

Sekai wa Hitotsu



GIC holds the 2014 Medical Interpreter Volunteer Training Course!



GIC held a medical interpreter volunteer training course at Gifu University, from Saturday 6th to Sunday 7th December.

On Saturday, there were classes in developing the frame of mind required by medical interpreters, the organisation of the medical system, obstetrics and gynaecology, and preventing the spread of infectious diseases. Participants also heard talks from two medical interpreter volunteers who have actually worked in medical interpreting as part of the Gifu Prefectural Medical Interpreter Volunteer Mediation Project.

On Sunday, participants continued their training in a 'virtual hospital' organised by students from Gifu University's Department of Medicine, whilst getting to grips with medical instruments and anatomical models. Although the trainees felt a bit overwhelmed at first by medical equipment that they had never encountered before, they listened keenly to the students' advice. They also studied the interpreting skills needed for medical interpreting, before splitting into groups according to each language and taking part in roleplay exercises. In the roleplay activities, trainees practised interpreting conversations between doctors and patients from Japanese to their own language, and vice versa. The participants took notes and were careful to avoid making any mistakes, and the general atmosphere was just like that of a real doctor's examination. Once the interpreting was over, the trainees shared their thoughts about the exercise with the rest of their group, and gave each other advice. Finally, the training course came to an end as all participants who had completed the two-day course were awarded a certificate of completion.

Participants commented that, "I was able to learn the basics of interpreting, and study methods for improving my interpreting skills. In the roleplay exercise, I found that I could work out what to do about different situations by watching how other members of my group approached the interpreting task", "It was incredibly worthwhile, as the contents of the course were specialised and high level, and it was taught to us for free. The other participants were also really highly skilled, and I learned a lot from them", and "It was really good. I haven't been studying for very long, so it gave me a new incentive to work harder at improving my Japanese".

Even though the course this year was packed with content, and the training lasted all day on both days of the course, we received a lot of praise from all those who took part in the course. Well done to all of the participants, and thank you for your hard work!

Hosted by Gifu International Center with the co-operation of Gifu University Department of Medicine.

Venue: Gifu University Department of Medicine, Education and Welfare Tower, 4F
(1-1 Yanagito, Gifu City)

Participants: Sat 6th Dec: 40 (14 for Portuguese, 17 for Chinese, 9 for Tagalog) Sun 7th Dec 42 (15 for Portuguese, 18 for Chinese, 9 for Tagalog)

New medical organisations have joined the Gifu Medical Interpreter Mediation Project!

Up until now, the Gifu Medical Interpreter Mediation Project has been working at 10 medical organisations, but now we've been joined by 2 new hospitals.

You can now use our services at the organisations below:

- Kishokai Medical Corporation Rose Bell Clinic (Kani City)
- Japanese Red Cross Gifu Hospital (Gifu City)

Now that the 2 hospitals above have joined us, you can use our interpreting services at a total of 12 medical organisations.

The languages available are the same as before - Portuguese, Chinese and Tagalog.

You can find out more about how to use our medical interpreting services and the organisations at which they are available at our GIC homepage. Please come along and take a look!





Farewell to Gong Xiao Yun, our Chinese CIR



It feels as though I was introducing myself in this magazine just yesterday. Now that it's time to say goodbye, I can't help but feel that time really does fly by.

Thanks to a cheerful office and passionate coworkers, I really enjoyed my work here at GIC. Through all of the different kinds of work linking China and Japan, such as school visits, language classes, culture salons and international exchange events, I have been able to meet with everyone here in Gifu and make many, many wonderful memories. At the same time as passing on my own Chinese culture to everyone here, I have keenly felt that my work here has been a chance to rediscover my own culture for myself. What's more, I have been blessed with the opportunity to learn more about relations between Japan and a variety of other countries, such as Brazil, the UK, and the Philippines. This year has been a short one, but for me, it has truly been a rich and fulfilling time.



In Chinese, the word for 'goodbye' is 'zàijiàn', which means 'to meet again'. However, you can never meet again unless you first say goodbye. Leaving people behind is sad and lonely, but I want to believe that saying goodbye now will allow us to be reunited later, and say my goodbyes to everyone here with a smile.

