



Photo: Courtesy of Satumasendai City (Koshiki Ohashi Bridge)

## Easy Japanese Language Awareness Project



[A scene from the lecture]

On October 6, 2020, we invited a Japanese language teacher who is active in the prefecture as a lecturer and held the “Easy Japanese Understanding Class.”

The event saw thirty participants which included administrative staff who support applications and procedures for foreign associations, the Kagoshima Labor Bureau, the Kagoshima Branch Office of the Fukuoka Immigration Bureau, the Board of Education, and the Kagoshima Prefectural Visitors Bureau.

In the session, participants learned what “easy Japanese” is, its effects, and what they should pay attention to when converting into “easy Japanese.” Then, they practiced converting Japanese written in news articles into “easy Japanese” and compared their answers with the examples given by the lecturer.

The participants commented, “I have heard of easy Japanese, but it was difficult to actually make the conversions;” or “I would like to use the conversions when I send out information in the future.”

## Workshop on Supporting Foreign Residents in Times of Disaster



[A scene from the workshop]

On February 27, 2021, we held a workshop on “Training for Communicating Information to Foreigners in Times of Disaster”.

Connecting online to a lecturer from the National Council of Multicultural Managers, a non-profit organization, about 30 people from local governments and various schools and organizations learned practical “easy Japanese,” an easy-to-understand method of communicating information. In the lecture, participants learned about “issues faced by foreigners in times of disaster and how to deal with them,” “support activities for foreign victims in times of disaster,” and “easy Japanese.” In the workshop that followed, participants practiced re-writing into easy Japanese the notices used at evacuation centers for the COVID-19 pandemic.

One participant said, “I learned that it is important to think about how to convey the message to others, rather than being obsessed with easy Japanese.” We hope that this lecture will lead to the support of foreign residents in terms of information transmission in times of disaster and in times of peace.

## Japanese Language and Culture Class



[Showing off his kendama skills]

We held “The Japanese Language and Culture Class for Foreign Residents” from May 2020 to February 2021 to help foreigners living in Kagoshima learn Japanese language and customs useful in daily life. The classes comprised 60 sessions (30 daytime sessions on Wednesdays, and 30 evening sessions on Thursdays). This year, in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19, the participants kept a distance from each other during the classes. The class was divided into small groups, and the participants learned Japanese from various approaches such as by learning vocabulary through reading, listening

to picture books, and by writing essays in order to be proactive in their writing.

In one session, each participant introduced themselves in Japanese by showing their hobbies or specialties, or by using hand-drawn maps and illustrations.

Despite the restrictions due to COVID-19, the participants were highly motivated and seemed to enjoy talking with each other using the Japanese they had learned.

## The Japanese Language Chat Room



[Participants are talking about Japanese manners]

We held a total of 15 sessions of “The Japanese Language Chat Room” for foreigners with a grasp of conversational Japanese, with the aim of helping them build mutual networks and improving Japanese language skills.

In the first semester, guests and participants gathered for face-to-face meetings; but from the second semester, we started using ZOOM to conduct the meetings online, with participants speaking as guests. A curator of Museum of the Meiji Restoration talked about the history of Kagoshima under the theme of “Satsuma Students,” and people from the Kagoshima Chuo Police Station, and an etiquette instructor provided useful information for living in Japan, and in Kagoshima. We also had a foreign participant talk about how Japanese anime became popular in the US. It has been a year of various changes with the new

lifestyle, and we hope that Chat Room will become a place where people can interact with each other and be motivated to learn Japanese.

## ~Let's talk about the world in Kagoshima~ The 26th Japanese Speech Contest for Foreign Nationals



[The contestants and judges of the finals]

Seventeen foreign residents from seven countries and regions, who are living in Kagoshima Prefecture, participated in the preliminary rounds of this year's Japanese speech contest, and ten of them from five countries presented their speeches in the final round held on January 30, 2021. Mr. Bhusal Hari, from Nepal and a student at Kamimura Gakuen College, won the Grand Prize for his speech titled, “Marriage? Wait a moment!” Through his school life in Japan, Mr. Hari developed self-confidence and began to think that he wanted to gain more experience. Although his parents are concerned about his

approaching the marriageable age in Nepal, he expressed his strong desire to marry only after he has grown stronger, both physically and mentally. The audience seemed to be gripped by the way the contestants talked about their experiences and thoughts in the Japanese that they had learned so far, and by how they vividly conveyed their hard work in Japan through various experiences.



## Visiting Lectures by Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Alumni and International Students



This project, implemented by three organizations—the Supporting Organisation of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) in Kagoshima, the JOCV Kagoshima Alumni Association, and Kagoshima International Association—dispatches returnee members of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and international students living in Kagoshima Prefecture as instructors to about 40 elementary and junior high schools each year. The purpose of this program is to allow students to learn about international cooperation and understanding by listening to stories of

overseas activities by Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers alumni, and by interacting with international students and other foreigners. This year, in order to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus, instead of interactive classes, lecturers used photos and videos to introduce their experiences, the culture of their countries, ethnic costumes, and other things that cannot be learned from textbooks. The students said, "I was surprised to see many differences from Japanese schools," or "I want to be active overseas as a member of the Japan Cooperation Volunteers in the future."

