



# Niigata English Journal



Edited & Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation

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## Taru-kinuta Drumming Experience

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](mailto:kyokai@nief.or.jp) \*When signing up, state your name, phone number, and nationality



## What's Italy like?

Ms. Isabella Gallao-Aoki, originally from Milan, will introduce Italy – including its history, culture, popular tourist destinations, and how Italy differs from Japan.

**Date:** March 14<sup>th</sup> (Thu) 13:30 – 15:00

**Location:** CrossPal 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Room 403 & 404

**Spots:** 30 people

**Fee:** ¥500 (¥300 for NIEF supporters)

**Sign up/Contact:** TEL: 025-225-2727 or email: [kyokai@nief.or.jp](mailto:kyokai@nief.or.jp) or fill out the online form



## NIEF Spring Japanese Classes

Applications for spring session Japanese classes are open until March 11<sup>th</sup> (Mon). Morning and evening classes are available, from beginner to intermediate level. If you missed the deadline but would like to apply, please come in and talk with us! For more details, please see the NIEF website.

**Closed:** Sundays, holidays, and March 25<sup>th</sup> (Mon)

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

**Contact:** TEL: 025-225-2727 or email:

[kyokai@nief.or.jp](mailto:kyokai@nief.or.jp)



## Salon Exhibit: Yasashii Nihongo

Have you heard of Yasashii Nihongo? It is a simplified version of Japanese used to communicate with second language learners, children, the elderly, and more. Come and learn more about this useful style of communication!

**Date:** March 8<sup>th</sup> (Fri) – March 23<sup>rd</sup> (Sat) 9:00 – 17:00

**Closed:** Sundays and holidays

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

## 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



## Japanese Class Social

Students studying Japanese in Toyosaka at Iroha Kyoshitsu will be holding an event where they show off their Japanese skills. Everyone is welcome to come enjoy the presentations and socialize.

**Date:** March 23<sup>rd</sup> (Sat) 10:00 – 12:00

**Location:** Kuzutsuka Community Center, Training Room A & B; 3197 Kuzutsuka, Kita Ward

**Fee:** Free!

**Sign up/Contact:** By March 17<sup>th</sup> (Sun), Yamagishi @ TEL: 090-8617-4456



## Sri Lanka New Year's Party



Come celebrate the Sinhalese and Tamil New Year! Special guests include Ambassador Rodney Perera (the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Japan) and Mr. Anton Wicky, among others. There will also be dance performances, a sari fashion show, food, and more! Hosted by Rasai no Kai.

**Date:** April 14<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 11:00 – 15:00

**Location:** Crosspal 5<sup>th</sup> floor Exchange Hall

**Fee:** ¥2,000 (includes meal)

**Sign up/Contact:** By Mar. 31, text message Otaki at TEL: 080-3140-7436 or email: [yatakioh@gmail.com](mailto:yatakioh@gmail.com) \*When signing up, write your name and phone number. Women should state if they are interested in wearing a sari.

## Art Mix Japan

Art Mix Japan will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> run this year! This event showcases Japanese traditional culture and performing arts, with performances of Nihon-buyo, rakugo, various traditional musical performances, a puppet show, and more! There will also be workshops, talk shows, and kimono that you can rent for the event!

**Date:** April 13<sup>th</sup> (Sat) and 14<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 – 20:00


**Location:** Ryutopia and Enkikan

**Tickets:** Online (scan code on the right), TEL 025-255-1332, or in person at Ryutopia and other locations (see website for details →)



## 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 3/9 *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: March 23<sup>rd</sup> (Sat), March 24<sup>th</sup> (Sun), March 25<sup>th</sup> (Mon)

11:00-14:00

Fee: Foreign residents: ¥2,000

Japanese citizens: ¥3,800

Menu: Hanami Party Bento and Fermented Foods – Seabream and bamboo shoot rice, tofu soup, seasonal side dishes. 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 & 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.

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

Where: Varies by film, see schedule

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

Where: Furumachi Area &amp; Ryutopia

Earthquake Information

Niigata City regularly updates its website 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.

Free Japanese Class

A free beginner level Japanese class is available for students who can read most hiragana and katakana and some basic kanji. Class fees are free, however, students must purchase a textbook.

When: Fridays, 15:30 – 17:00

Where: CrossPal

Sign up/Contact: Mr. Komiyama

TEL: 090-4811-1147, email: kmyma2s@gmail.com



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: nia21c@niigata-ia.or.jp 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 (3/12) 13:00–17:00 Thai, Vietnamese, Russian
Gyoseishoshi Association of Niigata Consultation	4 <sup>th</sup> Wed. of the month (3/27) 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 (4/15) 13:00 – 17:00 English, Filipino
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: TEL: 025-241-1881  
Email: nia10@niigata-ia.or.jp



Edited and Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation

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

CrossPal will be  
closed Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>