I want to continue working hard as a bridge between Japan and China, as well as between Gifu and Jiangxi province, when I go home. If you get the chance, please come and visit China and Jiangxi province too! Zàijiàn!

Close up

Introducing groups and individuals active in the Gifu area

Minokamo Kayuu-Kai

Established : 2008
Representative : Akō Yamada
Address : Minokamo City, Gifu Prefecture
TEL : 090-1724-6675
E-mail : minokamo@kayuukai.com
HP : <http://www.kayuukai.com/>



Providing consultations



● What is the Minokamo Kayuu-Kai?

The Minokamo Kayuu-Kai is a citizens' group formed of Chinese people living in Japan and Japanese people who are interested in China. It aims to promote the healthy development of a multicultural society which will allow Chinese people living in Japanese regions to feel at ease during their daily lives in Japan.

● Activities

The Minokamo Kayuu-Kai organise social gatherings and study sessions (cooking, language and law classes), participate in local events and publish Chinese language lifestyle guides. They also carry out "Lifestyle Support for Residents with Chinese Citizenship" as part of a joint project with GIC.

■ Free Chinese Language Consultations (in association with GIC)

The Minokamo Kayuu-Kai is holding lifestyle consultations with Chinese resident advisors, and consultations with public notaries about visa qualifications (a Chinese language interpreting service is provided). The consultations are held around once a month on a Saturday, and registration is required to be made in advance. Lifestyle advice is also given by Minokamo Kayuu-Kai over the telephone, so please get in touch at any time if anything is troubling you.

Consultation registration/telephone consultations: 090-1724-6675 (Mr. Yamada (Chinese and Japanese language support available)).

■ Chinese Magazine (in association with GIC)

The Minokamo Kayuu-Kai publish a monthly informational magazine in Chinese and Japanese, listing notices from public organisations from around the region, legal revisions, event details and information about Japanese customs and lifestyles. They also distribute an online version to anyone registered on their e-mail magazine mailing list, so please sign up if you're interested!



■ Interpreting in Hospitals

The Minokamo Kayuu-Kai is able to provide a Chinese interpreter who can accompany those in need of assistance to the hospital (this service is restricted to Minokamo Kayuu-Kai members only).

● Message to the Readers

According to a survey by Gifu Prefecture (June 2014), there are 13,840 Chinese residents living in Gifu Prefecture – the highest population of any foreign nationality group, followed by Brazilian residents at 9,447 and Filipino residents at 9,245. Do you know anyone from China, or who is interested in Chinese culture? If you do, we would be very grateful if you could introduce them to the Minokamo Kayuu-Kai. We are also always on the look-out for people to join the online mailing list for our informational e-magazine, so please sign up if you're interested in finding out more about what we do. We hope to see you soon!

Information for Foreign Residents

Japan is a country known for its high seismic activity, and earthquakes are a common occurrence.

For many people from countries which do not experience earthquakes, it can be difficult to know what actions should be taken when an earthquake strikes in real life.

We've come up with a simple list of what to do during an earthquake, so please take a look!

The 10 Basics of Earthquakes

No. 1 - Keep yourself and your family safe!

When an earthquake strikes, your safety must come first. Take shelter underneath a sturdy table or desk, and don't forget to cover your head.

No. 2 - Turn off lit flames!

If you feel a tremor, turn off the flame on your gas appliances. If you find yourself unable to reach them, turn them off as soon as the tremors settle down enough for you to move. Turning off lit flames can prevent serious disasters.

No. 3 - Open the door and keep your escape routes clear.

Particularly in houses made of reinforced concrete, doors are prone to warping and may become stuck shut.

If an earthquake strikes, open your front door and other exits to protect your escape routes.

No. 4 - Put out any fires as soon as possible.

Even if a fire breaks out, it may still be extinguished if it has not yet reached the ceiling.

Work together with your neighbours to put out fires to prevent a serious disaster.

No. 5 - Don't panic and rush outside.

