

Niigata English Journal

Edited & Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation

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★★ English Journal will now be published every other month, in even numbered months. Please look forward to our next issue in June 2025! ★★



International Lecture: Kyrgyzstan



A student from Kyrgyzstan will hold on a lecture on Kyrgyzstan's history, culture, popular tourist spots, and more. Don't miss the opportunity to hear about this wonderful country from a native! To sign up, from April 9, call the phone number below or use the code.

Date: April 26th (Sat) 13:30-15:00

Location: CrossPal 5F Exchange Hall 1&2

Fee: ¥500 (¥300 for contributors)

Contact: Tel: 025-225-2727



Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents

Get free consultation on work issues, contracts, financial compensation, marriage or divorce trouble, and more! If you need an interpreter, please let us know and one will be provided for free.

Date: June 7th (Sat) 13:00-16:40

Location: CrossPal 2nd floor

Spots: 5 time slots (40 minutes per person)

Fee: Free!

Sign up: Tel: 025-225-2727,

Email: kyokai@nief.or.jp



Salon Exhibit: Niigata Viewed from a New Lens

Photos of life, the city, and nature of Niigata taken by Luo Chao Wei (罗朝玮), a Chinese student of Taiken Nihongo Kyoshitsu are currently on display. Come and see the city through the eyes of an international student and rediscover your love of Niigata!

Date: April 1st (Tue)-April 26th (Sat)
9:00-17:00

Closed: Sundays and holidays

Location: NIEF Exchange Salon (CrossPal 2F)



Sri Lanka New Year's Celebration



Did you know? In Sri Lanka, the new year is celebrated in April. Rasai Niigata is celebrating this holiday with a talk show, Sri Lanka informational videos, musical performances, food, and a sari dress-up experience. Stop by and join in on the festivities! Scan the code to sign up. (Deadline: April 12th)

Date: April 19th (Sat) 11:00-14:00

Location: Toyano Community Center,
3-3-1 Shinwa, Chuo Ward

Fee: ¥2,500 (for celebration),
¥1,000 (for sari dress-up)

Contact: Tel: 080-3140-7436



Friendship Force Niigata & Denver Party

A group from the Friendship Force Denver group is visiting Niigata this April. There will be a special lecture, kagura dance performance, and a party to celebrate their visit. If you're interested in attending the party or joining the group on their tour around Niigata, contact Friendship Force Niigata through their Facebook page using the code below.

Date: April 28th (Mon) 17:30-20:30

Location: Niitsu Regional Exchange
Center, 1-2-39 Niitsu Honcho,
Akiha Ward

Fee: ¥5,000

Sign up/Contact: Friendship Force Niigata
Facebook or Tel: Ms. Katayama 090-7827-8517



Photo Panel Exhibition: Niigata-Galveston 60th Anniversary

2025 marks the 60th anniversary of Niigata City and Galveston's (Texas, USA) sister city relationship. To commemorate this occasion, a photo panel exhibition is being held. Come and see photos of Galveston and Niigata's relationship throughout the years!

Date: April 10th (Thu)-May 6th (Tue)

9:00-21:30 (Mon-Sat), 9:00-
17:00 (Sun, holidays)

Closed: April 28th (Mon)

Location: CrossPal 1F lobby



NIEF Spring Japanese Classes

Morning and evening classes are available, from beginner to intermediate level. The deadline to apply has passed but if you are interested in attending classes, come in and talk with us! For more details, please see the NIEF website.

Closed: Sundays, holidays, April 28th
(Mon) & May 26th (Mon)

Location: NIEF Exchange Salon
(CrossPal 2nd floor)

Contact: Tel: 025-225-2727 or
email: kyokai@nief.or.jp



25th International Watercolor Exhibition

Over 100 watercolor paintings from around the world on display, for free! In addition to the exhibition, there will be live watercolor painting demonstrations and art lectures. Come and meet fellow artists and art lovers from Japan and around the world!

Date: April 24th (Thu)-27th (Sun) 9:00-17:00 (Opens
at 13:00 on the 24th; closes at 15:30 on the 27th)

Location: Niigata Prefectural Civic Center
3F, Gallery B

Fee: Free!

Contact: Japan International Watercolor Institute
Tel: 025-267-6998



Events

Financial Assistance for Families with Elementary and Junior High School Students

Financial assistance for expenses required for school, such as school supplies, school trip fees, school lunch fees, medical fees, etc., is available to families of a certain income with elementary and junior high school students. You can apply through your child's elementary or junior high school. If you require assistance or have any questions, ask the school for more details.



Art Mix Japan

This event showcases Japanese traditional culture and performing arts, with performances of Nihon-buyo, rakugo, various traditional musical performances, a puppet show, and more! There will also be workshops, talk shows, and free performances throughout the event!

Date: April 12th (Sat) and 13th (Sun)
10:00-20:30

Location: Ryutopia and Enkikan

Tickets: Online (scan code on the right), TEL 025-255-1332, or in person at Ryutopia and other locations (see website for details →)



Goodbye Message from Ms. Han Chao (CIR)

Niigata City Chinese Coordinator for International Relations (CIR), Ms. Han Chao completed her term last month and has left NIEF and Niigata. Here is her message to everyone:

As of late March, I have completed my term as a CIR. These past two years went by fast, but I was able to live every day to the fullest. I am grateful that I had so many opportunities to interact with everyone and would like to thank from the bottom of my heart, each of you who attended my lectures and events. My experiences as a CIR have become an invaluable treasure. I will continue to cherish my experiences as I move forward on a new path in my life. Thank you, everyone.

*Han Chao 韓超
Niigata City Coordinator for International Relations*

Classes

Japanese Language Courses (NIEF classes and others)

NIEF classes: Beginner through Intermediate 2	-Classes of varying difficulties are available throughout the week. -Pricing info & the schedule for the current session: https://www.nief.or.jp/	Ms. Kiyoko Tanaka Tel: (025) 225-2727	<div style="text-align: center;"> Volunteer Japanese Classes: </div>
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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 4/5, 5/3 *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.	

Consultation

Niigata Help Association TEL: 025-228-2212	Everyday 10:00-21:00 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
Medical Care Information Network "NAVII" URL: https://www.iryu.teikyouseido.mhlw.go.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 (4/8 & 5/13) 1pm-5pm Thai, Vietnamese, Russian
Gyoseishoshi Association of Niigata Consultation	4 th Wed. of the month (4/23&5/28) 10am-3pm Chinese, Russian
Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents Length of Consultation: 40 minutes per person	3 rd Thur. of odd numbered months (5/15) 1pm-5pm 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 (4/21) 1pm-5pm English, Filipino, Russian
Education Consultation	Every Tue. 13:00-17:00 English, Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, Russian

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

Contact: TEL: 025-241-1881
Email: nia10@niigata-ia.or.jp



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 (Written and edited by Alyssa Williams & Ayako Homma)

CrossPal will be closed April 28th & May 26th