



## Niigata English Journal

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

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### Free Administrative Scrivener Consultation

Get free consultation on visa qualifications, applying for permanent residency, doing business in Japan, car registration, traffic accident compensation, and more! No need to sign up or contact in advance. Scan the code for more information.

**Date:** October 24<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 10:00–14:30

**Location:** CrossPal, 3F Room #308

**Fee:** Free!

**Contact:** Niigata Prefecture Administrative Scrivener Society ☎: 070-1189-8555



### NIEF Culture Festival

Stop by NIEF for the annual culture festival, featuring fair trade goods from Sri Lanka, a panel exhibition of NIEF activities, games, prizes, a flea market, and more!

**Date:** October 24<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 10:00–17:00

October 25<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:00–16:00

**Place:** CrossPal, 2F

**Fee:** Free!



### Fun Japanese Class Social

Come and watch foreign students show off their Japanese skills with speeches and presentations! There will also be traditional music and dance performances, as well as a rakugo performance. Attendees are encouraged to wear traditional dress from their country and bring snacks to share (snacks should be pre-packaged and not homemade). This is a great opportunity to meet people from around the world! Sign up using the code below (from Oct. 7).

**Date:** November 7<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 13:30–15:30

**Place:** CrossPal, 5F Exchange Hall

**Fee:** Free!

**Contact:** ☎: 025-225-2727 or  
✉: kyokai@nief.or.jp



### Japanese Lessons & Cultural Exchange Cafe

Starting from September, the Cultural Exchange Cafe in Maki offers Japanese lessons once a week. Lessons are open to people of all ages and language experience.

The Cultural Exchange Cafe will also host a Christmas cake making event on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. The admission fee is ¥300. See the website for more details.

**Date:** 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



### International Lecture: Ping Pong & International Exchange

Ms. Koyama, table tennis instructor and winner of the 2024 and 2025 World Parkinson's Table Tennis Championships, will talk on how her Parkinson's diagnosis enabled her to travel and meet people from around the world as a table tennis player. No need to sign up! Scan the code for inquiries.

**Date:** October 24<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 13:30–15:30

**Location:** CrossPal, 5F Exchange Hall

**Lecturer:** Koyama Rie

**Fee:** Free!

**Contact:** Ms. Sanbayashi ☎: 070-6989-5690



### Salon Exhibit: Introduction to Uzbekistan

Come and learn about Uzbekistan! Slides from the Uzbekistan lecture held earlier this year are on display. Take the opportunity to see Uzbekistan's history, food, culture, traditional crafts, and more.

**Date:** August 29<sup>th</sup>–October 21<sup>st</sup> 9:00–17:00

(Closes at 16:00 on the last day)

**Closed:** Sundays and holidays

**Location:** NIEF Exchange Salon (CrossPal, 2F)



### Salon Exhibit: Cambodia in Photos

Featuring photos of the Cambodia, with a focus on the city of Phnom Penh. Enjoy views of the city's scenery and its people. Photos are from volunteer group Keep Smile Japan's trips to Cambodia throughout the years.

**Date:** October 22<sup>nd</sup>–November 29<sup>th</sup> 9:00–17:00

**Closed:** Sundays, holidays, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, and Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** NIEF Exchange Salon (CrossPal, 2F)



### Disaster Prevention Japanese Lesson

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



#### ◆ 震度 (しんど)

地震 (じしん) の揺 (ゆ) れの大 (おお) きさがわかる数字 (すうじ) です。1 から 7 まであります。7 が一番 (いちばん) 大 (おお) きいです。日本 (にほん) だけで使 (つか) われます。

#### ◆ 震源地 (しんげんち)

地震 (じしん) が一番 (いちばん) はじめに起 (お) きたところです。震源地 (しんげんち) に近 (ちか) い場所 (ばしょ) は、揺 (ゆ) れが強 (つよ) くなります。

Did you know NIEF functions as a multilingual support system during disasters?



## Revised Fees for Residence Procedures for Foreign Nationals

As of October 1, 2026, the fees associated with residence procedures, including change of residence status, extension of period of stay, and applications for permanent residency, will be increased.



Please see the MOJ's leaflet for more details. ⇒

## Minimum Wage Increase

As of October 1, 2026, the minimum wage in Niigata Prefecture has increased from ¥1,050 per hour to ¥1,108 per hour for a total increase of ¥58 per hour.