It seems that the project was a good opportunity for them to look abroad and think about their future dreams.

## International Understanding Classes by Foreign Residents



The purpose of this program is to have foreign residents in the prefecture become lecturers through open recruitment, and to introduce their own culture to Japanese citizens so that they can be actively involved in creating a multicultural community. This year, we received a large number of applications from foreign residents. Among them, people from Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of China, Vietnam, Taiwan, and the Philippines provided lectures to introduce the culture of their respective regions.



In addition to introducing the basics of each region, the lectures provided a variety of activities such as playing traditional instruments and making small items using traditional cloth. Participants said, "I now want to visit the places at least once!" or "It was fun to learn about different cultures."

In each lecture, the lecturer spoke about something that surprised or puzzled them when they came to Japan, and the participants laughed and expressed their surprise. The lecture made the participants aware of Japanese culture and customs, which are commonplace to Japanese but often confusing to foreigners.

We hope that this kind of lecture will help people realize a society where foreign residents and Japanese people can mutually understand and respect each culture, and live together.

## Learn about Multiculturalism Through Cooking



We had planned to hold a workshop for foreign residents of Kagoshima, and Japanese people, to learn about multicultural coexistence by cooking together; but, in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19, we this year received the cooperation of three foreign residents and made a video to be posted on our website.

Under the theme of "home cooking that can be easily prepared with ingredients available in Kagoshima," people from Korea, England, and Hungary introduced the cuisine of their respective countries. They also talked about the history of cooking, local people's thoughts on cooking, ingredients, and manners of eating so that the participants could learn not only about cooking but also about the culture of their home countries.

The video is available on our website. We also encourage you to try making and tasting foreign home cooking at home to experience the culture of each country.

## Information on the International Plaza

- Bulletin board for event information, etc.
- Lending out national flags, ethnic costumes, maps, UNICEF videos, etc.
- Browsing of foreign language newspapers, books, magazines, etc.
- Chinese Lunchtime Talk (Tuesdays, 12:00-13:00) (Not available in 2020)
- Korean Lunchtime Talk (every Wednesday, 12:30-13:30)
- Lunchtime English Club (every Friday, 12:00-13:00)



[Plaza]

If you have any questions about international exchange, or would like to register as a host family or language volunteer, please feel free to stop by.

## Consultation Desk for Foreign Residents

The Consultation Desk for Foreign Residents provides information and consultation in many languages to help foreign residents in Kagoshima quickly find appropriate information and places to consult regarding residence status, employment, medical care, welfare, childbirth and child-rearing, and children's education.

Place : Kagoshima International Association, 1st floor of Kagoshima Prefectural Citizens Exchange Center (14-50 Yamashita-cho, Kagoshima City)

Opening hours : Tuesday - Sunday, 9am - 5pm (If Monday is a national holiday, the office will be open. It will then be closed on the following day.

The office is closed Dec. 29 - Jan. 3.

Method of consultation : face-to-face, telephone, e-mail, Facebook Messenger

TEL : 070-7662-4541 / E-mail: [kiasoudan@gmail.com](mailto:kiasoudan@gmail.com)

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/Kiasoudan>

Japanese, English, and Vietnamese are available at the consultation counter.

For other languages (Chinese, Tagalog, Korean, Indonesian, Nepali, Khmer, Thai, Myanmar, Portuguese, Spanish, Malay, French, Russian, German, Italian, Mongolian, Sinhalese), the Multilingual Call Center will be used.



[Image of the consultation counter]



Facebook QRcode

### [Multilingual Consultation Centers for Specific Issues]

○About immigration and status of residence

The Immigration and Refugee Recognition Agency's General Information Center for Foreign Residents

TEL: 0570-013904 / Available weekdays, 8:30am- 5:15pm / Available languages: English, Korean, Chinese, Spanish, etc.

○About labor issues

1) Kagoshima Labor Bureau, Foreigner Labor Consultation Corner

TEL: 099-216-6100 / Available on Wednesdays, 9am- 4:30pm / Languages: Vietnamese

2) Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Consultation Service (for Foreign Workers)

Available languages: 13 languages / Each language has its own phone number. Please check the website for details.

<https://www.check-roudou.mhlw.go.jp/soudan/foreigner.html>

※The above information is subject to change.

**For the Consultation Desk, or enquiries regarding the International Exchange Plaza or this South Wing publication:**

Kagoshima International Association

Kagoshima Prefectural Citizens Exchange Center 1F, 14-50 Yamashita-cho, Kagoshima City, Japan 892-0816

TEL: 099-221-6620 / FAX: 099-221-6643 E-mail: [kia@kiaweb.or.jp](mailto:kia@kiaweb.or.jp)

HP: <https://www.kiaweb.or.jp>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Kagoshima.Intl.Assoc/>

Plaza Opening Hours: Tue – Sun: 9:00~17:00

Closed on Mondays (If Monday is a public holiday, the office will be closed on Tuesday instead.)

Closed during the end-of-year period (29<sup>th</sup> December ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> January)

