



Niigata English Journal

Edited & Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation
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Happy New Year! I hope you have a wonderful year of the mouse.

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



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. Here are this month's topics!



Food and Parties in Russia

Date: Jan 16th (Thu)

Time: 14:00~15:00

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

E-money in China

Date: Jan 23rd (Thu)



Wagashi Making and Kimono Wearing

Exactly as the title implies, make your own wagashi sweet and enjoy it with a cup of tea. Also try on a kimono and play some Japanese New Year's games!



Date: January 30th (Thu) 13:00–16:00

Place: CrossPal Niigata 5F Cooking Room

Spots: 20 foreign residents (first come first serve)

Fee: 300 yen

Sign-up: Call or email and tell us your name, nationality, and phone number

Deadline: January 25th (Sat)

Contact: NIEF



The 35th Niigata Jazz Street

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

Date: January 18th (Sat)

Time: Various from 11:00–23:00

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

International students studying in Niigata will be presenting about “their Niigata.” Watch their videos, slideshows, and presentations about their lives in Niigata. They chose from the following themes: people you met in Niigata, food in Niigata, your favorite places or scenery of Niigata, or fun events in Niigata. Come support local international students and see Niigata through new eyes!

Presentation Event: January 18th (Sat) 13:00–16:00

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.



Charlie's Recipe Corner



Zenzai

This recipe was put together by my co-author, Ms. Homma who makes this for New Year's every year. She says that it is very simple to make but it takes a little bit of time. We gave measurements but as with most recipes that I share, do it to suit your tastes!

METHOD

1. Wash the beans and place them in a pot. Add water to cover the beans by at least 4 cm and set it on high heat.
2. When it boils, turn the heat to medium and boil it for about 5 minutes. Drain into a colander, rinse the beans and return to the pot.
3. Add enough water to cover the beans by about 3 cm. When it boils, put on a lid, and simmer on medium-low heat for 40 to 50 minutes until the beans are as soft as you would like. When the hot water is low, add water to keep the beans covered.
4. Add sugar and salt, and simmer on low heat until it is thick but still pourable.
5. Pour some into a small bowl.
6. Grill your mochi in a toaster oven. (If you don't have a toaster oven, there are ways to “grill” mochi in a fish grill, microwave, frying pan, or an oven.)
7. If you want softer mochi, dip your mochi in simmering water after grilling.
8. Put the mochi in the bowl and enjoy!

Ingredients (4 servings)

200 g dry red beans

150-300 g sugar

Pinch of salt

Lots of water

8 blocks of mochi



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)

2019 Niigata Pageant of Light

This is an annual winter event held on the south side of Niigata station. 260,000 bulbs will light up about 200 zelkova trees.

Date: December 6th (Fri) – January 31st (Fri) 17:00–24:30

Place: JR Niigata South Exit

For more info call: 025-282-7108

(Niigata Pageant of Light Executive Committee)

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

Enjoy Korean New Year!

You can enjoy Korean dance and food sponsored by Ulsan Friendship Association!

Date: January 25th (Sat) 11:00–14:00

Place: CrossPal Niigata 5F Exchange Hall

Fee: ¥1,000

Numbers of Participants: 50 (first-come first-served basis)

Application: Please make a phone call or send an email

For more info: call 025-225-2727

email k.tanaka@nief.or.jp

Notices

Immigration Procedures Consultation

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: January 14th (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: January 22nd (Wed) 10:00–17:00

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

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

2020 Taiken Nihongo Japanese Class

The third term starts on January 14th. Improve your abilities, make friends, and learn more about Japanese culture in this class.

Date: Every Tuesday 10:00–12:00 (3rd term starts on Jan. 14th)

Place: Nishichiku Community Center (Uchino, Nishi Ward)

Lesson fee: ¥3,000 for one term

Application & more info: 025-261-0031

**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: January 16th (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 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>

**PSA: Trash Collection around New Year's**

Due to the holidays, there is no trash collection between the 1st and 3rd. Normal collection services will resume: **Jan. 4th (Sat)**

For more info call: 025-243-4894

(Niigata City Office Call Center 8:00–21:00)

Remember to make an appointment for big trash to be picked up and buy the appropriate stickers. Also be sure to separate out special trash (spray cans, electronics, etc) and confirm how and when to dispose of them!

**PSA: Beware Olympics Tickets Scams**

As the Olympics are approaching, ticket lottery winners have been receiving email notifications. However, scammers take this opportunity to pose as the Olympics lottery and take your money. To protect yourself be sure to check the address of the sender and look at the email carefully. Real lottery emails do not have URL links inside of them so don't click any links! Note that lottery notices are by EMAIL ONLY, not by phone or postcard.



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
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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. 4 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 Jan. 1 st & 4 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. 1 st)	13:00 - 14:30	201 or 202	Beginners	¥500/ month	Niigata Nihongo Kaiwa Kyoshitsu
Every Thu (but Jan. 2 nd)	13:00 - 14:30	201 or 202	Beginners		
Every Fri (but Jan. 3 rd)	13:00 - 14:30	201 or 306	Beginners & Advanced Beginners	Cost of materials	Niigata Nihongo Gakushu Kai
Every Sat	10:30 - 12:00	201 or 306	Advanced Beginners	¥500/ month	Waon
First & Third Sat: Jan. 18 th (but Jan. 4 th)	10:30 - 12:00	309	Newspaper Class (Intermediate)	Cost of materials	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. 7 th & 21 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. Nagai	Tel: (090) 2849-8425
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Konnichiwa! Nihongo at Kobari Elementary School Volunteer Room (2-36-1 Kobari, Nishi Ward)

Every Thu (but Jan. 2 nd)	10:00 – 11:30	Beginners – Advanced	Fee: ¥300/month	Ms. Wakatsuki	Tel: (080)8431-0310
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Taiken Nihongo Kyoshitsu at Nishi Chiku Kominkan (603 Uchino, Nishi Ward)

Every Tue (but Jan. 7 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 (but Jan. 4 th)	10:00 – 12:00	Beginners – Advanced	Fee: ¥1,000/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. 2 nd)	13:00 – 15:00	Beginners – Advanced	Fee: ¥1,000/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. 2 nd)	19:00 – 20:45	Introduction – Advanced	One term ¥3,500 + Textbook & Copy fee	Ms. Fujita	Tel: (090) 4072-3840
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NEW! Shirone Nihongo Volunteer at Shironechiiki Seikatsu Center (1136-1 Shirone, Minami Ward)

Every Sun (but Jan. 5 th)	10:00 – 11:30	Beginners – Intermediate	Copy fee	Ms. Takeishi	Tel: (090) 6624-5126
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Cultural Classes

International Cooking Class	There is no class in January. For more info call: 0250-24-6859 Ms. Ueno
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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



Edited and Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation

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(Written and edited by Charlene Woolson & Ayako Homma)

CrossPal will be closed on Dec. 29th ~ Jan. 3rd & Jan. 27th.