

Niigata English Journal



We are carrying the Omikoshi! This shrine is heavy but I think it is part of what makes festivals fun! The atmosphere is so energetic!

Edited & Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation
 ★★ Discover more of Niigata on our blog: www.niigataej.wordpress.com ★★
 Don't forget to subscribe to it while you are there and never miss a post!

NCIEF Contact Info
 • 025-225-2727
 • kyokai@nief.or.jp

Notices & Upcoming NCIEF Events

Dance in the Niigata's Minyo Nagashi (Traditional Clothing Provided)

Every year during the Niigata Matsuri, the people of Niigata flood the streets to dance the Minyo Nagashi down the Masaya-Koji and across Bandai Bridge. As always, the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation is organizing a group so that anyone can join in!

All participants receive a yukata or happi (volunteers will be there to help) as well as instruction on how to dance the Niigata Jinku. There are 150 spots and spots fill up fast!!



When: August 10th 15:30~ **Starting location:** CrossPal Niigata 2nd floor
Participation Fee: 300 yen **Registration deadline:** 8/8 (First come first serve!)
Contact: 025-225-2727 or email kyokai@nief.or.jp
Schedule:

15:30~17:30	Registration
15:30~18:00	Putting on yukata
17:30~18:15	Dance practice
18:30	Move to parade start
19:00~20:30	Minyo Nagashi!
21:15	Finish



Learn and Practice Dancing the Minyo Nagashi

Worried that the 45 min of practice the day of will not be enough but you want to get good at dancing the Minyo Nagashi? Well, there are dance classes held at CrossPal every Thursday during July for you to learn it! You can go to any or all of the classes so feel free to check it out.

Don't forget to wear comfortable clothes and bring your indoor shoes, towel, a water bottle!

Dates: July 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th

Times: 1:30-3:30 pm (sign-in starts at 1)

Place: CrossPal Niigata 2F Gymnasium

Fee: 100 yen per class

Number of people: 60 people (elementary school students and older)

For more info & application: 025-224-2088 Niigatashi Shogai Gakushu Center

Multi-lingual Storytime!

This is a perfect opportunity for you to expose your children to other languages and have fun! The books will be read by native speakers followed by the Japanese version.



<p>English, French Date: August 8th (Wed) Time: 10:30-11:15am Where: NIEF Exchange Salon (CrossPal Niigata 2F) Contact: Lifelong Learning Center Library (025-224-2120) No reservations needed. Just show up! For children 4 and up.</p>	<p>Chinese, Russian Date: August 23rd (Thu) Time: 10:30-11:15am Where: Konan Ward Kameda Library Contact: Kameda Library (025-382-4696) No reservations needed. Just show up! For children 3 and up.</p>	<p>English, Korean Date: August 29th (Wed) Time: 10:30-11:15am Where: Hon Port Central Library (Beans Room) Contact: Hon Port Central Library (025-246-7700) No reservations needed. First come, first serve up to 30 people. For children 3 and up.</p>
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English Journal Wordpress Blog Highlight

Chuo Fire Bureau

This is a shortened version of the blog post. For more information and pictures, visit niigataej.wordpress.com

We recently visited the Chuo Fire Bureau and wanted to share our experience with you! It is surprisingly open to the public and free. They have interactive displays and they can take you on a tour of the building which was finished just 3 years ago.

When you first walk in, you see the interactive displays which were a lot of fun. They explained and let you experience a variety of things related to fire safety. There was a 50 meter ladder truck simulator that let you control the ladder. You could challenge someone to see who could hit the target with a (model) fire extinguisher. Not to mention you can test your knowledge regarding fire

safety and what to do in emergencies. (That is everything is in Japanese)

We also got to learn about what life is like for the firefighters that work there.

Some of the firefighters work in 24 hour shifts and stay, at the ready, on the first and second floors where all the nap rooms, cafeteria, locker rooms, and all their other firefighter needs are met. The city is divided into many districts with 26 fire stations placed strategically throughout. The firefighters at this building mainly service the nearby areas but of course may be called to neighboring wards or even cities like they did when the Itoigawa fires happened.

