



Niigata English Journal

Edited & Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation
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 Don't forget to subscribe to it while you are there and never miss a post!

This was another year full of events and I wonder what next year will bring. For now, let's enjoy the illuminations and the holidays with those who are important to us.

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 hold a cooking class and exchange party in January. She will teach you about Chinese food culture and show you how to make at home dishes like chicken and mushroom stir-fry and cucumber and tomato soup. Make sure to sign up soon! (If more than 15 people sign up, there will be a lottery to decide the participants.)

When: January 25th (Sat) 10:30am–1:00 pm

Sign-up: by Reply-paid postcard (ofuku hagaki) to NIEF (address at bottom of page) by Jan. 6th. Include your name, address, and "Chinese Cooking Party" on the postcard.

Place: CrossPal Niigata 5th floor Cooking Room

Fee: 1,000 yen



International Students Niigata Discovery Contest

If you are an international student studying in Niigata, this is for you! Practice your Japanese and tell people about your Niigata. Go solo or in a group of 2-4 people. You can even use video, slideshows, or PPT. Choose from the following themes: people you met in Niigata, food in Niigata, your favorite places or scenery of Niigata, or fun events in Niigata. If you win you will get a prize and your presentation may be featured on the city's Youtube channel. To apply, scan the QR code below, email or come into the Foreign Affairs Division



Entry deadline: December 6th (Fri) by 5pm

Presentation Event: January 18th (Sat) 1 – 4 pm

Place: CrossPal Niigata 4F Visual Hall

Application: Please make a phone call

Contact: Mr. Morohashi (Foreign Affairs Division) 025-226-1673 or kokusai@city.niigata.lg.



How to Support Foreigner Residents During a Disaster

There will be a lecture and a workshop about how to support foreign residents during disasters. This event will be held in Japanese but if you have interest in volunteering, supporting foreign residents, and disaster readiness, come on out!

Date: December 8th (Sun) 13:00–16:30

Place: Toki Messe (Bandaijima, Chuo Ward)

Fee: Free.

Sign-up: Please fax or e-mail your application form to the NIA. The form is available to download from the homepage.

Fax: 025-249-8122

E-mail: nia21c@niigata-ia.or.jp

TEL: 025-290-5650 (NIA)



主催：(公財)新潟市国際交流協会クロスパルにいがた 2階 〒951-8055 新潟市中央区礎町通 3-2086
 Niigata City International Exchange Foundation CrossPal 2F, 3-2086 Ishizuecho-dori, Chuo-ku
 TEL: 025-225-2727 E-mail: kyokai@nief.or.jp Website: <http://www.nief.or.jp/>



Akiha Nihongo Kyoshitsu Exchange Party

Come and see students of Japanese show off the fruits of their study and afterwards enjoy the potluck party. There will be a gift exchange as well so don't forget to bring a small gift!

- Date:** Dec. 19th (Thu) from 1:30-3:30pm
- Location:** Niitsuchiku Community Center room 305
- Cost:** a dish or drink to share and ¥500 gift for the gift exchange
- Sign-up:** by Dec. 12th (Thu)
- Contact:** Mr. Hasegawa 080-4058-6640



PSA: Preparing for Disaster and Emergencies



A disaster can strike at any point. There are many precautions one should take, such as readying an emergency bag that includes enough food and water for at least 3 days among other items such as clothes, blankets, flashlights, money, toiletries and health items.

Especially now that it is getting cold, it is time to make sure you have things to keep you warm in your emergency bag. If you have a car, have an emergency bag in it as well with similar items in case you are stranded in your car and it is cold.

Niigata City has an emergency alert system. To sign up, search にいがたしほうさいめーる 新潟市防災メール in Google.

Get your area's Hazard Map to check your closest evacuation center and path to get there. You can download your area's hazard maps from the Niigata City website¹ or you can view it on "Niigata e-map"²

1. www.city.niigata.lg.jp/smph/kurashi/bosai/hinanjo/kouzui_hinanchizu/index.html
2. www.sonicweb-asp.jp/niigata

Charlie's Recipe Corner



I got this recipe from sugarspunrun.com to make for our Winter Festival event Dec. 6th (call the NIEF to reserve a spot!) and they are great. You can enjoy them plain or decorate them with icing or frosting. I made a simple powdered sugar and water icing and topped them with sparkly sprinkles (both I got from a hundred-yen store!).

Sugar Cookies

| Ingredients (40* cookies) |
|--|
| 1 c (226g) unsalted butter softened to room temp |
| 1 c (200g) sugar |
| 1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract |
| 1 large egg |
| 2 1/2 c (315g) flour |
| 3/4 tsp baking powder |
| 3/4 tsp salt |

*cookie yield depends on the size and thickness of the cookies.

