



# Niigata English Journal

Edited & Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation

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## Japanese Manga and Anime in the USA

Your American CIR, Alyssa, will discuss how Japanese manga and anime became popular in the US, what is popular now, compare and contrast the fan culture between Japan and the US, and more!

**Date:** August 19<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 14:00 – 15:00

**Location:** CrossPal 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 403

**Spots:** 30 spots

**Fee:** Free!

**Sign up:** From July 5<sup>th</sup>, call 025-225-2727 or email [kyokai@nief.or.jp](mailto:kyokai@nief.or.jp)



## Nuttari Tour, Tea, and Calligraphy in English

Experience matcha tea ceremony, Japanese calligraphy, and take a tour of Nuttari in English! This event is for foreign residents of Niigata.

**Date:** July 16<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 13:00 – 16:50 (check in from 12:45)

13:00~introductions, 13:10~ matcha, 13:45~ calligraphy, 14:30~ tour, 16:40~ closing comments

**Location:** Meet at Bandai High School entrance

**Spots:** 20 spots

**Fee:** ¥500 per person

**Sign up:** By July 3<sup>rd</sup> email Koyama at [ohana2036@gmail.com](mailto:ohana2036@gmail.com) or call 090-5556-3559 (Please provide your name, gender, age, nationality, address, and phone number)



## Salon Exhibit: What Kind of Country is the Philippines?

This exhibit shows photographs from Ms. Ishii Kei's talk on the Philippines in March and introduces the country, including its history, food, and culture.

**Date:** May 20<sup>th</sup> – July 13<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 17:00

**Closed:** Sundays

**Location:** CrossPal 2<sup>nd</sup> floor



## Salon Exhibit: Learn All About Vietnam!

NIEF's newest exhibit will feature photos from Mr. Pham Van Phong's lecture earlier this month. Come and learn about Vietnam's popular tourist spots, food, culture, and more!

**Date:** July 15<sup>th</sup> – Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 17:00

**Closed:** Sundays, Holidays and July 24<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** CrossPal 2<sup>nd</sup> floor



## Niigata Matsuri Folk Dance

Niigata Matsuri returns this year, complete with the traditional folk dance (*min'yo nagashi*)! We're looking for foreign residents to join us in the dance. A dance lesson and yukata will be provided for participants! Volunteers will help to put on the yukata, so don't worry if you don't know how to put one on. Please wear comfortable shoes that you can dance in, as well as clothes that are easy to change out of for the yukata.

**Date:** August 4<sup>th</sup> (Fri)

15:30 – 17:30: Check in (2<sup>nd</sup> floor by the elevator)

15:30 – 18:00: Dress up in yukata

16:00 – 18:00: Dance lesson

18:30: Walk to the festival together

19:00 – 20:30: Folk dance!

20:45: Return to Crosspal to retrieve belongings

**Location:** CrossPal

**Spots:** 100 spots

**Fee:** ¥300 per person

**Sign up:** Call 025-225-2727 or email [kyokai@nief.or.jp](mailto:kyokai@nief.or.jp)

\*When you sign up, please tell us your name, gender, nationality, and phone number



## Introducing Niigata City's Newest CIRs!

What is a CIR? CIR stands for Coordinator of International Relations. CIRs come from countries all around the world and generally work in government offices. They act as a bridge between their home country and Japan. Typical duties include translation, interpreting, holding lectures and events that introduce their culture at civic centers or schools, organizing events and exchanges with sister cities, and more! Niigata City has five CIRs from Korea, France, the USA (that's me!), Russia, and China.



### Mikhail Skvortcov from Khabarovsk, Russia

Nice to meet you, my name is Mikhail Skvortcov. I'm from Niigata City's sister city, Khabarovsk, Russia. Niigata City and Khabarovsk have had a close, friendly relationship with each other for a long time. Since October 2022, I have been working at Niigata City's Foreign Affairs Division as a CIR. Every day is full of fun!

I specialize in economics but I love Japan and Japanese. I first came to Japan in 2015 as a tourist. Afterwards, I returned to Khabarovsk, quit my job, and switched to a job that was related to Japan and required me to use Japanese. I then came to Japan to study and lived in Hokkaido for three years. I studied Japanese for a year and a half at a Japanese language school in Hakodate.