They also have a room they would use in the case of a large scale disaster such as an earthquake over a shindo 5.

Then we saw the 119 emergency call dispatch center for the whole of Niigata City in action. Since personal information is shown as calls come in we were not able to take pictures of the room but here is a picture of a labeled picture of the room. It was so cool to see how much technology goes in to making the response as efficient as possible.

We were told that to make it easier for responders, make sure you (or someone around you) can say your address or clearly explain where you are, starting with the city name. Apparently, sometimes your phone signal could be picked up by a neighboring city but once they know, you can be transferred instantly.

they have the location, they have sent help your way even if they are still talking to you getting more information. And of course, don't call if it isn't an emergency in the first place!

After the dispatch center we got to go outside, practice with water filled practice fire extinguishers and see the outdoor training area which was actually in use. They move so quickly!

All in all we learned that the fire department doesn't just put out fires, but also deal with medical emergencies, emergency response (ie traffic accidents), dispatching for all of the above, search for cause of fires using various techniques, and most importantly they promote fire prevention. They educate people about and check that businesses have smoke detectors. Thanks to them, and the the citizens of Niigata, we have the smallest number of fires in the designated cities

It was a great place to visit. There were lots of cool things to see and learn about. I highly recommend if you can understand Japanese or go with someone who can.



AT A GLANCE

English Friendliness: 1/10 There is English for the titles of some of the panels. That is it.
Price Range: Free!
Hours: 8:30-15:00
Closed: Open every day
Address: 257-1 Shumoku, Chuo-ku, Niigata, Niigata Prefecture 950-141

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Cucumber Crab Salad

This is another recipe where I just kind of threw something together but it tasted good! Vary the ratios as you see fit!

Method

1. Slice the cucumber into thin rounds
2. Sprinkle with salt, let sit for 10 minutes, then remove the water (wring it out in a paper towel if needed)
3. Transfer cucumber to a bowl, add in other ingredients to taste

Ingredients	
Cucumber	1
Mayonnaise	1 TBSP
Salt	As needed
Mentsuyu	A splash
Imitation crab	1/2 package



Events

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

**International Friendship Center Exchange Salon Exhibition
~ Russian Woodwork ~**

Date: May 29th (Tue) – July 27th (Fri) 9:00–17:00
Closed: Sundays, Holidays, and the 4th Mon. of every month
Place: Niigata International Friendship Center (CrossPal 2F)
For more info: 025-225-2727 (NCIEF)

The 12th Bandai Bridge Sunset Cafe

Come and enjoy food and drinks on the river bank of the Shinano River while watching the sunset.

Date: June 1st (Fri) – September 30th (Sun)
 Mondays – Fridays 17:00–22:00
 Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays 11:00–22:00
Place: Bandai Terrace
For more info call: 090-3142-8995
 (Niigata Open Cafe Promotion Executive Committee)

Hawaiian Concert in Tenjuen

Enjoy Hawaiian music and hula dance and an illuminated Chinese-style garden.

Date: July 6th (Fri) 19:00 –
Place: Tenjuen (Seigoro, Chuo Ward)
Fee: Free
For more info call: 025-286-1717 (Tenjuen)

**Let's Speak English! (English Salon)**

Sponsored by the Niigata Galveston Committee, a native English speaker leads this conversation hour. This is a great chance to hear and use English.

Date: July 7th (Sat) 14:00 –15:30
Place: Niigata International Friendship Exchange Salon
Fee: ¥300 (CrossPal 2F)
Numbers of Participants: 15 People
Application: Please make a phone call or send an email
For more info: call 025-225-2727 or email r.saito@nief.or.jp



Notices

**Niigata Prefectural Gyosei Shoshi (Administrative Clerk)
Main Office Free Consultation for Foreign Nationals
(Reservations Required)****1. Niigata Prefectural Gyosei Shoshi Niigata Branch Office**

Date: July 15th (Sun) 11:00–15:00
Place: Higashi Ward Plaza (Shimokido, Higashi Ward)
Contact: 070-1189-8555 (Ms. Aiba)

2. Gyoseishoshi Association of Niigata

Date: July 25th (Wed) 10:00–14:00
Place: Toki Messe
Contact: 025-290-5650 (Gyoseishoshi Association of Niigata)

Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents

Need legal advice? On Friday, August 24th there will be an opportunity to visit with a lawyer and receive free consultation regarding legal matters. If you don't speak Japanese, then an interpreter will be provided for you.