## Cool Japan Expo @ Toki Messe

Held every two years, Cool Japan Expo gathers all the best of Japan in one place! Food, sake, handicrafts, cosplay, entertainment, traditional arts, cosmetics – there's something for everyone.

**Date:** Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 10:00–17:00

**Location:** Toki Messe

**Fee:** Free admission!



## Change of City Office Operation Hours

As of October 5, 2026, the operation hours of Niigata City offices will change from 8:30–17:30 to 9:00–16:30 for one year as a trial. These hours will affect all city and ward offices within Niigata City. Please note this change of hours when seeking services such as certificate of residence issuance, My Number Card applications, etc.

## School Enrollment for Foreign Nationals

At the end of September, the Niigata City Board of Education (BOE) sent out information about enrolling in elementary or junior high school to families in Niigata City with children born between the following dates:

Elementary: April 2, 2020 – April 1, 2021

Junior High: April 2, 2014 – April 1, 2015

To enroll, go to the BOE's School Affairs Division or your local Ward Educational Support Center. You will need your child's residence card or special permanent resident certificate. All children have the right to an education, no matter their level of Japanese language ability.

**Contact:** Niigata City Board of Education

☎: 025-226-3168

## Classes

### Japanese Language Courses (NIEF classes and others)

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

### 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. Tanaka<br>☎: (025) 225-2727 |
| Every Sat. 10:00–11:30<br>*except 10/31, 11/28<br>*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

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Niigata Help Association</b> ☎: 025-228-2212                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                            | Everyday 10:00-23:00<br>English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Filipino, Thai, etc.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Niigata City International Exchange Foundation (NIEF)</b> ☎: 025-225-2727<br>✉: <a href="mailto:kyokai@nief.or.jp">kyokai@nief.or.jp</a> URL: <a href="https://www.nief.or.jp/">https://www.nief.or.jp/</a>           |                                                                                            | Monday-Saturday 9:00-16:00<br>English, Chinese, Korean, Russian, French                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Niigata International Association (NIA)</b> ☎: 025-241-1881<br>✉: <a href="mailto:nia21c@niigata-ia.or.jp">nia21c@niigata-ia.or.jp</a> URL: <a href="https://www.niigata-ia.or.jp/">https://www.niigata-ia.or.jp/</a> |                                                                                            | Weekdays 10:00-17:00<br>English, Russian, Chinese, Filipino, Thai, Vietnamese                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Helpline for Foreigners</b> ☎: 0120-279-338 (toll-free)                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                            | Press 2 after the Japanese guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Niigata Medical Care Information Network</b> URL: <a href="http://qq.niigata-iyaku.jp/">http://qq.niigata-iyaku.jp/</a>                                                                                               |                                                                                            | English, Chinese, Korean                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Hello Work, Foreigner Advisory Service</b> ☎: 025-280-8609<br>Niigata Misaki Godo Chosha #2 (1-2-1 Misaki-cho, Chuo Ward, Niigata City)                                                                               |                                                                                            | 1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 13:00-16:00<br>English & Chinese                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Immigration Bureau Consultation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue. of the month (10/20&11/17) 1pm-4pm<br>Thai, Vietnamese, Russian       | Make a reservation by phone or email in advance.<br><br><b>Place:</b> Multilingual Consultation Center of Niigata (formerly Foreign Resident Consultation Center) (2nd floor of Toki Messe)<br><br><b>Contact:</b> ☎: 025-241-1881<br>✉: <a href="mailto:nia10@niigata-ia.or.jp">nia10@niigata-ia.or.jp</a><br><br>*All listed dates are subject to change. Please call or email to confirm. |
| <b>Gyoseishoshi Association of Niigata Consultation</b>                                                                                                                                                                  | 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed. of the month (10/28&TBD) 10am-5pm<br>Chinese, Russian                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents</b><br>Length of Consultation: 40 minutes per person                                                                                                                    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thur. of odd numbered months (11/19)<br>1pm-5pm Russian                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Houterasu Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents</b> Length of Consultation: 40 minutes per person                                                                                                             | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon. of even numbered months (10/19)<br>1pm-5pm English, Filipino, Russian |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Education Consultation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                            | Every Tue. 13:00-17:00<br>English, Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, Russian                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |



Edited and Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation

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(Written and edited by Alyssa Williams & Ayako Homma)

CrossPal will be closed Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>