After graduating, I was hired by a Japanese company.

Because I worked for a Hokkaido fishing company, I learned how to identify the different types of crabs that Japanese people like to eat. If anyone is interested, I can teach them how to identify crabs too.

Additionally, I like cooking so I can teach everyone how to cook popular Russian foods like borscht and blini. I also like meeting new people and trying new things.

As a CIR, I will do my best to teach the people of Japan about Russian culture and also support Russian speaking people living in Niigata City.

I'm looking forward to working with everyone.

### Han Chao from the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China

Hello everyone, nice to meet you. My name is Han Chao. I started working as one of Niigata City's CIRs this April. I'm very happy to have come to Niigata City as a CIR.

I was born and raised in Hulubuir in Inner Mongolia, China. I left my hometown for university and moved to Dalian City, where I studied Japanese as my major for four years. After graduating, I studied for two years as a graduate student in Ishikawa Prefecture.

Upon graduating, I moved back to China and worked several years as a Japanese language instructor at a university. My hobbies include skiing and cooking.

I enjoyed my time studying abroad in Japan and this time I'm returning to Japan as a CIR, so I would like to share the appeal of Japan and Niigata with the people of China. I will also do my best so that even more Japanese people know about Chinese culture and language. Through my work as CIR, I will strive to deepen the connection between China and Niigata City. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone.



## Recipe Corner: Russian Chicken Soup

This recipe was provided by our very own Russian CIR, Mikhail. Thank you, Mikhail!

\* Makes 5-6 servings

Ingredient	Amount
Water	1.25 L
Chicken thighs (450 g)	2 (900 g)
Carrot	1
Onion (small/medium)	1
Bay leaf	2 leaves
Black pepper	6 peppercorns
Garlic	4 cloves
Salt (as much as you like)	
Parsley	1 bunch
Dill	1 bunch
<b>Ingredients for the noodles</b>	
Egg	1
Flour	200-250g

### Step 1: Making the noodles

1. Put the egg and a pinch of salt in a bowl and mix
2. Add flour gradually. Once the dough forms, knead it well
3. Wrap the dough in plastic wrap and let it rest for 10-15 minutes
4. Form the dough into a ball and roll it out with a rolling pin until it's about 1 mm thick. Let it rest for 3 minutes (do not cover or wrap)
5. Fold the dough so it's an even thickness and then cut it into noodles that are 2-3 mm wide
6. The noodles are complete!



### Step 2: Making the soup

1. Pour water into a pot, add the chicken thighs, and simmer for 15-20 minutes (Remove the scum)
2. Remove the outer skin from the carrot and onion and finely chop them
3. Remove the chicken from the pot, shred into smaller pieces, and put it back in. Add the onions, black peppercorns, bay leaf, and carrots and simmer for 5 minutes
4. After 5 minutes, turn off the heat and add salt as needed. Add garlic, parsley, and dill as desired, cover with a lid, and let it sit for 10 minutes
5. Place the noodles in a bowl, add the soup, and enjoy!

## Niigata Matsuri

Niigata Matsuri returns in full swing this year! This year, the festival will be as close to pre-COVID-19 conditions as possible. The festival will span three days and include a firework show, folk dance, mikoshi processions, and more. See the schedule below for more details.

August 4<sup>th</sup> (Fri)

Folk dance (*min'yo nagashi*)

August 5<sup>th</sup> (Sat)

Sumiyoshi mikoshi procession  
Mikoshi procession on Shinano River  
Children's mikoshi procession  
And more!

August 6<sup>th</sup> (Sun)

Sumiyoshi mikoshi procession  
Firework show




### What is a mikoshi procession?

Mikoshi are portable shrines that are used to carry gods from one place to another. A mikoshi procession is the parade that follows the mikoshi along its journey. The main god being transported during Niigata Matsuri is Sumiyoshi.