Date: August 24th (Fri) 13:00–17:00
Place: CrossPal Niigata 2nd floor
Requirements: Must be non-Japanese resident living/working in Niigata

Language Support Available: English, Mandarin Chinese, Korean, French, and Russian

Places Available: 5 (reservation required)
Length of Consultation: 40 minutes per person
Reservations: Please tell us your name, nationality, phone number, sex, and what you wish to discuss.
For more info/reservations: 025-225-2727 OR
 Email: kyokai@nief.or.jp

Water and Land Niigata Art Festival 2018

This festival has been held in Niigata City once every three years. You can enjoy modern art throughout the city.

Date: July 14th (Sat) – October 8th (Mon)
Main venue: Bandaijima Multipurpose Plaza
Satellite Venue: Yui Port (Niigata City Center for Creative Arts and International Youth Exchange)

For more info call: 025-226-2629
 (Water and Land Art Festival 2018 Executive Committee)
URL: <http://2018.mizu-tsuchi.jp>

The 32nd Niigata Jazz Street

Live performances are held in various locations in the Furumachi, Bandai City, and south side of Niigata Station areas.

Date: July 14th (Sat), 15th (Sun)
Time: Various from 12:00–23:00
Place: Various locations in the Furumachi, Bandai and Ekinan areas
Costs: One Day Pass-¥1,000, One Drink-¥500
For more info: niigata-jazzstreet.com/ (Japanese only)

**Pop Circus in Niigata**

You can see an acrobatic circus by world top performers.

Date: July 16th (Mon) – September 9th (Sun)
Place: Large Tent in front of Niigata City Industry Promotion Center (Shumoku, Chuo Ward)
Admission Fee: In advance Adult-¥2,500, Child- ¥1,200
For more info call: 025-283-1537
 (Pop Circus Niigata Performance Secretariat)
URL: <http://www.pop-circus.co.jp>

Korean Movie & Social

A monthly sponsored by the Korean Consulate General in Niigata. This month they are showing "Scandal Makers." Monthly events can also be lectures or cooking classes.

Date: July 22nd (Sun) 13:00 –16:00
Place: CrossPal Niigata 4F Visual Hall & 5F Exchange Hall
Fee: Free
Numbers of Participants: 100 (first-come first-served basis)
Application: Please make a phone call
For more info call: 025-225-2727
 (Niigata City International Exchange Foundation)



ADVERTISEMENT
 Consultations for apartment-hunting and acquiring status of residence are available in English and Chinese.

KONDO OFFICE
 Tomoichi Kondo
 Immigration procedure specialist & Real estate transactions specialist
 Tel: 0256-53-1650 Email: gskondo@gmail.com
 9-4 Koku-cho, Kamo City, Niigata Prefecture

2018 Literakoya Niigata Summer School

Literakoya Niigata is an academic support group for children.

Date: July 30th (Mon) ~ August 24th (Fri) 13:30~16:30
Closed: Saturdays and Sundays
Place: Niigata City Bandai City Hall
 (Higashibandaicho Chuo Ward)

Fee: Free
 *Bring your own study materials and writing instruments.
 *If you are joining for the first time, please call in advance.
For more info call: 090-6684-2346 (Ms.Sasaki)
E-mail: literakoya_niigata@yahoo.co.jp

Promotional video "NIIGATA—A HIDDEN GEM"

Niigata City posts various videos on YouTube. "NIIGATA—A HIDDEN GEM" is a new one. It's about 3 minutes video, introducing beautiful scenery and food for visitors. Please access the English website below.

