



# Niigata English Journal



Edited & Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation

Mail magazine: Email us to receive this newsletter every month

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## NIEF Spring Japanese Classes

Applications for spring session Japanese classes are now open! Morning and evening classes are available in various beginner or intermediate levels. Stop in to the Friendship Center to pick up an application and get more information. Application forms are due by March 11<sup>th</sup> (Mon), however, if you miss the deadline, do not hesitate to come in and talk with us about it.

Classes Content and Schedule		Days of the Week	Times	Class Duration	Total Class Hours	Class Fee Single
A	Study beginner level materials while pursuing the basics of daily-life conversational skills.	T & F	10:00-12:00	4/2~	72h (36 classes)	15,000 yen
B		W & F		4/3~		
C	Review beginner level materials in preparation for intermediate content.	T & Th		4/2~		
D	Comprehensively study Japanese while striving for proficiency in practical Japanese conversation.	W	18:30-20:00	4/3~	36h (18 classes)	9,000 yen
		F		4/5~		
I	Study beginner level materials while pursuing the basics of daily-life conversational skills.	T & Th		4/2~	54h (36 classes)	11,500 yen
II		F		4/5~	27h (18 classes)	7,000 yen
III	Review beginner level materials while studying Japanese more comprehensively.	T		4/2~	27h (18 classes)	7,000 yen

### Taru-kinuta Drumming Event

Learn one of Niigata's traditional musical arts, taru-kinuta! Taru-kinuta is a style of drumming that involves hitting a wooden barrel (taru) with a thin wooden mallet (kinuta). This a great opportunity for international students and local Japanese residents to interact!

**Date:** March 17<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 14:00 – 16:00

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

**Spots:** 20 (10 international students, 10 Japanese)

**Fee:** ¥300

**Sign up/Contact:** TEL: 025-225-2727 or email: kyokai@nief.or.jp \*When signing up, state your name, phone number, and nationality



### 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.

**Date:** February 17<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 13:00 – 16:40

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

**Spots:** 5 time slots (40 minutes per person)

**Fee:** Free!

**Sign up:** Call 025-225-2727 or email kyokai@nief.or.jp



### 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!

**Date:** March 23<sup>rd</sup> (Sat) 10:00 – 16:00

**Location:** CrossPal 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Room 309

**Fee:** Free!

**Sign up/Contact:** Call Niigata Prefecture Administrative Scrivener Society, Mr. Takano at 070-1189-8555



### Salon Exhibit: Lunar New Year in Asia

Lunar New Year is on February 10<sup>th</sup>! Come and learn how the holiday is celebrated in China, Vietnam, Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, and more.

**Date:** January 17<sup>th</sup> (Wed) – February 10<sup>th</sup> (Sat)

9:00 – 17:00

**Closed:** Sundays and Holidays

**Location:** NIEF Exchange Salon (CrossPal 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)



### Niigata-Australia Society Jazz & Wine Night

The Niigata-Australia Society will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary with a night of jazz, wine, and guest speakers from the Australian Embassy in Japan!

**Date:** February 17<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 18:00 – 20:45

**Location:** Hotel Okura 4F, Continental

**Fee:** Members: ¥12,000; non-members: ¥15,000

**Sign up/Contact:** By Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Call Ms. Yokoyama at 090-4935-5060 or email: niigata.aus@gmail.com



### Niigata Swing Jazz & Dance Big Party

Featuring 3 live bands, a special dance performance, and a mini dance lesson for beginners! Listeners are also welcome! Sign up using the code on the right.

**Date:** March 9<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 17:30 – 22:30

**Location:** Niigata Gioia Mia, 1016-1 Higashibori-dori 7-bancho

**Fee:** ¥4,000 advance tickets, ¥4,500 at door (¥3,500 for those who participate in dance practice) + ¥500 drink (required)

**Contact:** swinginniigata@gmail.com



## 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. (contact for info)	202	Please contact Ms. Tanaka for more information.	Ms. Kiyoko Tanaka Tel: (025) 225-2727
Every Sat. 10:00 – 11:30 *except 2/17 *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.	

## Volunteer Japanese Classes

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



## International Cooking Class

**When:** February 24<sup>th</sup> (Sat), February 25<sup>th</sup> (Sun), February 26<sup>th</sup> (Mon)  
11:00-14:00

**Fee:** Foreign residents: ¥2,000  
Japanese citizens: ¥3,800

**Menu:** Hina Matsuri and Fermented Foods – Chakin sushi, temari sushi, shrimp cake soup, handmade amazake (sweet sake (non-alcoholic)), and more!



**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

## Niigata International Animation Film Festival &amp; Gatafes

This year, the Niigata International Animation Film Festival (NIAFF) and Gatafes (a manga and anime event) will be held at the same time! For more details check out the official websites.

## NIAFF

**When:** Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> (Fri) – 20<sup>th</sup> (Wed)

**Where:** TBD



NIAFF

## Gatafes

**When:** Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> (Sat) & 17<sup>th</sup> (Sun)

**Where:** Furumachi Area



Gatafes

## Earthquake Information



Niigata City is updating its website regularly with information on disaster relief for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. Information is available in Japanese, English, and Chinese, with machine translation available for other languages.

## Printed Labels Required for All International Packages

Effective March 1, 2024, the Universal Postal Union will not accept hand-written labels for overseas packages. All packages mailed overseas must have a printed EAD (Electronic Advance Data) label declaring the package's contents. To create an EAD label, use the Japan Post website. Labels can be printed at certain post office locations. See the Japan Post website for more details.



## Consultation Services

Niigata Help Association TEL: 025-228-2212		Everyday 10:00 – 23:00 English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Filipino, Thai, etc.
Niigata International Association 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
Helpline for Foreigners TEL: 0120-279-338 (toll-free)		Press 2 after the Japanese guidance
Niigata Medical Care Information Network URL: <a href="http://qq.niigata-iyaku.jp/">http://qq.niigata-iyaku.jp/</a>		English, Chinese, Korean
Hello Work, Foreigner Advisory Service 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
Immigration Bureau Consultation	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tue. of the month (2/13) 13:00–17:00 Thai, Vietnamese, Russian	Make a reservation by phone or email in advance.  <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>
Gyoseishoshi Association of Niigata Consultation	4 <sup>th</sup> Wed. of the month (2/28) 10:00–17:00 Chinese, Russian	
Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents Length of Consultation: 40 minutes per person	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thur. of odd numbered months (3/21) English, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian	
Houterasu Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents Length of Consultation: 40 minutes per person	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon. of even numbered months (2/19) 13:00 – 17:00 English, Filipino	
Education Consultation	Every Tue. 13:00–17:00 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 Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>