

Niigata English Journal

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Happy New Year! We hope for your continued readership during this, the year of the boar.

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

Notices & Upcoming NCIEF Events

CIR Lecture Series: Chinese Cooking Party

The city's Chinese CIR, Jinling Yang, will be holding a cooking class and exchange party thing in February. We are posting this in January because the sign-ups end Feb. 5th.

Together you will make scallion pancakes, and to go with it, there will be Chinese hot pot.

Time: February 23rd (Sat) 10:30am ~1:30 pm

Sign-up: by Reply-paid postcard (ofuku hagaki) to NIEF (address at bottom of page) by Feb. 5th. Be sure to include your name, address, and "Chinese Cooking Party" on the postcard.

Place: CrossPal Niigata 5th floor Cooking Room

Fee: 1,000 yen

Oshaberi Salon

Your neighborhood Niigata City CIRs each host conversation (oshaberi) hours in the Exchange Salon inside the Friendship Center 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- China

This will be led by Jinling Yang, the city's Chinese CIR. This session will be about tea culture in China.

Date: Jan. 17th (Thu)

Oshaberi Salon- Russia

This will be led by Yuriya, the city's Russian CIR. This session will be about idioms in Russian.

When: Jan. 24th (Thu)

Time: 14:00~15:00

Place: CrossPal Niigata 2nd floor Exchange Salon (NCIEF)



Intro to JLPT N3 & N4

Come and get an introduction to the skills needed for the N3 and N4 levels of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT). There is a class for each level and each class will meet 4 times between March 18th and 22nd.

The classes are first come first serve so make sure you sign up quickly! Contact the NIEF for more information and to get the application form.

Dates: March 18th (Mon), 19th (Tue), 20th (Wed), and 22nd (Fri)

Times: 10:00~12:00 pm

Place: Classrooms inside CrossPal Niigata

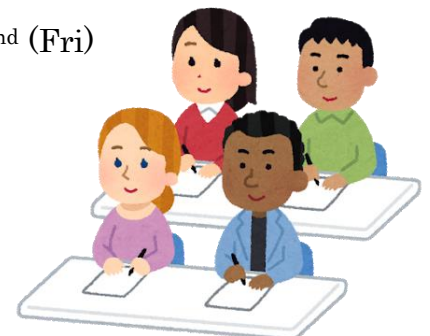
N3 classroom: 201

N4 classrooms: 301 (3/18-3/20), 302 (3/22)

Fee: 2,000 yen

Class size: 20 people each

Contact: TEL: 025-225-2727; e-mail: kyokai@nief.or.jp





More Notices & Upcoming NCIEF Events

French Speech Contest

Come and see students of French show off the hard work at this speech contest. There will be 3 different categories which include reciting memorized dialogue as well as proper speeches

- Date:** Jan. 26th (Sat.) from 1:00-4:30pm
- Location:** Library Hall, Niigata University Central Library (Ikarashi Campus)
- Cost:** Free
- Contact:** TEL 025-225-2727 (Niigata French Speech Contest Committee (in NCIEF))

PSA: Preventing Heater Fires

As the days get colder, more and more people are starting to use their heaters. However, if you are not careful, heaters can start fires. Follow the guidelines below to make sure you stay safe.

Do not put flammable things close to the heater

This includes futon, laundry, paper, curtains, or anything else that can catch on fire since the heat from the heater can be enough to set them alight.

Turn off the heater when you are sleeping or away from it

While sleeping, you could toss and cause the blanket to get too close to the heater. While you are away, something could cause the heater to turn on or the things around it to catch fire. Getting into the habit of turning off and unplugging heaters when you are asleep or away from them helps to reduce your risk of fires.

Turn off kerosene heaters before refilling

Any spilt kerosene can easily catch fire. Additionally, if there is a cap, double check that it is closed before turning the heater back on.

Charlies Recipe Corner

Stovetop Savory Oatmeal

This is something that I threw together after learning that oatmeal can be enjoyed as a savory dish too. I grew up only knowing about sweet versions so it took a lot of looking at different recipes and flavor combinations to see what would work well; this is what I came up with.

You can change this up: take out what you don't like and add what you do! It is a great way to sneak in extra veggies. The only thing to remember is this ratio: 1 part oatmeal to 2 parts water.

You can mix in things when you are cooking the oatmeal or you can add the toppings after depending on if they need cooking and if you want to cook them separately. As you can see, I did both in this recipe.

Ingredients (for 1 serving)	
Oatmeal	1/2 cup (45g)
Water	1 to 1.5 cup
Mushroom	1/4 cup
Onion	1/4 cup
Frozen corn	1/8 cup
Frozen spinach	1/8 cup
Oil	1 tbsp.
Soup base	1/2 tbsp.
Garlic	1/2 tbsp.
Salt and pepper	To taste
Egg	1
Avocado	1/2

Method

1. Dice the mushrooms and onion
2. Heat some oil in a pan and sautee the mushrooms and onion until soft
3. Add the oatmeal and mix well
4. Add the water, soup base, garlic, salt, and pepper
5. Cook at a simmer, stirring frequently, for 5 min
6. Add the frozen corn and spinach
7. Simmer, stirring frequently until creamy and the oatmeal is tender. Add water as needed.
8. While the oatmeal is simmering, fry an egg in a separate frying pan
9. Pour the oatmeal into a bowl, top with the fried egg, slices of half of an avocado, and sprinkle salt and pepper to taste



Events

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

International Friendship Center Exchange Salon Exhibition ~ Ulsan Friendship Tour Photo Exhibition ~

A collection of amateur photos put together by the Ulsan Friendship Association from their October trip to Ulsan, Korea. Date: December 3rd (Mon) - January 30th (Wed) 9:00-17:00 Closed: Sundays, Holidays, and the 4th Mon. of every month For more info: 025-225-2727(NCIEF)

Rakugo in Tenjuen

Enjoy Rakugo performed by Niigata University students in a Chinese-style garden.