## Classes

## Japanese Courses offered by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation

Beginner through Intermediate 2	-Classes of varying difficulties are available at different times throughout the week. -Pricing info & the schedule for the current session are available on the NIEF website: <a href="https://www.nief.or.jp/">https://www.nief.or.jp/</a>		Ms. Kiyoko Tanaka Tel: (025) 225-2727
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## Japanese Study Support Group for Children &amp; Students: NicoPal Club (Free of charge)

Day of the Week & Hours	Room No.	Content	For more info.
Every Wed 9:30 – 11:30 <i>*Please register beforehand</i>	202	To help students get the Japanese language skills needed to go to school in Japan.	Ms. Kiyoko Tanaka Tel: (025) 225-2727
Every Sat 10:00 – 11:30 <i>*Please register beforehand</i>	201	This Japanese study circle offers support to children in the international community who are struggling with Japanese and other school studies.	

## Volunteer Japanese Classes

<https://www.nief.or.jp/en/jcvg>


## International Cooking Class

**When:** July 20<sup>th</sup> (Thu), 22<sup>nd</sup> (Sat), & 23<sup>rd</sup> (Sun)  
11:00-14:00

**Fee:** Foreign residents, students: ¥1,800  
Japanese citizens ¥3,800

**Menu:** Obon Celebration Meal

Appetizers for Obon using seasonal ingredients, summer vegetable gelatin, mackerel sushi, vegetable sushi, somen (cold noodle dish), and dessert with herbal tea.

**Where:** Ms. Ueno's residence (3-4-16 Ogijima, Akiha Ward)

**For more info/sign-up:** TEL: 0250-24-6859 (Ms. Ueno) – Please sign up at least three days before class


## Notices

Change of Citizenship Services Offices

Starting from July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the offices offering citizenship services (naturalization, obtaining Japanese citizenship, revoking citizenship) will change depending on where you live. Niigata City's office has not changed. Please visit the website for more information (Japanese only).

Sado Okesa

Come and learn how to dance the traditional Sado dance – Sado Okesa. Ms. Shimizu is offering free dance lessons to any and all who are interested in learning this traditional dance. Lessons are free and previous dance experience is not required. Scan the QR for the Facebook page and more information (Japanese only).

**Date:** July 7<sup>th</sup> (Fri), July 13<sup>th</sup> (Thu), July 21<sup>st</sup> (Fri), July 27<sup>th</sup> (Thu)  
Time slots: 18:00-19:00, 19:10-20:10, 20:20-21:20

**Location:** Niigata City Music and Culture Hall

**What to bring:** Clothing and shoes that are easy to move in, a towel (for sweat), and water

**Contact:** Ms. Miho Shimizu at [mihoshimizu5555@gmail.com](mailto:mihoshimizu5555@gmail.com)


## Consultation Services

<b>Niigata Help Association</b> TEL: 025-228-2212	Everyday 10:00 – 23:00 English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Filipino, Thai, etc.
<b>Niigata International Association</b> TEL: 025-241-1881 Email: <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 English, Russian, Chinese, Filipino, Thai, Vietnamese, Spanish, Portuguese
<b>Helpline for Foreigners</b> TEL: 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> TEL: 025-280-8609 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 English & Chinese
<b>Immigration Bureau Consultation</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tue. of the month (7/11) 13:00–17:00 Thai, Vietnamese, Russian
<b>Gyoseishoshi Association of Niigata Consultation</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Wed. of the month (7/26) 10:00–17:00 Chinese, Russian
<b>Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents</b> Length of Consultation: 40 minutes per person	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thur. of odd numbered months (7/20) English, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian
<b>Education Consultation</b>	Every Tue. 13:00–17:00 English, Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, Russian
<b>Make a reservation by phone or email in advance.</b>  <b>Place:</b> Multilingual Consultation Center of Niigata (formerly Foreign Resident Consultation Center) (2nd floor of Toki Messe)  <b>Contact:</b> TEL: 025-241-1881 Email: <a href="mailto:nia10@niigata-ia.or.jp">nia10@niigata-ia.or.jp</a>	



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(Written and edited by Alyssa Williams &amp; Ayako Homma)

 CrossPal will be closed July 24<sup>th</sup>