

# KIEF NEWS

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## ★ TOPIC 1 *New Initiatives for a Multicultural Society*

### We Have Renewed the KIEF Website!

The Kanazawa International Exchange Foundation has renewed its website in order to better provide information to citizens and foreign residents who are interested in international exchange and multicultural co-habitation.

Kanazawa City has 7,997 foreign residents (as of February 1, 2025), a number which is increasing every year. They come from more than 90 countries and regions, and their nationalities and languages vary widely.

As a result, we wanted to make the website easy to read for all foreign residents. We created pages that can be viewed in “Easy Japanese,” simple language that is easy for foreigners to understand due to simple expressions and sentence structure. We also introduced new functions such as a language switching and a button to add furigana to kanji.

The illustration on the homepage is the work of Sono Yasui, a registered volunteer at KIEF and 4<sup>th</sup> year student at the Kanazawa College of Art. The warm illustration perfectly expresses our philosophy of realizing a society where people of different nationalities and cultures can live together in harmony as members of the same community.

Please take a peek at our new homepage!



new functions

The URL of the website is the same as the previous one.  
<https://www.kief.jp/>



### Easy Japanese for Foreign Residents

In Kanazawa, there are more and more opportunities to meet foreign residents in familiar places such as workplaces, schools, and stores. In order to familiarize citizens with “Easy Japanese\*,” an effective method for smooth communication with Japanese learners, we invited Prof. Nozomi Fukazawa, Emeritus Professor at Kanazawa University, to hold the first “Easy Japanese” lecture on Sunday, January 26. The session was held in a hybrid format, with 15 participants joining in person and 42 online, for a total of 57 people.



In the workshop, participants learned tips for using Easy Japanese, such as prioritizing and selecting which information to convey, and learned that while Easy Japanese has its advantages, it also has its limitations, due to the difficulty of conveying information itself and the unique characteristics of the Japanese language.

(\*) “Easy Japanese” is a name for simple Japanese that takes into consideration the language used in everyday life and makes it easier to understand for people whose first language isn’t Japanese.

## ★ TOPIC 2 Events Aimed at Foreign Residents

The Kanazawa International Exchange Foundation offers various events for foreign residents. Please feel free to join us!

### KIEF Children's Japanese Language Plaza



At the KIEF Children's Japanese Language Plaza, volunteers provide one-on-one Japanese language support to children with foreign roots. We currently support 17 children from elementary to high school in their Japanese studies.

On December 15, 11 children, from the Language Plaza their parents and 20 volunteers gathered for a social event. We played team games related to the New Year and wrote New Year's cards. It was a really great time. Both the children and volunteers, who normally have no contact with each other outside of the Plaza, were able to deepen their relationship in a friendly atmosphere.

Those who find it difficult to study in person at Rifare are able to join online or by having a volunteer visit their home.

### Japanese Café



The Kanazawa International Exchange Foundation holds a "Japanese Café" on the second floor of Rifare, where foreign residents can learn Japanese through conversation with local Japanese residents.

One of the main goals of the Japanese Café is to enable foreign participants to express their thoughts and talk about topics familiar to them in their daily lives in Japanese. In November, we held a special "Disaster Prevention Class for Foreign Residents". An invited lecturer from the Crisis Management Section of the Kanazawa City Hall, taught participants about daily preparedness and what to do in case of a disaster by making a portable toilet and eating disaster-resistant food together.

#### 9/16 (Mon) "High School Admission Info Session and Academic Consultations 2024"

Last year, the 15th briefing session for prospective high school students was held in the large training room on the 4th floor of Rifare. Six participants from four families joined the session, with members from Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the U.S. Necessary explanations were provided with the help of Child Study Support staff, teachers, the Ishikawa Prefectural Board of Education, and current high school students with foreign roots. Study consultations were also held, and we believe that participants were able to gain confidence about taking the entrance examinations.



#### 9/26 (Thurs) and 11/7 (Thurs)

#### "The 2nd and 3rd Mommy and Babies Class for Foreigners in Kanazawa"

The second mommy and baby class was held at Izumino Health and Welfare Center with 5 participants, including people from the Philippines and Kyrgyzstan. Participants talked about their concerns, such as whether they should speak to their children in Japanese or in their native language. The third class was held at the Eki-Nishi Health and Welfare Center, where eight participants, including people from Nepal and Vietnam, played together with their children. One participant was a foreign mother who had participated in the first salon and brought her friends from her country to join the third session!



#### 12/14 (Sun) "Cultural Experience Program for Foreign Workers Living in Kanazawa"

A Kanazawa cultural experience event for foreigners working in the city was held in Higashiyama and Owari-cho, with 12 participants from 7 countries. First, they joined a gold leaf experience, followed by a tour of Shima (a traditional teahouse) and a walk around Higashiyama. During the walk, volunteers from "Maido-san" gave detailed information about the area. We finished the event by making some Japanese sweets. The program was perfect for learning about Kanazawa's charms, and we were happy to see the satisfied faces of the participants.



### Other Events Held for Foreign Exchange Students

#### Homestay Program (Saturday, November 9 - Sunday, November 10)

Six international students attending universities in Kanazawa stayed with Japanese host families for one night and two days.

#### Fall Home Cooking in Kanazawa (Saturday, November 16)

Sixteen international students enjoyed cooking with local seasonal ingredients under the guidance of volunteers.

#### New Year's Kakizome Calligraphy (Saturday, January 18)

Thirteen international students experienced Kanazawa's New Year traditions, such as calligraphy and mingling with citizen volunteers while eating Japanese sweets.

#### Contact Information

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