



# Niigata English Journal

Edited & Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation  
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## Notices & Upcoming NCIEF Events

### Oshaberi Salon

Your neighborhood Niigata City CIRs each host conversation (oshaberi) hours where they talk and lead discussions in Japanese about topics related to their home country and cross-cultural understanding. Here are this month's events!



#### Oshaberi Salon- Korea

This will be led by Cheri, the city's Korean CIR. The topic will be about what is currently popular in Korea.

**When:** March 14<sup>th</sup> (Tues)  
14:00~15:00

**Place:** CrossPal Niigata  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor Exchange Salon (NCIEF)

### Sake no Jin

Niigata's annual sake festival is back! On March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> (10am-6pm) at Toki Messe there will be over 500 different types of rice wine from 90 different breweries to sample for only ¥2,500 at the door (for all you can drink!). Check out the schedule posted on their website to see when the Furumachi Geigi will perform!

Kanpai

**Date:** March 11<sup>th</sup> (Sat) and 12<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:00~18:00

**Place:** Toki Messe

**Fee:** 2,000JPY if you pre-order, 2,500JPY at the door, 1,500JPY after 3PM, free for non-drinkers

**Website:** <http://sakenojin.jp/english/>

**Blog Post:** <https://niigataej.wordpress.com/2017/02/24/sake-no-jin/>



### Spring Japanese Classes



Applications for NIEF's 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, however, if you miss the deadline, do not hesitate to come in and talk with us about it. Classes start March 31<sup>st</sup>!

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 & Th	10:00-12:00	4/4~8/10	72h (36 times)	15,000 yen
B		T&F		4/4~8/8		
C	Review beginner level materials in preparation for intermediate content.	W&F		3/31-8/9		15,000 yen *9,000 yen
D	Comprehensively study Japanese while striving for proficiency in practical Japanese conversation.	Th		4/6-8/10	36h (18 times)	9,000 yen
		F	3/31-8/4			
I	Study beginner level materials while pursuing the basics of daily-life conversational skills.	T & Th	18:30-20:00	4/4~8/8	54h (36 times)	11,500 yen
II		F		3/31-8/4	27h (18 times)	7,000 yen
III	Review beginner level materials while studying Japanese more comprehensively.	T		4/4~8/1	27h (18 times)	7,000 yen

**More Notices & Upcoming NCIEF Events****ART MIX JAPAN**

This event is a month full of performances of different traditional arts, mostly Japanese but there will be a few from other countries as well. There are going to be 27 different performances so there is bound to be something for everyone. Tickets can be purchased for individually or in discounted bundles. There will be all kinds of dance and music including Geisha, taiko drums, Japanese flute and so much more. Please see the site below for more information which can be found in English!

**When:** April 1st – 23rd  
**Where:** Various (Ryutopia, Konan Ward Cultural Center, and many more)  
**Cost:** Varies by performance  
**More Info:** <http://artmixjapan.com/en/>

**La Folle Journée and a Call for Volunteers!**

Niigata's La Folle Journée, April 28-30, is classical music festival that originated in Nantes, France, sister city to Niigata. Featuring top-ranked musicians from home and abroad, concerts continue from morning to night. Public performances run for 45 minutes, and delight both adults and children.

And they need your help! They need people to help them with flower art projects! All correspondence will probably be in Japanese but they should be willing to help you help them.

**When:** April 28th 8:30-12:00 and/or 13:00-16:00  
**Where:** Ryutopia (then move to tulip fields and Hakusan Park)  
**Contact:** 025-226-2560 (Niigata City Cultural Policy Division)  
**Deadline:** March 17th (Fri)  
**Note:** If you do both of the above shifts, they will provide a bento for you.

**Charlie's Recipe Corner**

This is the recipe for this month's cooking class! It is a simple and kid friendly recipe that the whole family will love. It doesn't have to be done perfectly or with finesse for it to be tasty! All of the amounts are merely suggestions. Add different toppings in different amounts as you prefer! The taco meat is also delicious over rice as in taco rice, or on lettuce for a taco salad.