METHOD

1. Combine butter and sugar in the bowl and beat until creamy and well-combined.
2. Add egg and vanilla and mix until completely combined.
3. In a separate, medium-sized bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt.
4. Gradually add dry ingredients into wet until completely combined.
5. Divide into two and wrap each half in plastic wrap (dough may be quite sticky, that's OK!).
6. Mold into a disk and put the dough to refrigerator and chill completely (at least 2-3 hours)
7. Once the dough has chilled, preheat oven to 350F (175C) and line a baking tray with baking paper.
8. Generously dust a clean surface with flour and deposit one chilled cookie dough disk onto the surface. Lightly flour the dough and roll out to 1/8" (for thinner, crispier cookies) or 1/4" (for thicker, softer cookies). Add flour as needed both on top of and beneath the dough so that it doesn't stick.
9. Use cookie cutters to cut out shapes and use a spatula to transfer shapes to the tray.
10. Bake on 350F (175C) for 9-10 minutes, or until edges just begin to turn lightly golden brown.
11. Allow cookies to cool completely on cookie sheet before moving and frosting.





Events

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

International Friendship Center Exchange Salon Exhibition: Ri Ryu Digital Painting Exhibition

Digital paintings by Ri Ryu, an exchange student of Niigata University. He creates his art using a computer. All of them are his original works.

Date: November 27th(Wed) – January 27th(Mon) 9:00–17:00

Closed: Sun., Holidays, and the 4th Mon. each month

Place: Niigata International Friendship Center (CrossPal 2F)
For more info: 025-225-2727 (NIEF)

Indonesia Day

This event is held by the Embassy of Education and Culture at the Indonesian Embassy in Tokyo. Let's enjoy Indonesian ethnic dance and traditional music!

Date: December 7th (Sat) 15:00–17:00

Place: Niigata City Bandai City Hall
(Higashi Bandaicho, Chuo Ward)

Fee: Free

URL: www.niigata-ia.or.jp/cgi/blog/jp/news/entries/public_entry/admin-7TuptNzp1j1_IN5UbHc9sjV.jpg

Sign up: ws@rbi-tokyo.info



International Understanding Presentation Contest

Come and see junior and high school students from all over Niigata prefecture will present about international cooperation, global peace, and intercultural understanding.

Date: December 21st (Sat) 12:00–17:00

Place: Toki Messe Marin Hall (Bandaijima, Chuo Ward)

Fee: Free

For more info call: 025-290-5650
(Niigata International Association)

Enjoy Chinese New Year Party!

You can enjoy Chinese food and music at this party sponsored by the Niigata Harbin Committee!

Date: January 18th (Sat) 13:00–15:00

Place: CrossPal Niigata 5F Exchange Hall

Fee: ¥1,500

Numbers of Participants: 70 (first-come first-served basis)

Application: Please make a phone call or send an email

For more info: call 025-225-2727
email kyokai@nief.or.jp

Oshaberi Salon

Your neighborhood Niigata City CIRs each host conversation (oshaberi) hours where they lead discussions and talk in Japanese about topics related to their home country.

Date: January 16th (Thu) & 23rd (Thu) 14:00–15:00

Place: CrossPal Niigata 2F Exchange Salon

For more info call: 025-225-2727 (NIEF)

Notices

Immigration Bureau Temporary Info Center

Aimed at foreign residents living in the prefecture, the Immigration Bureau is holding a temporary information and consultation center once a month. Come and ask questions related to immigration and residency status.

Date: December 10th (Tue) 13:00–17:00

Languages: Japanese, Thai, Vietnam, Chinese

Place: Foreign Resident Consultation Center of Niigata
(2nd floor of Toki Messe)

Reservations: Only Walk-ins or Phone consultations

For more info: 025-241-1881 (Niigata International Association)

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

◆ Gyoseishoshi Association of Niigata

Date: December 25th (Wed) 10:00–17:00

Place: Foreign Resident Consultation Center of Niigata
(2nd floor of Toki Messe)

Contact: 025-241-1881 (Niigata International Association)

2019 Literakoya Niigata Winter School

Literakoya Niigata is an academic support group for children.

