreign Residents



From May 2025 to February 2026, 60 sessions (30 daytime classes on Wednesdays and 30 evening classes on Thursdays) of the Japanese Language and Culture Class for Foreign Residents were conducted for foreign residents living in Kagoshima to learn practical Japanese and Japanese customs useful for daily life. In August, an online Japanese course was also implemented as a commissioned project of Kagoshima Prefecture.

In the in-person classes, participants were divided into small groups and learnt Japanese from various perspectives. They studied kanji using signs commonly seen in daily life, performed short skits using newly-learned grammar, and gave speeches introducing their home countries to fellow participants from other nations.

In the online course, participants who could not attend in-person classes due to work or family commitments, or who did not have access to nearby Japanese language classes, were able to participate, resulting in a course with a different character from the in-person sessions.

Comments from participants include: “The topics were practical and relevant to students, so I learned useful expressions,” and “I want to study more and become able to speak Japanese better,” demonstrating their motivation to continue learning.

『Training for Volunteers to Support Foreigners during Disasters』



In Kagoshima Prefecture, training courses were held online (December 2025) and in person (January 2026) in order to train volunteers who can support foreign residents who may become particularly vulnerable during large-scale disasters due to language barriers.

For the online course, Ms. Ikuko Yamaura of the Edogawa Multicultural Coexistence Centre was invited as lecturer. She has experience working at a local multilingual support centre during the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake.

For the in-person course, Mr. Yoshihiko Doi was invited. He had served as director of a disaster multilingual support centre during the Great East Japan Earthquake.



Both courses included lectures on issues faced by foreign residents during disasters, methods of providing information, and Easy Japanese. The online course also included interpretation and translation role-play exercises (English and Chinese), while the in-person course featured evacuation centre role-play exercises using translation and interpretation apps.

Participants commented that they reaffirmed the challenges foreign residents face

during disasters and the importance of conveying information in their native languages; that they came to understand that Japanese and foreign residents start from different positions during disasters; and that they learned the importance of preparedness in normal times through the use of translation apps and Easy Japanese.

The courses provided a meaningful opportunity to deepen understanding of support for foreign residents during disasters and to apply this knowledge in future disaster response.

『Regional Japanese Language Education Networking Meeting』



To promote the creation of communities where foreign residents can live comfortably, the Regional Japanese Language Education Networking Meeting was held in December for instructors and others involved in local Japanese language classes within the prefecture, with the aim of improving teaching techniques and supporting class management.

Ms. Kaori Yano, General Coordinator of the Kitakyushu International Association, was invited as lecturer and delivered a lecture titled “Starting Multicultural Coexistence Through Japanese Language Learning Support.”

She explained that multicultural coexistence refers to people of different nationalities and ethnic backgrounds recognizing each other’s cultural differences, building equal relationships, and living together as members of the local community.

She also noted the shift in perception of foreign residents from ‘guests’ to ‘members of society’, introducing various foreign families living in Japan, and also emphasized that realizing a multicultural coexistence society requires supporting

Japanese society and local communities together with foreign residents.

『Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Alumni and Exchange Students as Teachers』



Every year, the Supporting Organization of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) in Kagoshima, the JOCV Kagoshima Alumni Association, and the Kagoshima International Association holds a joint project that dispatches JOCV returnees and international students living in Kagoshima Prefecture as lecturers to around 40 elementary and junior high schools.

The aim of the project is for students to learn more about international cooperation and understanding through the experiences of JOCV alumni and by interacting with foreign residents. This year too, we showcase topics which cannot be found in textbooks alone such as introducing experiences and countries via photos and videos and trying on traditional clothing.

Some comments from the approximately 1,870 students of the 40 participating schools include, “I want to learn more about other countries,” “There were many things I didn’t know,” and “When I grow up, I want to be active overseas as a JOCV member.”

This project not only is a good chance for students to deepen their understanding about international cooperation, but also for them to think about their own future.

『Guide to the International Exchange Plaza』

<Main Activities>

- Event bulletin board
- Rental of national flags, traditional clothing, maps, UNICEF videos
- Free browsing of foreign-language materials such as newspapers, books, and magazines
- World Talk Salon 【Chinese】
(Fridays, 13:30-14:30)
- World Talk Salon 【Korean】
(Wednesdays, 13:30-14:30)
- World Talk Salon 【English】
(Fridays/Saturday, 12:00-13:00)



<For international students> Financial support loans

<For foreign residents> Japanese language and cultural courses, Japanese Language Chat Room

- We also welcome enquiries on international exchange matters, registration of homestay host families and volunteer interpreters, etc.
- Please feel free to stop by if you have any enquiries.

『Consultation Desk for Foreign Residents』



This Consultation Desk provides multilingual information and consultation to foreign residents in Kagoshima Prefecture regarding residency status, employment, medical care, welfare, childbirth and childcare, education, and other daily life matters.

○ Location: Kakuix Exchange Centre
(Kagoshima Prefectural Citizens Exchange
Centre), 1F

○ Hours: Tuesday–Sunday, 9:00–17:00
(Closed Mondays except national holidays;
year-end holidays from December 29 to January 3)

○ Method of consultation: In-person visit, telephone, email, Facebook Messenger
•Tel: 070-7662-4541 / Email: kiasoudan@gmail.com
•Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Kiasoudan>

○ 24 languages available:

- Japanese, English, and Vietnamese are available directly at the consultation desk
- For the other languages, it would be via a multilingual call centre

○ Consultation topics:

The service assists with visa status, employment, medical care, taxes, housing, marriage, divorce, domestic violence, transportation, driver's licenses, and other daily concerns.