**Tacos****METHOD**

1. Wash and cut up the vegetables.
2. Cook the ground meat in a frying pan, while breaking up the meat, until brown
3. Drain off any excess oil
4. Add taco seasoning and water, cook until thickened
5. Serve on warmed tortillas and add your favorite toppings

**Taco seasoning (~2 TBSP)**

Mix the following together and use in the above recipe

- 1 Tbsp. Chili Powder
- 1/4 tsp. Garlic Powder
- 1/4 tsp. Onion Powder
- 1/4 tsp. Crushed Red Pepper Flakes
- 1/4 tsp. Dried Oregano
- 1/2 tsp. Paprika
- 1 1/2 tsp. Ground Cumin
- 1 tsp. Sea Salt
- 1 tsp. Black Pepper (optional)

**Ingredients 6 (2 taco) servings**

Ground meat	450g
Taco seasoning*	2 TBSP
Water	1/2 to 3/4 c
Tortillas	12
Diced tomatoes	1/2
Shredded lettuce	1/2
Sour cream	50 g
Salsa	1/2 c
Shredded cheese	100 g
Tortilla chips	A bag
Extras (avocado, onion, etc)	As needed



## Events

Key: G-General; U-University Students; H-High School; J-Junior High School; E-Elementary School

**Gagaku (Japanese traditional court music)**

**Date:** March 4th (Sat) 13:30~  
**Place:** Niigatashi Ongaku Bunka Kaikan  
**Fee:** G - ¥2,000 Student - ¥1,500  
**Contact:** 080-3024-6338 (Minagawa)  
**URL:** <http://www.niigatagakuso.org>

**K-PoP Show!**

**Date:** March 11th (Sat) 13:30~  
**Place:** Niigata Live Showcase (7-935 Furumachi, Chuo Ward)  
**Fee:** ¥1,000 (including Korean soda pop)  
**Contact:** 025-225-1661  
**Kokusai Ongaku Entertainment Senmongakko**  
**URL:** <http://show-net.jp/>

**All about Niigata So-Odori**

**Date:** March 11th (Sat) 13:30~15:00  
**Place:** Nishi Niigata Shimin Kaikan(2-24-1 Kobari Nishi Ward)  
**Fee:** Free  
**Number of People:** 150 people (First come first served)  
**Contact & Application:** 025-230-1071  
 (Kobari Aoyama Kominkan)

**Niigata City Walking Guide (Nuttari course)**

**Date:** March 18th (Sat) 13:00~15:30  
**Place:** Higashi-chiku Sogo Chosha Building (7-1 Kanbaracho, Chuo Ward)  
**Fee:** ¥1,300  
**Number of people:** 25 people  
**Application deadline:** March 4th  
**Contact & Application :**080-1262-2880 (Ishida)

**Chinese Film Showing**

A well-known historical drama in Chinese with Japanese subs  
**Date:** March 14th (Tue) 14:30~16:45  
**Place:** CrossPal Niigata 4F Visual Hall  
**Fee:** Free  
**Contact:** 025-275-5941(Toyama)

**13th Toyosaka Nihongo Kyoshitsu Koryukai (exchange party)**

**Date:** March 11th (Sat) 9:30~12:00  
**Place:** Kuzutsuka Community Center 1F A/B Room  
**Fee:** Free (please bring one dish or one drink)  
**Contact:** 080-4058-6640  
 (Mr. Hasegawa)

**Niigata International Friendship Center Exchange Salon ~Toru Kondo's Travels to the Mustang Kingdom~**

Mr. Kondo spent many years and his life in Mustang Kingdom, next to Nepal. This is an exhibit of photographs and other things he gathered.  
**Date:** Until March 28<sup>th</sup> (Tue) 9:00~17:00 (3/28 until 15:00)  
**Closed:** Sun & Hol, March. 27<sup>th</sup>  
**Contact:** 025-225-2727 (NIEF)

**Korean Film & Exchange Party**

(1) Film showing  
**Date:** March 25<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 13:00~15:00  
**Place:** CrossPal Niigata 4F Visual Hall  
 (2) Exchange Party  
**Date:** March 25<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 15:20~16:20  
**Place:** CrossPal Niigata 5F Exchange Hall  
**Fee:** Free  
**Number of people:** 150 people  
**Application:** please make a phone call from on March 15<sup>th</sup> (Wed).  
**Contact & Application:**025-225-2727

**Conversation Hour with a Singaporean Chef!**

**Date:** March 26<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 15:00~  
**Place:** Singapore Dining Bakutei (2-2-7 Matsuzaki Higashi Ward)  
**Fee:** expense you will drink  
**Number of people:** 10 people  
**Contact & Application:** 025-282-7177  
**Email:** [bakutei@asia.com](mailto:bakutei@asia.com)

## Community Bulletin Board

**The 58<sup>th</sup> International Speech Contest in Japanese**

**Date:** June 17<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 2017 13:00~  
**Place:** Tsukuba Shiritsu Nova Hall (1-10-1 Azuma, Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture)  
**Application:** application form, recorded speech, speech manuscripts, photo, etc.  
**Application deadline:** April 25<sup>th</sup> (Tue)  
**For further information:**  
 The international Education Center at 03-3359-9620  
 Mon – Fri 9:00~17:00  
**E-mail:**benron@iec-nichibei.or.jp  
**URL:** <http://www.iec-nichibei.or.jp>