Date: December 24th (Tue) – 27th (Fri), January 6th (Mon)

Time: 13:30–16:30

Place: Niigata City Bandai City Hall (Higashi Bandaicho, 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

Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents

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: December 19th (Thu) 13:00–17:00

Place: Foreign Resident Consultation Center of Niigata
(2nd floor of Toki Messe)

Requirements: Must be non-Japanese resident living/working in Niigata

Language Support Available: English, Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin Chinese

Length of Consultation: 40 minutes per person

Reservations: Please make a reservation by phone call or email in advance.

For more info/reservations: call 025-241-1881

Email nia10@niigata-ia.or.jp
(Niigata International Association)



*This consultation will also be held Jan. 16th and March 19th. The next legal consultation at CrossPal will be Feb. 14th.



ADVERTISEMENT

Legal Consultation in English

Takashi Soma, attorney at law

Niigata Kokusai Law Office

025(255)6006

somat@rainbow.plala.or.jp

<https://www.nklaw.info>





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. Ayako Homma Tel: (025) 225-2727 |
|---------------------------------|--|--|

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 Dec. 28 th) | 202 | This Japanese study circle offers support to children in the international community who are struggling with Japanese and other school studies. | Ms. Kiyoko Tanaka Tel: (025) 225-2727 |
| Every Wed 9:30 – 11:30 | 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 Dec. 28 th) | 14:00 - 18:00 | Japanese Study Support for children Copy Fee | Ms. Kawasaki Tel: (090) 2756-0967 |
|--|---------------|--|-----------------------------------|

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, 306 or 307 | Beginners & Advanced Beginners | Cost of materials | Niigata Nihongo Gakushu Kai |
| Every Sat | 10:30 - 12:00 | 201, 301, 306, 309 or 402 | Advanced Beginners | ¥500/ month | Waon |
| First & Third Sat: Dec. 7 th & 21 st | 10:30 - 12:00 | 309 | Newspaper Class (Intermediate) | Cost of materials | Yaponika |
| Every Sun (but Dec. 29 th) | 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: Dec. 3 rd & 17 th | 10:00-14:00 | Beginners- Fee: ¥300/ time | Ms. Takenaka Tel: (025) 277-3621 |
|---|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|

Nihongo for Foreign Residents at Ekinan Community Center (4-12-20 Yoneyama, Chuo Ward)

| | | | |
|--|---------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Every Sun (but Dec. 29 th) | 10:00 – 12:00 | Beginners – Advanced Fee: ¥2,000/month | Ms. Nagai Tel: (090) 2849-8425 |
|--|---------------|--|--------------------------------|

Konichiwa! Nihongo at Kobari Elementary School Volunteer Room (2-36-1 Kobari, Nishi Ward)

| | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Every Thu (but Dec. 19 th & 26 th) | 10:00 – 11:30 | Beginners – Advanced Fee: ¥300/month | Ms. Wakatsuki Tel: (080)8431-0310 |
|---|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Taiken Nihongo Kyoshitsu at Nishi Chiku Kominkan (603 Uchino, Nishi Ward)

| | | | |
|---|---------------|---|---|
| Every Tue (but Dec. 24 th & 31 st) | 10:00 – 12:00 | Beginners – Advanced One term ¥3,500 + Textbook & Copy Fee | Nishi Chiku Kominkan Tel: (025) 261-0031 |
|---|---------------|---|---|

Iroha Nihongo Kyoshitsu at Kuzutsuka Community Center (1-1-18 Toei-cho, Kita Ward)

| | | | |
|--|---------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Every Sat (but Dec. 28 th) | 10:00 – 12:00 | Beginners – Advanced Fee: ¥1,000/month | Mr. Hasegawa Tel: (080) 4058-6640 |
|--|---------------|--|-----------------------------------|

Akiha Nihongo Kyoshitsu at Niitsuchiku Kominkan (2-5-6 Niitsu Higashi-cho, Akiha Ward)

| | | | |
|---|---------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Every Thu (but Dec. 19 th & 26 th) | 13:00 – 15:00 | Beginners – Advanced Fee: ¥1,000/month | Mr. Hasegawa Tel: (080) 4058-6640 |
|---|---------------|--|-----------------------------------|

Maki Nihongo Kyoshitsu at Makichiku Kominkan (635 Makiko, Nishikan Ward)

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

Cultural Classes

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| International Cooking Class | When: Dec. 14 th (Sat) & 15 th (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: Japanese New Year's dishes (mochi nabe, osechi dishes, drinking dishes, and more!) | |
| | Please sign up at least three days before class. | For more info call: 0250-24-6859 Ms. Ueno |

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 – 16:00 English & Chinese |



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(Written and edited by Charlene Woolson & Ayako Homma)

CrossPal will be closed on
Dec. 23rd &
Dec. 29th ~ Jan. 3rd.