

Sekai wa Hitotsu

Gifu International Center(GIC)

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In Gifu prefecture, the number of foreign residents is increasing, including an increase in those becoming permanent residents, and the problems they face are varied. In order to deal with these increasingly diverse problems, GIC works with specialists to carry out numerous “Specialist Consultation Services”.

This year, an agreement has been made with the Gifu branch of the Japan Legal Support Center (Gifu Law Terrace) to provide legal consultations (with lawyers) in addition to the existing specialist consultation services.

Be reassured that confidentiality will be strictly maintained, so if you have any problems or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

New

Legal Consultations

Date and time : Second Thursday of every month, 13:30 – 15:30

Capacity : 4 groups (30 minute consultation per group)

Expert lawyer

Consultation examples :

- Discussing debts and loans
- Divorce proceedings
- Resolving work-related problems

Immigration Law Consultations

Date and time : First Thursday of every month, 13:00 – 15:00

Capacity : 3 groups (40 minute consultation per group)

Expert immigration lawyer

Consultation examples :

- Applying for naturalization
- Applying for status of residence on behalf of the applicant

Consultations by Officials from the Nagoya Regional Immigration Services Bureau

Date and time : Second Thursday of every month, 13:00 – 16:00

Capacity : 3 groups (45 minute consultation per group)

Expert officials from the Nagoya Regional Immigration Services Bureau

Consultation examples :

- Information about necessary documents to apply for residence
- Application for permanent residence

Mental Wellbeing Consultation

Date : Portuguese: 4th Sunday of every month

Tagalog: 2nd Sunday of every other month

Vietnamese: 3rd Sunday of every other month

Time : 10:00 – 16:00

Capacity : 5 groups (50 minute consultation per group)

Expert foreign counsellor

Consultation examples :

- Struggles with interpersonal relationships
- Anxieties and worries

For enquiries and applications, please contact Gifu International Center at 058-263-8066

They're so different!

Table manners around the world

Do you ever worry about your everyday table manners? If you aren't mindful of your table manners, you could embarrass yourself or make your fellow diners uncomfortable.

There are times when behavior and table manners that you think are correct differ from what is deemed acceptable and polite abroad. So, let's learn about table manners in other countries!

China

The etiquette is deliberately not finishing a meal!

As a child, were you told "don't leave any food!"? Many people have been taught that it is bad manners to leave any food uneaten after a meal. However, in China, "leaving food" is polite. This is because it indicates that the diner is very satisfied with the meal as they have been generously treated, so they can't finish everything. Therefore, it shows respect for the person who provided the food.



Vietnam

Putting the bowl in your mouth is bad manners!

Pho probably comes to many people's minds when thinking of a typical Vietnamese dish. If you go to Vietnam and eat the delicious local pho, you may be tempted to bring the bowl to your mouth to drink up every last drop of soup, but this is a bad thing to do there. In Vietnam, drinking soup directly from the bowl is considered bad manners. So, no matter how tasty the soup is, use a spoon to finish it!

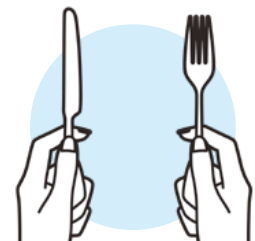


Brazil

Knives and forks are reversed?!

When you eat with a knife and fork, which hand do you use for each utensil? Right-handed people use their right hand for the knife, and their left hand for the fork. However, in Brazil, they do the opposite of Europe and Japan as they eat with a fork in their right hand and a knife in their left hand.

This is apparently because a lot of Brazilian foods are small, granulated and not sticky, (for example, beans) and so are easier to eat with a fork in the dominant hand. You can test the European and Brazilian styles to see which method makes eating easier for you.



Egypt

What should you do when the food is hot?!

Even in Egypt, famous for its ancient pyramids, certain things that we usually do nonchalantly when eating could be considered bad manners. When food is served, what do you do when it's too hot? Naturally, you'd blow on it and let it cool down before eating it. In fact, this is considered bad manners in Egypt because it is seen as unhygienic. So, if you eat hot food in Egypt, don't blow on it; instead be patient and wait for it to cool down!



(References)

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Notification from the Gifu Prefectural Police, Traffic Planning Department

As of the end of April 2022, 18 people were killed in traffic accidents in Gifu Prefecture, 16 of whom were aged 65 or over. The circumstances of the victims during which the accidents occurred are as follows:

Five were pedestrians

Five were cyclists

Six were in motor vehicles (including passengers)

As shown above, fatal traffic accidents occur in numerous different circumstances.

We hereby ask everyone, including the elderly, to help eliminate the possibility of further tragic traffic accidents.

Firstly, pedestrians and cyclists should wear safety reflectors not only at dusk and at night, but also in the early morning when a dim sky limits visibility.

In addition, pedestrians should use crossings, footbridges and underpasses where possible when crossing the road. As well as this, they should make their intention to cross the road clear to drivers by raising their hand and making eye contact. Putting these measures into practice is extremely important. We also advise cyclists to wear a helmet.