If you panic and rush outside, there is a risk of being hit by falling roof tiles, signs, glass and other objects. However, if you sense danger from creaking pillars and beams, cover your head with a cushion or similar object and leave the building. Pay attention to your surroundings and act calmly.

No. 6 - Stay away from narrow alleys, walls, cliffs and riverbanks!

You must not go near areas in which there is a danger of falling objects, such as concrete block walls and vending machines. If you find yourself in a dangerous area, quickly get away from there and take shelter in a safe place, such as a safe building or park.

No. 7 - Be prepared against landslides and tsunamis!

If you feel a tremor near a mountain slope, steep incline or by the sea, evacuate to a safe place immediately.

No. 8 - When evacuating, walk calmly and bring as few belongings with you as possible.

Carrying too much luggage hinders your ability to evacuate.

Take only what is necessary with you, and evacuate at a calm walking pace. During a natural disaster, government offices open up relief shelters. If your house is severely damaged, or you are without electricity or water, please go to your nearest shelter. You will not be charged anything to stay there, and you will be provided with food and water. Buildings that are designated as shelters are marked with the signs below:



Examples of shelter signs

No. 9 - Work together and provide first aid.

During a serious disaster, emergency services may be unable to cope with the high number of casualties and people who need to be treated. Make sure that elderly, disabled or injured people are safe, and work together with your community to carry out first aid procedures and care.

No. 10 - Act according to accurate information. Don't be led astray by false rumours!

Base your actions on accurate information from TV and radio broadcasts, the city office, or disaster prevention and relief organisations. It is easy to become panicked by false rumours during a disaster, so please be careful.

Re-entry permits and visas

If you wish to return to your home country during a disaster, please make sure you obtain a re-entry permit before you leave.

As there is a chance that the Immigration Bureau may be temporarily unavailable as a result of the disaster, provisional counters may be set up in airports for those who wish to leave the country. If you are thinking of returning to Japan after you have visited your home country, please make sure you keep track of up-to-date information and news regarding immigration procedures.

Further, if you have no way of renewing your visa or updating other immigration documents as a result of the disaster, please make sure that you visit the Immigration Bureau (Foreign Residents Information Center) or your local branch immigration office to explain your situation as soon as possible.

The role of consulates and embassies

Your country's consulate will be able to provide you with information about missing persons, and assist you with the paperwork needed to obtain a new passport if it has been destroyed in the disaster. Please contact your country's government organisations for up-to-date information. In order to easily make contact during a disaster, please make sure in your daily life that you are aware of the contact details of your country's embassy and consulates in Japan.

In order to find out your country's embassy and consulate contact details, please ask at your local city, town or village office. The information provided here is only a simple summary. The "Gifu Emergency Handbook" is provided on the GIC website in four languages (English, Chinese, Tagalog and Portuguese), so please take a look for more information about procedures during a natural disaster.

GIC Emergency Handbook

Search

Message board

In this corner, we list information about events and classes held by groups promoting international relations and multicultural living in Gifu Prefecture. If you would like to have your event listed here, please contact GIC.

A Notice from GIC

[International Relations and Multicultural Living]

Training for Emergency Language Supporters

GIC is providing training for volunteers who want to help support foreign residents through interpreting, translation and information services during emergencies and natural disasters (participants will also have the opportunity to experience an emergency shelter first-hand).

Date/time : Sunday 15th February 2015, 10am to 5pm
Venue : Kani Multicultural Centre Frevia
Target audience : • Non-Native Supporters (with conversational Japanese skills)
 • Japanese Supporters (with conversational foreign language skills)
 Anyone else interested in helping foreign residents during emergencies and disasters (no language skills necessary)

Places available : 30
Price : Free
Contact : Gifu International Center (GIC) TEL:058-214-7700
 ※The aim of this training course is not to improve language skills

The 2nd Skill-Up Training Course for Foreign Resident Advisors

Led by a clinical psychologist, this course will help foreign resident advisors to carry out their daily consultation work in good mental and physical health, by improving understanding of the stress that may be brought about by consultations and providing tips for dealing with mental healthcare.