URL: <http://youtu.be/fm-MUqACQxo>
 You can watch more videos at [niigatacitychannel](http://niigatacitychannel.com).
URL: <https://www.youtube.com/user/niigatacitychannel>



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 Session Schedule are available in the "Support for Foreign Nationals" section of the NCIEF website: http://www.nief.or.jp/	Ms. Rika Saito Tel: (025) 225-2727
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Japanese Study Support Group for Children & 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	202	To support the Japanese studies of high school-age children	

Himawari / Kotonoha at Hayadori Community Center (37-1 Hayadori, Kita Ward)

Every Wed & Sat	14:00 - 18:00	Japanese Study Support for children Copy Fee	Ms. Kawasaki Tel: (090) 2756-0967
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Japanese Classes by Volunteer Groups at Crosspal Niigata

Day of the week	Hours	Room No.	Level	Fee	Organizations & Info
Every Wed	13:00 - 14:30	201 or 202	Beginners	¥500/ month	Niigata Nihongo Kaiwa Kyoshitsu
Every Thu	13:00 - 14:30	201 or 202	Beginners		
Every Fri	13:00 - 14:30	201, 202 or 309	Beginners & Advanced Beginners	Cost of materials	Niigata Nihongo Gakushu Kai
Every Sat	10:30 - 12:00	201, 301, 304, 306 or 307	Advanced Beginners	¥500/ month	Waon
Every Sat (but July 28 th)	10:30 - 12:00	307 or 309	Newspaper Class (Intermediate)	Cost of materials	Yaponika
Every Sat	13:00 - 14:30	201 or 309	Advanced Beginners	Free	Yaponika
Every Sun	15:00 - 16:30	201	Introduction - Beginners	Cost of textbook	Niigata Nihongo Volunteer

Nihongo Kyoshitsu Waon II at Higashi Ward Plaza (1-4-1 Shimokido, Higashi Ward)

First & Third Tue of the month: July 3 rd (but July 17 th)	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 Ward)

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 Ward)

Every Thu (but July 26 th)	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 Ward)

Every Tue (but July 24 th & 31 st)	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 Ward)

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 Higashi-cho, Akiha Ward)

Every Thu	13:00 – 15:00	Beginners – Advanced Fee: ¥500/month	Mr. Hasegawa Tel: (080) 4058-6640
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Maki Nihongo Kyoshitsu at Makichiku Kominkan (635 Makiko, Nishikan Ward)

Every Thu (but July 26 th)	19:00 – 20:45	Introduction – Advanced One term ¥3,500+ Textbook & Copy fee	Ms. Fujita Tel: (090) 4072-3840
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Cultural Classes

International Cooking Class	When: July 21 st (Sat) & 22 nd (Sun) 11:00~14:00 Fee: Foreign residents, students- ¥1,800; Japanese citizens- ¥3,500 Where: Ms. Ueno's residence (3-4-16 Ogijima, Akiha Ward) Menu: Seasonal dishes (salad with special dressing, corn soup, chilled udon with kakiage tempura, sushi, and more!) Please sign up at least three days before class. For more info call: Ms. Ueno 0250-24-6859
Tai Chi	July 5 th , 12 th , 19 th (Thu) 13:00 – 14:30 Led by Mr. So Location: CrossPal Niigata 5F Exchange Hall 2 Fee: Instructor's transportation expenses For more info call: 025-229-0140 Mr. Itoda

Consultation Services

Niigata Help Association TEL: 025-228-2212	Every Day: 9:00 – 23:00 Spanish, English, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, Chinese, etc.
Niigata International Association TEL: 025-241-1881 Email: nia21c@niigata-ia.or.jp URL: http://www.niigata-ia.or.jp/	English: Mon & Thu 10:00–14:00 Thai: Tue 10:00–14:00 Chinese: Wed 10:00–14:00 Tagalog: Mon 10:00–14:00
Helpline for Foreigners TEL: 0120-279-338	Call the toll-free number and press 2 after the Japanese guidance
Niigata Medical Care Information Network URL: http://qq.niigata-iyaku.jp/	Site available in Japanese Only
Hello Work, Foreigner Advisory Service TEL: 025-280-8609 Niigata Misaki Godo Chosha #2 (1-2-1 Misaki-cho, Chuo Ward, Niigata City)	1 st – 4 th Wed 13:00 – 17:00 English & Chinese



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(Written and edited by Charlene Woolson & Ayako Homma)

CrossPal will be closed on July 23rd.