**Volunteer Seminar for Interpreter and Translation**

**Date:** March 26<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 13:15~17:30  
**Place:** Toki Messe 3F Room 302 (6-1 Bandaijima, Chuo Ward)  
**Fee:** Free  
**Contents:** 1.What volunteers do local areas need?  
 2. Interpreter training 3. Exchange party  
**Application:** please send an application form by an email ([nia21@niigata-ia.or.jp](mailto:nia21@niigata-ia.or.jp)) or Fax (025-249-8122) .  
**Application deadline:** March 13<sup>th</sup> (Mon)  
**Contact:** 025-290-5650  
**URL:** <http://www.niigata-ia.or.jp/> (Niigata International Association)

**Niigata Prefectural Gyosei Shoshi (Administrative Clerk) Main Office Free Consultation for Foreign Nationals (Reservations Required)**

1. **Niigata Prefectural Gyosei Shoshi Niigata Branch Office**  
**Date:** March 19<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:00~16:00  
**Place:** Higashi-ku Plaza (Higashi Ward)  
**Contact:** 090-2227-0401 (Ms. Nakazawa)  
 2. **Gyoseishoshi Association of Niigata**  
**Date:** March 22<sup>nd</sup> (Wed) 10:00~14:00 **Place:** Toki Messe  
**Contact:** 025-290-5650 (Gyoseishoshi Association of Niigata )

**Himawari (Japanese Class for Children)**

Let's have fun studying Japanese together!  
**Date:** Every Wed, Fri, Sat 14:00~16:00  
**Place:** Hayadori Community Center (37-1 Hayadori, Kita Ward)  
**Fee:** Free  
**For more info & Application:** 090-2756-0967 (Ms. Kawasaki)

**Niigata City ALT Job Opening**

The Niigata Municipal School System is now hiring Assistant Language Teachers. The English posting with job details and requirements can be found in the 4th link at:  
[www.city.niigata.lg.jp/kosodate/gakko/oshirase/gakkoh28altsaiyou.html](http://www.city.niigata.lg.jp/kosodate/gakko/oshirase/gakkoh28altsaiyou.html)  
**Contract Duration:** April 1, 2017- March 31, 2018  
**Salary:** 300,000 yen per month  
**Hours:** 7 hours a day for a total of 35 hours a week  
**Interview Date:** March 17, 2017 from 13:00-17:00  
**Contact:** 025-226-3263 (Ms. Yamada)

**Japanese Proficiency Test**

**Date:** July 2<sup>nd</sup> (Sun) **Application term:** March 29~April 28  
**URL:** <http://info.jees-jlpt.jp/application/>



## Classes

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

Beginner through Intermediate 2	-Classes of varying difficulty are available at different times throughout the week. -Pricing info & the Spring Schedule are available in the "Support for Foreign Nationals" section of the NCIEF website: <a href="http://www.nief.or.jp/">http://www.nief.or.jp/</a>	Ms. Rika Saito Tel: (025) 225-2727
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## Japanese Study Support Group for Children &amp; Students: Niko Pal Club (Free of charge)

Day of the week & Hours	Room No.	Content	For more info.
Every Sat 10:00 – 14:30	202	This Japanese study circle offers support to children in the international community who are struggling with Japanese and other school studies.	Ms. Rika Saito Tel: (025) 225-2727
Every Wed 10:00 – 12:00 (but March 8 <sup>th</sup> )	201	To support the Japanese studies of high school-age children	

## Japanese Classes by Volunteer Groups at Crosspal Niigata

(Free of charge except for material costs! Just show up at the location listed below!)

Day of the week	Hours	Room No.	Level	Organizations & Info
Every Wed (but March 29 <sup>th</sup> )	13:00 - 14:30	201	Beginners	Niigata Nihongo Kaiwa Kyoshitsu ¥500/ month
Every Thu (but March 30 <sup>th</sup> )	13:00 – 14:30	201	Beginners	
Every Fri	13:00 - 14:30	201 or 202 or 309	Beginners & Advanced Beginners	Niigata Nihongo Gakushu Kai
Every Sat	10:30 – 12:00	201 or 306	Advanced Beginners	Wacon ¥500/ month
Every Sat	10:30 - 12:00	309	Newspaper Class (Intermediate)	Yaponika
Every Sat	13:00 – 14:30	201 or 309 or Art rm.	Intermediate	Yaponika
Every Sun	15:00 - 16:30	201	Introduction - Beginners	Niigata Nihongo Volunteer