Date/time : Tuesday 24th February 2015, 1:30pm to 4:30pm
Venue : Fureai Fukuju Plaza 4F, Meeting Room 401 (Gifu City)
Target audience : Foreign resident advisors working in village/city/prefectural offices and/or NPOs

Places available : ~20
Price : Free
Contact : Gifu International Center (GIC) TEL:058-214-7700

Kani Multicultural Centre Frevia Events!

Japanese Language Fair

Alongside a presentation of results from the Kani City Multicultural Personnel Development Project, which was carried out by Kani City International Exchange Association as a project commissioned by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, there will be an opportunity to experience activities – including mock classes – organised by Japanese language schools from around neighbouring regions.

Date/time : Sunday 8th February 2015, 10am to 3pm
Venue : Kani Multicultural Centre Frevia
Price : Free (except for items sold at stalls)
Contact Us : Kani Multicultural Centre Frevia
TEL : 0574-60-1122

The Frevia Café Day!

Selling desserts and snacks from all around the world! Please come and have a taste. We're always on the lookout for crafts and sweets to sell, as well as photos and paintings to put on display!

Date/time : 11am to 2pm on the 3rd Saturday of every month
 (21st February, 21st March, 18th April, 16th May 2015)
Venue : Kani Multicultural Centre Frevia

Kani Multicultural Centre Frevia will be holding a 'Philippines Festival' in April! Why not come along and experience Filipino food and culture? For more details, please contact Frevia.

Contact Us : Kani Multicultural Centre Frevia
Address : 1185-7 Shimoedo, Kani (behind Meitetsu Kani Station)
TEL : 0574-60-1122 <http://www.ckn.ne.jp/~frevia/>

[Gifu Events]

UNESCO World Heritage Site Shirakawa-go Illuminations

On selected days in January and February, the Historic Village of Shirakawa-go will be lit up with illuminations.

Once the glow of the lights reaches the windows of the historic houses amidst the falling snowflakes, the blankets of snow that have settled upon the thatched roofs start to shine with a brilliant white light. The fairytale illuminations of this famous world heritage site are definitely a must-see event!

Date/time : 24-25th (Sat-Sun) and 31st (Sat) January
 1st (Sun), 7th (Sat) and 14th (Sat) February
 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Venue : Inside Ogimachi Village, Shirakawa-go (Shirakawa-mura, Oono-gun)

Contact : Shirakawa-go Tourist Association
 TEL: 05769-6-1013 <http://lightup.asia/>

※Visitor car parks are expected to be crowded.
 In particular, car parks are expected to fill up on Saturdays, and there is a chance that traffic jams may occur.
 Some visitors may be unable to see the illuminations as a result of traffic jams, so please plan your visit carefully and in good time.

Winter in the Gero Hot Springs『Firework Story』

As winter becomes spring in the Gero Onsen area, Japanese traditions and customs surrounding the four seasons will be expressed through fireworks that capture the essence of the Japanese spirit, and the winter night sky above the Gero hot springs will sparkle with bright colours.

Date/time : Every Saturday from 24th January to 28th March, 2015
 8:30pm to 8:40pm (about 10 minutes)

Venue : On the banks of the Hidagawa River, downstream of Gero Oohashi Bridge (*In the event of rough weather or high water levels, the event will be cancelled.)

※Recommended viewing spots: upon Gero Oohashi Bridge (east side), around Atano-dani valley

Hosted by : The Gero Onsen Committee for Winter Musical Firework Performances

Contact : Gero City Tourism Division TEL: 0576-24-2222 (direct line)

January: Fireworks celebrating the new spring and the coming of age ceremony
 February: Fireworks for Setsubun and Valentine's Day, and for good luck to hopeful graduates
 March: Fireworks for Hina Festival and White Day, and for best wishes for new beginnings

