



Niigata English Journal

Edited & Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation (NIEF)

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Niigata Matsuri

It's time again for the Niigata Matsuri! NIEF will dance in this year's Minyo Nagashi folk dance parade on **Friday, August 7**, and is looking for foreign residents to join us. A dance lesson and yukata will be provided to participants. Volunteers will also help to put on the yukata, so don't worry if you don't know how. Make sure to wear clothes that are easy to change out of and comfortable shoes. Sign up using the code below.

Schedule: 15:30–17:30: Check in
(August 7) 15:30–18:00: Change into yukata
16:00–18:00: Dance practice
19:00–20:30: Minyo Nagashi

Location: CrossPal 2F

Fee: ¥500



Other Niigata Matsuri events:

August 8 (Sat): Mikoshi processions, Bandaibashi Bridge parade, and more!

August 9 (Sun): Sumiyoshi mikoshi procession, firework show



Salon Exhibit: Cambodia -San-chan's School Friends Photo Exhibition-

Come and see the journey of San-chan's music school in Cambodia from its opening in 2022 to the present. Featuring photos of the school and San-chan's students.

Date: July 31st–August 27th 9:00–17:00

Closed: Sundays, holidays & August 24th

Location: NIEF Exchange Salon (CrossPal 2F)



Japanese Lessons & Cultural Exchange Cafe

Starting from September, the Cultural Exchange Cafe in Maki will offer Japanese lessons once a week. Applications are open for both students and volunteer teachers.

The Cultural Exchange Cafe will also be holding a free cooking event on September 12th at 10:00 am. See the website for more details.

Date: (from September) Tuesdays 18:00–19:30

Location: Maki Community Welfare Center (巻ふれあい福祉センター) (see website for details)

Fee: ¥300

Contact: ☎ 0256-73-3356



NIA Foreign Resident Consultation

The Niigata International Association (NIA) is available for foreign residents, their family, and those seeking help in matters relating to foreign residents. Free consultations for visas, Japanese lessons, work, and more are available in person or by phone, email, and video call. Scan the code for details and to sign up for a video call.

Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00–17:00

Website: www.niigata-ia.or.jp/foreign

Contact: ☎ 025-241-1881

✉ nia10@niigata-ia.or.jp



International Lecture: Southwest China

The southwest region of China, which includes Chongqing, Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan, and Tibet, is known for pandas, the *Records of the Three Kingdoms*, and mapo tofu. Learn about the region's history, ethnic minority groups, tourist spots, and more. There will also be a quiz where you can earn prizes!

Date: August 29th (Sat) 13:30–15:00

Location: CrossPal, 4F Room #403

Lecturer: Song Yingxue (CIR)

Fee: Free!

Spots: 30 people (sign up using the code)

Contact: NIEF ☎ 025-225-2727



Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents

Get free consultation on work issues, contracts, financial compensation, marriage or divorce trouble, and more! If you need an interpreter, please let us know and one will be provided for free. Sign up using the form below.

Date: September 11th (Fri) 13:00–16:40

Location: CrossPal 2nd floor

Spots: 5 time slots (40 minutes per person)

Fee: Free!

Sign up: NIEF ☎ 025-225-2727,
✉ kyokai@nief.or.jp



Autumn Japanese Lessons

Registration for NIEF's Japanese lessons for the fall has begun. Students must take a test to determine their level before they can register. Classes begin on Tuesday, September 29. Evening classes are also available.

If you have questions, feel free to email, call, or come to see us at CrossPal on the 2nd floor.

Contact: ☎ 025-225-2727,

✉ kyokai@nief.or.jp



Disaster Prevention Japanese Lesson

Learn some useful Japanese vocabulary for disasters! This issue's lesson is as follows:



◆ 豪雨 (ごうう)

傘 (かさ) をさしても役 (やく) に立 (た) たない
くらいのたくさんの雨 (あめ) が降 (ふ) ります。

◆ 避難訓練 (ひなんくんれん)

災害 (さいがい) が起 (お) きた時 (とき) にす
ることを、会社 (かいしゃ) や学校 (がっこう)
や地域 (ちいき) の人 (ひと) と一緒 (いっし
よ) に練習 (れんしゅう) すること。

Did you know NIEF functions as a
multilingual support system during disasters?
For more information, scan the code.



Gataket @ Toki Messe

Niigata's manga, anime, and game convention will be held at Toki Messe this fall, a much larger venue than usual. Featuring fan works and creations from countless different series, as well as opportunities to cosplay as your favorite characters!