To continue, motorists should ensure that they are physically fit before getting behind the wheel. Even if you are only feeling slightly unwell, please refrain from driving. In addition, when driving if you begin to feel unwell, please find a safe place to stop and do not continue driving.

Traffic accidents usually occur in roads familiar to those involved, including roads in the vicinity of their homes. Therefore, even in familiar areas be sure to carry out safety checks. Make a conscious effort not to view driving too casually and with too much certainty, instead, have a careful attitude even when close to home.

Everyone should be aware of the importance of protecting their own life, and should be committed to preventing traffic accidents.

Ride your bike safely by following the rules

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Japanese government's border control measures introduced to reduce the spread of infection prevented non-resident foreign nationals, including international students and technical interns, from entering Japan. Instead, they waited in their home countries, working hard to learn Japanese. At long last these border controls have recently been relaxed to allow new foreign nationals to enter Japan. We will now discuss one of the key means of transport used in daily life in Japan. City dwellers may find it cheaper and more convenient to use the train, but foreign nationals who live in rural areas may choose to cycle instead. So, for the international students and technical interns coming to Gifu prefecture, please keep road safety in mind when riding a bicycle.

In Vietnam, the image of two students riding to school on one bike together is not only a common sight, but also seen as sweet because they're young. However, this is not the case in Japan. In Japan, two healthy people over the age of 16 riding a bicycle together is considered an unlawful offence under the Road Traffic Regulations established by the Public Safety Commission of each prefecture, in accordance with Article 57(2) of the Road Traffic Act. This is except in cases when, for example, a person over 16 cycles with a child under 6 sitting on the front or the back. In that regard, please be aware of the two countries' differences in regulations and laws when residing in Japan.

In addition, below are some of the ways that riding a bicycle dangerously can be considered an unlawful offence:

(From the Japan Automobile Federation website)

1. Ignoring a traffic light
2. Entering a blocked level crossing
3. Not stopping at designated areas, such as stop signs, etc.
4. Not following the direction of traffic when passing on the sidewalk
5. Riding a bicycle with defective brakes
6. Riding a bicycle when drunk
7. Violating traffic signs, such as no entry signs, etc.
8. Violating the obligation to proceed safely at an intersection
9. Violating the rules when riding on a pedestrianized road (must go slowly)
10. Obstructing a priority vehicle at an intersection
11. Violating lane restrictions
12. Violating the obligation to proceed safely at a roundabout
13. Obstructing pedestrians when passing on the sidewalk
14. Violating the obligation to ride a bicycle safely
15. Obstructive cycling (risk of traffic hazards, significant traffic hazards)

If, while riding a bicycle you collide with a pedestrian or other object, and cause injury to the other party, or otherwise cause an accident in which you are the person at fault, the result may be that you are both criminally liable, and liable for compensation. In this case you could be ordered to pay a large sum of damages to the affected party. In order to be prepared for the unlikely event of an accident, as well as abiding by road safety regulations, get bicycle insurance and register your bicycle when you purchase it.

Please enjoy your life in Japan!



Close up!

Close up introduction of activity-based organizations in Gifu!

Volunteer Japanese Language Rainbow Group



The Volunteer Japanese Language Rainbow Group is based in the northern part of Gifu city and provides Japanese learning support.

The usual lesson format is one learner per instructor, and the lessons take place three times per week on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The learners are mostly from other Asian countries including China, Vietnam, Indonesia and Bangladesh. They have various occupations; with many international students, interns, and housewives (usually working part time).

As is the case in other parts of Gifu, in our daily lives we now come across foreign nationals regularly. For example, the Rainbow Group's students' places of work cover a wide range of areas; including a newsagents, a conveyer belt sushi kitchen, making flower arrangements or as part of the nursery at a flower shop, the produce section of a supermarket, a chicken processing factory, a bean sprout production facility, a vegetable-cutting facility, a rice cracker factory, a nursing assistant at a hospital, and a convenience store, to name a few. Additionally, there are an increasing number of international students that find employment at companies in Aichi and Gifu Prefectures after graduation. There are also those who have children in Japan, raise them in Japan, and who then reach adulthood in Japan.

In the future, it will be nice to see not only the first generation who chose to come to Japan, but also the second generation who grew up in Japan.

As the number of foreign nationals employed in Japan increases, the demand for Japanese learning opportunities is also increasing. It may be presumptuous to say so, but we hope that outside of our classrooms, a variety of different activities will develop in each community.

We are currently recruiting learning support staff and administrative staff, particularly to work on Saturdays!

If you are interested, you can visit our classrooms!

Location :

Gifu Kita Seishounen Kaikan
(Gifu City North Youth Hall),
3-19-18 Fukumitsu-Higashi, Gifu city

For enquiries please call :

090-8083-2773,

Ms. Iwamoto of the Volunteer Japanese Language Rainbow Group



During a lesson



Field trip to Gifu World Rose Garden



Upon request, group sessions and online lessons are also available



A portal with comprehensive information for foreign residents is now available!

This information will enable foreign residents to work and live safely and securely in Japan.

Please feel free to have a look!

The portal URL is as follows: <https://portal.jp-mirai.org/>

And to the right is a QR code to take you directly to it:

Portal site ▶



Issued By

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