Introducing Japanese Language Skills Support Classes run by Volunteers

Area	Group Name	Enquiries
Gifu City	Japanese Language Course	Gifu International Exchange Association Tel/Fax 058-263-1741 gifucity-iea@nifty.com
	Fureai Japanese Class	Moriya Hiroyuki (residential) Tel. 090-9023-3541 Fax: 058-273-3051
	Heartful Japanese Class	Gifu Japanese Volunteer Circle/Hiromichi Koda (private number) Tel/Fax 058-272-6320
	Japanese Volunteers:Ayu no Kai	Zumi Fujita(private number)Tel 090-9935-9571
Hashima City	Japanese Language Support Classroom	Mutou Misaki (private number)Tel. 090-6580-6176 Suzuki Toshitomi (private number)Tel 090-4228-1661
	Japanese for foreign residents	Nihongo Hiroba Hashima City Hashima International Exchange Association Tel 058-383-1426 Fax 058-389-0765
Kakamigahara City	Japanese for foreign residents	Kakamigahara International Association Tel 058-383-1426 Fax 058-389-0765
	Vacation day Japanese classes	Kakamigahara International Association Tel 058-383-1426 Educacional Nova Etapa (Brazilian school) Tel 058-383-1426 Portuguese OK
Kitagata Cho	Kitagata Japanese Volunteer Club	Kitagata Japanese Language Volunteer Circle Takahashi Hiroshi (private number) Tel 058-324-3945 Fax 058-324-4168
Mizuho City	Mizuho City Japanese language supporters	Mizuho City Japanese Language Supporters Tel/Fax 058-327-4130
Ogaki City	One-on-one Japanese instruction volunteer classes	
	Japanese support classes for Brazilian students	
	Japanese conversation room	Ogaki International Exchange Association Tel 0584-82-2311 Fax 0584-82-2314
Tarui Town	Entry level Japanese classes for foreign residents	
	Japanese conversation exchange group	Tarui Multicultural Town Promotion Group Tel 0584-23-3010

Here is a list of volunteer organisations running Japanese language skills support classes for foreign residents in Gifu Prefecture. As classes are subject to change, please contact the relevant organization for more details.

Yoro Town	Yoro Japanese Class	Yoro International Exchange Association Tel 0584-32-0216 Fax 0584-33-0100
Sekai City	Japanese Language Class	Sekai Japanese Language Volunteers Circle Tel 0575-23-6806 Fax 0575-23-7744
	Sunday Japanese Classes	
Kani City	Japanese Language Exchange Classes	Kani International Exchange Association Tel 0574-60-1200 Fax 0574-60-1230
	Diversity Japanese Classroom	
Shirakawa-cho	Shirakawa-cho Japanese Class (for people with Japanese spouses)	Shirakawa Volunteer Japanese Language Circle Tel 0574-72-1311 Fax 0574-72-1317
Tajimi City	Tajimi City Japanese Language Course	Tajimi International Exchange Association Tel 0572-22-1111 Fax 0572-23-6258
Nakatsugawa City	Nakatsugawa Japanese Class	Nakatsugawa Japanese Classroom Fuji Nobuko (private number) Tel/Fax 0573-66-0644
	Nakatsugawa Afternoon Japanese Class	Kudo Masaki (private number) Tel 090-7020-4205 Fax 0573-66-7928
Ena City	Japanese Class	Ena International Exchange Association Tel/Fax 0573-26-1868
Toki City	Japanese Class	Toki International Exchange Association Kagohashi (private number) Tel/Fax 0572-59-3266
Takayama City	Beginner/ Intermediate Japanese Course	Hida Takayama International Association Tel 0577-35-3346 Fax 0577-36-2060
Hida City	Iwatsuka Japanese Classroom	Iwatsuka Hieko (private number) Tel/Fax 0577-73-3192
Gujo City	Easy Japanese Class	Gujo Hachiman International Friendship Association (inside Gujo city hall)
	Japanese Class for people born overseas	Shirotori-cho International Association Tel 0575-82-4614 Fax 0575-82-5275

Issued by **Gifu International Center (GIC)**

Gifu Chunichi Building 2F, 1-12 Yanagasa Dori, Gifu City, 500-8875

Tel: 058-214-7700 Fax: 058-263-8067

Three-way Call Civic Interpreter Service (Trio-phone): 058-263-8066

E-mail gic@gic.or.jp URL <http://www.gic.or.jp>

Opening hours: Sunday to Friday 9:30 am - 6:00 pm

Closed: Saturday, Public Holidays, New Year Period

