

KIEF NEWS

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★ TOPIC 1 *Events Aimed at Foreign Residents*

To promote an inclusive, multicultural society, the Kanazawa International Exchange Foundation currently has several programs for foreign residents.

Mommy and Babies Class for Foreigners in Kanazawa

On March 8th (Sat.) and June 3rd (Tues.), we held a “Mommy and Babies Class” where foreign mothers could bring their children, discuss any child-rearing concerns, and exchange information. The class at the Tamagawa Children’s Library on March 8th was attended by seven mothers with their children. To convey the importance of using a mother tongue to raise children, one Indonesian mother read Indonesian picture books to participants. On June 3rd, the class was held at the Motomachi Health and Welfare Center. Two mother-child pairs participated, and the weary mothers were able to rejuvenate with Mother and Baby Yoga Time.



Guide to Daily Life for Foreign Employees in Japan

On August 5th (Tues.), a seminar on living in Japan was held for 6 new Vietnamese employees to I-DEN. A Vietnamese interpreter from the supervising organization was also present. While comparing customs and cultural differences, the employees discussed trash disposal, bicycles, beach etiquette, disaster preparedness, crime prevention, vital information for an outpatient hospital visit or emergency situation, Japanese classes, cultural events, and more. They also gained a deeper understanding of Japanese life and customs.



Nihongo Café

The Kanazawa International Exchange Foundation holds a “Nihongo 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 Nihongo Café is to enable foreign participants to express their thoughts and talk about topics familiar to them in their daily lives in Japanese. Between February and August, a total of 92 participants from 28 countries and regions have participated and enjoyed discussing various topics like food, shopping, and transportation. This is not only an opportunity for foreigners to learn Japanese but also an excellent chance for Japanese residents to learn about other cultures. The Nihongo Café is in its 2nd year, and the number of regular participants continues to grow as everyone enjoys conversation in a fun, relaxed atmosphere.



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. In 2025, we currently support a total of 15 students (8 elementary, 5 junior high, and 2 high school.) Whether in-person at Rifare, at home or the library etc., or online via Zoom, volunteers help each student in their Japanese studies. The children come from a number of countries such as China, Nepal, Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the Philippines, and Madagascar. We have also recently worked together with elementary schools to provide further support. As shown in the photo, volunteers first learn how to teach effectively by observing the classes of Japanese-language teachers. If you know a child who wishes to learn Japanese, please feel free to contact us.



★ TOPIC 2 *Come Volunteer at the Kanazawa International Exchange Foundation!*

The Kanazawa International Exchange Foundation is largely supported by volunteers, and foreign residents play an active role. This includes creating Powerpoint presentations to introduce their home countries at talks on international understanding, cooking lessons, and events for children that teach participants their country's games and crafts.

Even if someone cannot speak Japanese well, they can become an English-speaking volunteer. The aim is cultural exchange and understanding among residents, so it's OK if your native language isn't English.

In addition, as the number of foreign residents increases, there is more opportunity to use their native language and Japanese ability as volunteer interpreters. Volunteer interpreters are vital to connecting foreign residents to the Kanazawa International Exchange Foundation and public services.

For those interested, please contact the Kanazawa International Exchange Foundation! Below is a summary of events held in the half year from February to August with the help of foreign volunteers.

March 15th (Sat) International Exchange and Kids Crafts!

Held on the second floor of Rifare at KIEF Plaza, 4 volunteers from Morocco, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines, and Canada as well as 13 elementary school students came together to deepen international exchange through crafts. The theme was "Bring your favorite food and let's have a party!" Foreign volunteers described their home countries' cuisine, recommended local dishes, and introduced attendees to food culture around the world as participants made their own tasty-looking works of art. The children were captivated by the foreign (handicraft) dishes.



May 31st (Sat) Mother and Child Global Experience! Let's Make a Hong Kong Breakfast

The first session of "Mother and Child Global Experience," an event designed to spark interest and curiosity in different cultures through hands-on experiences like cooking, crafts, and games, was held at the Chuo Kouminkan Nagamachikan. Twelve pairs of elementary school children and their parents participated.

They learned about Hong Kong-style breakfast, a fusion of Western and Chinese influences which reflects the city's British colonial history. It was taught by Ms. Priscilla Leung, who herself is from Hong Kong. It was a fun chance for everyone to explore Hong Kong's rich food culture together.



July 26 (Sat) Understanding Different Cultures through English – Nigeria

This year's second "Understanding Different Cultures through English" was held at the KIEF Plaza on the 2nd floor of Rifare with 23 participants. The guest speaker was Dr. Ogini Abada Hector, a university professor from Nigeria. Thanks to Dr. Hector's lively, engaging lecture, many participants became interested in unfamiliar African countries. We hope to introduce more countries in the future. Please look forward to it!



International Friendship Festival 2025 in Kanazawa

Every year, international exchange groups gather in Kanazawa to celebrate the "International Friendship Festival in Kanazawa," the largest international event in the Hokuriku region. There's something for everyone, with performances and dancing from all around the world on the World Stage, food from a range of different countries at the World Gourmet, trinkets and fairtrade merchandise in the World Bazaar, and a range of cultural experience workshops! We can't wait to see you there!

- **Date:** October 11 (Sat.) and 12 (Sun.), 2025, 10:00-15:00
- **Venue:** Kanazawa City Hall Square
- **Admission:** Free / rain or shine
- **Inquiries:** International Friendship Festival 2025 in Kanazawa Committee (Kanazawa International Exchange Foundation) 076-220-2522



Contact Information

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