



Niigata English Journal

Edited & Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation

Mail magazine: Email us to receive this newsletter every month

★★ Subscribe to stay up to date! ★★

Let's Learn and Play in Korean and Russian!

Native Korean and Russian speakers will teach basic words in their respective languages and introduce games from their countries. No need to sign up!

Date: December 21st (Sat) 11:00 – 11:40

Location: Ikutopia, Kodomo Sozo Center, 2F Supporter's Room

Fee: Free!

Age range: Ages 3-18

Spots: 15 groups of children and parents

Contact: Call Kodomo Sozo Center, TEL: 025-281-3715



Salon Exhibit: World Recipes

Featuring recipes that have been posted in our newsletters throughout the years. Including dishes from Myanmar, Nepal, Korea, China, and more!

Date: Nov. 22nd (Fri) – Dec. 18th (Wed) 9:00-17:00

Closed: Sundays and holidays

Location: NIEF Exchange Salon (CrossPal 2nd floor)



Salon Exhibit: Weddings in Vietnam and China

This photo exhibit will introduce wedding culture in Vietnam and China and how the two countries differ. All photos are provided by Keep Smile Japan and feature a wedding held in 2024.

Date: Dec. 20th (Fri) – Jan. 19th (Sun) 9:00-17:00

Closed: Sundays, holidays, and December 23rd (Mon)

Location: NIEF Exchange Salon (CrossPal 2nd floor)

Japan-America Society Christmas Party

Come and enjoy an American Christmas with the Japan-America Society! This event features a buffet, drinks, and a live band. Native English speakers and local residents are all encouraged to join. Sign up using the code below (Deadline: 12/10).

Date: December 17th (Tue) 18:00 – 20:00

Location: Gioia Mia, 1016-1 Higashibori-dori 7, Chuo Ward

Fee: Members: ¥5,500, Students (18+): ¥4,000, Non-members: ¥6000

Contact: Japan-America Society, TEL: 025-365-1250



New Year's Emergency Facility Hours

During the New Year's Holidays from Sun., Dec. 29th through Fri., Jan. 3rd municipal services such as the City and Ward Offices will be closed. Medical facilities will be running on special schedules. Please see the January edition of the Niigata English Journal for more details.

Free Administrative Scrivener Consultation

Get free consultation on visa qualifications, applying for permanent residency, doing business in Japan, car registration, traffic accident compensation, and more. No need to sign up or contact in advance.

Date: January 18th (Sat) 10:00 – 16:00

Location: CrossPal Niigata 2nd Floor, Room 202

Fee: Free!

Contact: Niigata Prefecture Administrative Scrivener Society, Mr. Takano at TEL: 070-1189-8555

Volunteer Activities Report and Charity Concert

Niigata's local volunteer organization, Keep Smile Japan, will report on their volunteer activities in Cambodia and hold a charity concert to raise money for future volunteer work. Make sure to sign up!

Date: January 12th (Sun) 10:00 – 12:00

Location: CrossPal Niigata 4th Floor, Audio-Visual Hall

Fee: Free!

Sign up/Contact: Ms. Sanbayashi, TEL: 070-6989-5690, email: keepsumairu@yahoo.co.jp

Potluck Christmas Party!

Celebrate Christmas together with the Niigata Philippine Society with a potluck! To attend, bring your favorite Filipino dish as well as a present worth ¥500 to exchange with other partygoers. Make sure to bring your own plate and drink as well. No need to sign up!

Date: Dec. 8th (Sun) 12:30 – 15:30

Location: Healthy Longevity Active Communication Center, Shibata City

Fee: ¥1,000

Contact: niigataphilippinesociety@gmail.com



Amalia Christmas Concert



Retired Romanian professional opera singer and active musician, Amalia, will hold a Christmas concert at a local Lutheran church. Come and enjoy your favorite Christmas songs sung by this talented musician!

Date: December 15th (Sun) 14:00 (doors open 13:30)

Location: Niigata Nozomi Lutheran Church

Tickets: ¥500 (elementary students and under: free)

Contact: Niigata Nozomi Lutheran Church TEL 025-266-1525

Niigata Event Calendar


Want to know what events are going on in your area? Good news! Niigata's TimeTree calendar will keep you up to date on events happening in Niigata City. The calendar can be viewed in the app, on the Niigata City website, or through the Niigata City Official LINE account.