## Nihongo Kyoshitsu Waon II at Higashi-ku Plaza (1-4-1 Shimokido Higashi-ku)

March 7 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> (Tue)	10:00 - 14:00	Fee: ¥300 per time	Ms. Takenaka Tel:(025) 277-3621
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## Nihongo for Foreign Residents at the Ekinan Community Center 2F (4-12-20 Yoneyama Chuo-ku)

Every Sun	10:00 - 12:00	Fee: ¥2,000/month	Ms. Motomura Tel:(080) 5485-3796
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## Konnichiwa! Nihongo at Kobari Elementary School Volunteer Room (2-36-1 Kobari Nishi-ku)

Every Thu (but March 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> )	10:00 – 11:30	Beginners – Advanced Fee: ¥300	Ms. Wakatsuki Tel: (025) 265-3140
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## Taiken Nihongo Kyoshitsu at Nishi Chiku Kominkan (603 Uchino Nishi-ku)

Every Tue (but March 21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> )	10:00 - 12:00	Beginners – Advanced One term ¥3,500+ Textbook & Copy Fee	Nishi Chiku Kominkan Tel: (025)261-0031
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Iroha Nihongo Kyoshitsu at Kuzutsuka Community Center (1-1-18 Toei-cho Kita-ku) URL: [irohanihongo.jimdo.com](http://irohanihongo.jimdo.com)

Every Sat	10:00 - 12:00	Beginners Fee: ¥500/month	Mr. Hasegawa Tel: (080) 4058-6640
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## Akiha Nihongo Kyoshitsu at Niitsu Chiiki Gakuen (2-5-6 Niitsu Higashicho Akiha-ku)

Every Thu	13:00 – 14:30	Beginners Fee: ¥500/month	Mr. Hasegawa Tel: (080) 4058-6640
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## Maki Nihongo Kyoshitsu at Makichiku Kominkan (635 Makiko Nishikan-ku)

Every Thu (but March 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> )	18:30 – 20:30	Beginners - Intermediate One term ¥3,500+ Textbook & Copy fee	Ms. Fujita
March 4 <sup>th</sup> (Sat) & 18 <sup>th</sup> (Sat)	14:00 – 16:00	Let's have fun practicing Japanese! ¥2,000	Tel: (090) 4072-3840

## Cultural Classes

<b>International Cooking Class</b>	<b>When:</b> March 25 <sup>th</sup> (Sat) & 26 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 11:00~14:00 <b>Fee:</b> Foreign residents ¥1,800; Japanese citizens ¥3,500 <b>Where:</b> Ms. Ueno's residence (3-4-16 Ogikawa Akiha-ku) <b>Menu:</b> Lunch box for cherry blossom viewing (Sashimi, Teriyaki chicken, Japanese soup, rice with cherry taste) Please sign up at least three days before class. <b>For more info call:</b> Ms. Ueno 0250-24-6859
<b>Tai Chi</b>	March 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> (Thu) 13:00 – 14:30 Led by Mr. So CrossPal Niigata 5F Exchange Hall 2 Fee: Instructor's transportation expenses For more info call: 025-229-0140 Mr. Itoda

## Consultation Services

<b>Niigata City International Exchange Foundation</b> Crosspal 2F (3-2086 Ishizuecho-dori, Chuo-ku) TEL: 025-225-2727 Email: <a href="mailto:kyokai@nief.or.jp">kyokai@nief.or.jp</a> URL: <a href="http://www.nief.or.jp">http://www.nief.or.jp</a>	Mon – Fri 9:00-16:00 (excluding holidays) English, Chinese, Korean, French, Russian
<b>Niigata Help Association</b> TEL: 025-228-2212	Every Day: 9:00-23:00 Spanish, English, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, Chinese, 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="http://www.niigata-ia.or.jp/">http://www.niigata-ia.or.jp/</a>	<b>English:</b> Thu 10:00~14:00 <b>Thai:</b> Tue 10:00-14:00 <b>Chinese:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> Wed 10:00-14:00
<b>Helpline for Foreigners</b> TEL: 0120-279-338	Call the toll-free number and 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>	Site available in Japanese Only
<b>Hello Work, Foreigner Advisory Service</b> TEL: 025-280-8609 Niigata Misaki Godo Chosha #2 (1-2-1 Misaki-cho, Chuo-ku, Niigata-shi)	1 <sup>st</sup> ~ 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 13:30-16:00 English & Chinese

Edited and Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation  
3-2086 Ishizuecho-dori, Chuo-ku, Niigata-shi 951-8055  
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(Written and edited by Charlene Woolson & Rika Saito)

CrossPal will be closed on March. 27<sup>th</sup>.