Date: January 6th (Sun) 13:30 - Place: Tenjuen (Seigoro, Chuo Ward) Fee: Free For more info call: 025-286-1717 (Tenjuen)



The 33rd Niigata Jazz Street

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

Date: January 19th (Sat) Time: Various from 12:00-23:00 Place: Various locations in the Furumachi area and around the south side of the station Costs: One Day Pass-¥1,000 For more info: niigata-jazzstreet.com/ (Japanese only)



International Students Niigata Discovery Contest

Foreign students give presentations about "their Niigata." Date: January 19th (Sat) 13:00-16:00 Place: CrossPal Niigata 4F Visual Hall Fee: Free Numbers of Participants: 50 (first-come first-served basis) Application: Please make a phone call Application deadline: January 18th (Fri) Contact: 025-226-1678 (Foreign Affairs Division)

Let's Speak English! (English Salon)

Sponsored by the Niigata Galveston Committee, a native English speaker leads this conversation hour in English. The next speaker is an English teacher originally from Houston, Texas in the USA and he will talk about his hometown. Date: January 19th (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)

Niigata Prefectural Gyosei Shoshi Niigata Branch Office

Date: January 20th (Sun) 11:00-15:00 Place: Higashi Ward Plaza (Shimokido, Higashi Ward) Contact: 070-1189-8555 (Ms. Aiba)

Gyoseishoshi Association of Niigata

Date: January 23rd (Wed) 10:00-14:00 Place: Toki Messe Contact: 025-290-5650 (Gyoseishoshi Association of Niigata)



PSA: Help the Sewer System Run Smoothly

Be mindful of what you put down the drains. Start with these guidelines.

- Leftover food: Throw away in the burnable trash or compost it
Used oil: Take to a collection site or soak it up with paper and dispose it in the burnable trash
Paper that doesn't dissolve in water: Throw away in the burnable trash. This includes tissues and diapers.

PSA: If You Do Not Sort Trash Correctly

Your trash will not be picked up if it has not been sorted and disposed of correctly. If that happens, the trash will be left at the place of collection with the following red sticker on it.

If this happens, please retrieve the trash so that the next day's trash can be collected.

Please refer to the trash disposal guidelines which can be found on the city website or on the trash phone app.



Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents

Need legal advice? On Friday, February 15th 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: February 15th (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

ADVERTISEMENT

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

KONDO OFFICE

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



PSA: Trash Collection around New Year's

There will be a special collection for burnable trash on Dec. 31st (Mon) in all areas of the city. You should have received a notice in the mail (with the character to the right) about this.



Morning Collection Areas:

Be sure to have your trash out by 8 or 9 am (varies by area)

Afternoon Collection Areas:

Be sure to have your trash out by 12 pm.

Normal collections will resume: Jan. 4th (Fri)

For more info call: 025-226-1403 (Waste Management Division)



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 Autumn 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 (but Jan. 5 th)	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 Jan. 2 nd)	202	To help students get the Japanese language skills needed to go to school in Japan.	

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

Every Wed & Sat (but Jan. 2 nd & 5 th)	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 (but Jan. 2 nd)	13:00 - 14:30	201	Beginners	¥500/ month	Niigata Nihongo Kaiwa Kyoshitsu
Every Thu (but Jan. 3 rd)	13:00 - 14:30	201, 306 or 307	Beginners		
Every Fri	13:00 - 14:30	201 or 309	Beginners & Advanced Beginners	Cost of materials	Niigata Nihongo Gakushu Kai
Every Sat	10:30 - 12:00	201, 306 or 307	Advanced Beginners	¥500/ month	Waon
Every Sat (but Jan. 12 th & 26 th)	10:30 - 12:00	309	Newspaper Class (Intermediate)	Cost of materials	Yaponika
Every Sat (but Jan. 12 th)	13:00 - 14:30	307 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: Jan. 15 th (no class Jan. 1 st)	10:00-14:00	Beginners-	Fee: ¥300/ time	Ms. Takenaka	Tel: (025) 277-3621
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Nihongo for Foreign Residents at Ekinan Community Center (4-12-20 Yoneyama, Chuo Ward)

Every Sun	10:00 – 12:00	Beginners – Advanced	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 Jan. 3 rd)	10:00 – 11:30	Beginners – Advanced	Fee: ¥300/month	Ms. Wakatsuki	Tel: (025) 265-3140
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Taiken Nihongo Kyoshitsu at Nishi Chiku Kominkan (603 Uchino, Nishi Ward)

Every Tue (but Jan. 1 st & 8 th)	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 Niitsuchiku Kominkan (2-5-6 Niitsu Higashi-cho, Akiha Ward)

Every Thu (but Jan. 3 rd)	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 Jan. 3 rd)	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	For more info call: Ms. Ueno 0250-24-6859	There is no class in January.			
Tai Chi	Jan. 10 th , 17 th , 24 th , 31 st (Thu) 13:00 – 14:30 Fee: Instructor's transportation expenses	Led by Mr. So	Location: CrossPal Niigata 5F Exchange Hall 2	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 Dec. 29th ~ Jan. 3rd & Jan. 28th.