Date: Sep. 27th (Sun) 10:30–15:30

Location: Toki Messe

Fee: ¥1,000



Specified Residence Card

As of June 2026, a new specified residence card, which combines the traditional residence card with the My Number card, is available. The card integrates both residence card and My Number card functions, meaning you only need to carry one card.

Visit the ISA's site for more details. ⇒



Nagaoka Japanese Speech Contest

Mutsumi Kai is holding their annual Japanese speech contest again this year in Nagaoka. All foreign residents of Japan are welcome to apply. If there are more than 12 applicants, participants will be determined by lottery. Winners will receive a cash prize. See website for details.

Deadline for applications: Aug. 23rd (Sun)

Deadline for scripts: Sep. 4th (Sat)

Date of contest: Sep. 27th (Sun) 13:00–16:00

Location: City Hall Plaza Aore Nagaoka

Contact: ✉ mutsumikainagaoka@gmail.com



Niigata Soh Odori

The largest dance festival on the Sea of Japan coast! From traditional Japanese dance to hip hop, all types of dance are featured at this event.

Venues are located in the Bandai and Furumachi areas.

Date: Sep. 19th (Sat)–23rd (Wed)

Fee: Free & paid seating available



Classes

Japanese Language Courses (NIEF classes and others)

NIEF classes: Beginner through	-Classes of varying difficulties are available throughout the week.	Ms. Kiyoko Tanaka		Volunteer Japanese Classes
Intermediate 2	-Pricing info & the schedule for the current session: https://www.nief.or.jp/	☎: (025) 225-2727		

Japanese Study Support Group for Children & Students: NicoPal Club (Free of charge)

Day of the Week & Hours	Room No.	Content	For more info.
Every Wed. (contact for info)	202	Please contact Ms. Tanaka for more information.	Ms. Kiyoko Tanaka ☎: (025) 225-2727
Every Sat. 10:00–11:30 *except 8/1, 8/8, 8/15 *Please register beforehand*	201	This Japanese study circle offers support to children in the international community who are struggling with Japanese and other school studies.	

Consultation

Niigata Help Association ☎: 025-228-2212	Everyday 10:00-23:00 English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Filipino, Thai, etc.
Niigata City International Exchange Foundation (NIEF) ☎: 025-225-2727 ✉: kyokai@nief.or.jp URL: https://www.nief.or.jp/	Monday-Saturday 9:00-16:00 English, Chinese, Korean, Russian, French
Niigata International Association (NIA) ☎: 025-241-1881 ✉: nia21c@niigata-ia.or.jp URL: https://www.niigata-ia.or.jp/	Weekdays 10:00-17:00 English, Russian, Chinese, Filipino, Thai, Vietnamese
Helpline for Foreigners ☎: 0120-279-338 (toll-free)	Press 2 after the Japanese guidance
Niigata Medical Care Information Network URL: http://qq.niigata-iyaku.jp/	English, Chinese, Korean
Hello Work, Foreigner Advisory Service ☎: 025-280-8609 Niigata Misaki Godo Chosha #2 (1-2-1 Misaki-cho, Chuo Ward, Niigata City)	1 st – 4 th Wed 13:00-16:00 English & Chinese
Immigration Bureau Consultation	3 rd Tue. of the month (8/18&9/15) 1pm-4pm Thai, Vietnamese, Russian
Gyoseishoshi Association of Niigata Consultation	4 th Wed. of the month (8/26&9/30) 10am-5pm Chinese, Russian
Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents Length of Consultation: 40 minutes per person	3 rd Thur. of odd numbered months (9/17) 1pm-5pm Russian
Houterasu Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents Length of Consultation: 40 minutes per person	3 rd Mon. of even numbered months (8/17) 1pm-5pm English, Filipino, Russian
Education Consultation	Every Tue. 13:00-17:00 English, Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, Russian

Make a reservation by phone or email in advance.

Place: Multilingual Consultation Center of Niigata (formerly Foreign Resident Consultation Center) (2nd floor of Toki Messe)

Contact: ☎: 025-241-1881

✉: nial0@niigata-ia.or.jp

*All listed dates are subject to change. Please call or email to confirm.



Edited and Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation

3-2086 Ishizuecho-dori, Chuo Ward, Niigata City 951-8055

Homepage: <https://www.nief.or.jp/>

☎: (025) 225-2727

✉: kyokai@nief.or.jp

(Written and edited by Alyssa Williams & Ayako Homma)

CrossPal will be closed Aug. 24th and Sep. 28th