Niigata
Calendar
Website





Classes

Japanese Courses offered by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation

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| Beginner through Intermediate 2 | -Classes of varying difficulties are available at different times throughout the week. -Pricing info & the schedule for the current session are available on the NIEF website: https://www.nief.or.jp/ |  | Ms. Kiyoko Tanaka Tel: (025) 225-2727 |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|

Japanese Study Support Group for Children & Students: NicoPal Club (Free of charge)

| Day of the Week & Hours | Room No. | Content | For more info. |
|---|----------|---|--|
| Every Wed. (contact for info) | 202 | Please contact Ms. Tanaka for more information. | Ms. Kiyoko Tanaka Tel: (025) 225-2727 |
| Every Sat. 10:00 - 11:30 *except 12/21, 12/28 *Please register beforehand | 201 | This Japanese study circle offers support to children in the international community who are struggling with Japanese and other school studies. | |

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| <p>Volunteer Japanese Classes</p> <p>https://www.nief.or.jp/en/jcvg</p>  | <p>International Cooking Class</p> <p>Classes have been cancelled for the rest of the year, but Ms. Ueno is looking forward to seeing everyone next year! Thank you for your continued support. (^_^)/~</p>  |
| <p>Where: Ms. Ueno's residence (3-4-16 Ogijima, Akiha Ward) For more info/sign-up: TEL: 0250-24-6859 (Ms. Ueno) – Please sign up at least three days before class</p> | |

Information

Flu and COVID-19 Vaccines

Elderly people are at risk of severe symptoms if they become sick with the flu or COVID-19. Those who wish to get vaccinated are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

*You can be vaccinated for both at the same time.

When: October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

Eligibility for financial assistance: ① People ages 65 or older

② People ages 60-64 with a Level 1 Physical Disability

Certificate who have a heart, kidney, or respiratory condition, and people ages 60-64 with immune system disorders due to HIV

Vaccination site: Eligible facilities designated by Niigata City (see website for a list)

Individual cost: Flu: ¥1,650; COVID-19: approx. ¥4,000 (varies by vaccine type)

*Free for households receiving public assistance (livelihood protection)

Contact: Public Health Center TEL: 025-212-8123



Flu Shot Information



COVID-19 Vaccine Information

Minimum Wage Increase!

As of October 1, 2024, the minimum wage has increased from ¥931 per hour to ¥985 per hour, for a total increase of ¥54 per hour.

For questions, contact:
Niigata Labor Bureau or local Labor Standards Inspection Office

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| Niigata Help Association TEL: 025-228-2212 | Everyday 10:00-23:00 English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Filipino, Thai, etc. |
| Niigata International Association TEL: 025-241-1881 Email: nia21c@niigata-ia.or.jp URL: https://www.niigata-ia.or.jp/ | Weekdays 10:00-17:00 English, Russian, Chinese, Filipino, Thai, Vietnamese, Spanish, Portuguese |
| Helpline for Foreigners TEL: 0120-279-338 (toll-free) | Press 2 after the Japanese guidance |
| Niigata Medical Care Information Network URL: http://qq.niigata-iyaku.jp/ | English, Chinese, Korean |
| 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 |
| Immigration Bureau Consultation | 2 nd Tue. of the month (12/10) 13:00-17:00 Thai, Vietnamese, Russian |
| Gyoseishoshi Association of Niigata Consultation | 4 th Wed. of the month (12/25) 10:00-15:00 Chinese, Russian |
| Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents Length of Consultation: 40 minutes per person | 3 rd Thur. of odd numbered months (1/16) 13:00-17:00 English, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian |
| Houterasu Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents Length of Consultation: 40 minutes per person | 3 rd Mon. of even numbered months (12/16) 13:00-17:00 English, Filipino, Russian |
| Education Consultation | Every Tue. 13:00-17:00 English, Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, Russian |
| <p>Place: Multilingual Consultation Center of Niigata (formerly Foreign Resident Consultation Center) (2nd floor of Toki Messe)</p> <p>Contact: TEL: 025-241-1881 Email: nia10@niigata-ia.or.jp</p> | |



Edited and Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation

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(Written and edited by Alyssa Williams & Ayako Homma)

CrossPal will be closed
December 23rd and
Dec. 29th – Jan. 3rd