

# Sekai wa Hitotsu

Gifu International Center (GIC)

**International Exchange &  
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## Lithuania NOW 2019 Events

Gifu Prefecture and Lithuania are engaged in exchange in various fields such as culture and tourism, born out of the humanitarian efforts of former Japanese vice consul in Lithuania, Chiune Sugihara (born in Gifu) and his Visas for Life. As part of Lithuania NOW, GIC held events introducing Lithuanian Easter egg decoration and sodas-making to prefectural residents.

The events were a great opportunity for many people in Gifu to learn more about Lithuania, with participants commenting that they were able to become more familiar with the country, or that they would like to visit Lithuania some day.

### Dyeing Easter Eggs

#### Traditional Craft

Participants were introduced to different techniques for dyeing and decorating Easter eggs used in Lithuania, before dividing into groups and choosing to dye their eggs yellow, red, blue, or green. Some used melted beeswax to draw detailed patterns, while others decorated their eggs with decoupage and stickers. The children also enjoyed a game using Easter eggs, and fun was had by all.

**Date** July 28 (Sun.) 13:00 to 15:00

**Venue** Gifu Prefectural Library (Gifu-shi)

**Instructor** Simona Vasilevskyte (CIR from Lithuania)

**Number of participants** 24 people



Decorated Easter eggs



Dyeing the eggs

### Making Straw Ornaments Which Bring Happiness

#### Traditional Ornaments Sodas

Sodas are traditional Lithuanian ornaments made out of wheat straw, and are used on special days such as weddings as charms to bring happiness and repel evil spirits.

After hearing about Lithuanian culture and sodas from Ms. Honda, participants divided into groups and used wheat stalks, along with needles and thread to make sodas stars and polyhedrons. Everyone was happy with the stylish Northern European ornaments that they were able to take home.

**Date** August 18 (Sun.)

Part 1: 13:00 to 14:00

Sodas stars (beginner)

Part 2: 14:30 to 16:00

Sodas stars and polyhedrons (intermediate)

**Venue** OKB Fureai Kaikan (Gifu-shi)

**Instructor** Ms. Momoko Honda from the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to Japan

**Number of participants** 36 people

(Part 1: 19 people, part 2: 17 people)



#### The final products



# Providing Opportunities for Foreign High School Students to Think about Their Futures: Life Plan Seminars, Talks from Graduates, and Internships



For foreign high school students who struggle with conversation or reading and writing in Japanese, it can be hard to find helpful information for thinking about future employment options, working styles, or further study. Furthermore, even students who have a career path in mind may give up on pursuing this path due to family circumstances.

The number of long-term and permanent foreign residents in Gifu is increasing, and it is hoped that the children of these residents will become active members of Japanese society in the future, alongside Japanese residents. In order for this to happen, in addition to improving Japanese language support for children of foreign nationality, we must also work to provide opportunities that will help each of these children to look to their futures and want to work hard to achieve their goals.

GIC works with schools and other organizations to create opportunities which help foreign high school students make decisions about their career paths such as life plan seminars, talks from foreign graduates working in Japan, and internships at companies in Gifu.

Talks from foreign graduates allow students to hear in detail from those who grew up in a similar environment to themselves about why they chose their current job and how they worked towards their goals. Furthermore, through internships, students can discover what level of Japanese is needed to work at a company, as well as what kind of employees the company is looking for.

High school will be over before you know it. Our hope is that foreign high school students would make the most of opportunities such as these, and challenge themselves to work towards their future goals and dreams.

## Organizations Active in Gifu Prefecture

### Close up!

## Japanese Language Classes in Kaizu City Kaizu International Exchange Group

The number of foreign residents in Kaizu City has risen to 726 people (as of March 2019), making up 2.1% of the city's population. Kaizu International Exchange Group was established in April 2011, and the number of students attending Japanese language classes has been steadily on the rise. The classes help foreign residents to lead independent lives, and provide a space for them to meet each other. In addition to supporting the Japanese study of foreigners, our volunteers are engaged in international exchange and multiculturalism in a variety of areas.



### Activities

#### 【Japanese Language Study】

We hold Japanese language classes every Sunday in Takasu and Imao. Our motto is "have fun teaching, have fun learning". Volunteers carefully support students' studies according to each person's Japanese level.



- Locations:  
Takasu Class: Kaizu-shi Bunka Center (585-1 Takasu, Kaizu-cho, Kaizu-shi)  
Imao Class: Fureai Center (444 Imao, Hirata-cho, Kaizu-shi)
- Parking: available (free)
- Time: Sundays 13:00 to 16:00
- Fee: 1,200 yen per year
- Type of class: small groups
- Class level: beginner, intermediate
- Number of students: around 60

#### 【International Exchange and Multiculturalism Activities】

We work with the community to promote multiculturalism by holding Japanese cultural events such as Tanabata and New Years' festivals, and seminars led by firefighters to teach foreigners about what to do in a natural disaster. Japanese language students also participated in the 400-year old traditional festival "Imao Sagicho".



Taking part in Imao Sagicho



Fire-fighting drill



Experiencing Japanese Culture

### 【A message from Kaizu International Exchange Group】

Most of our students cycle through the rice fields of the Nobi Plain to get to class. As there is little public transportation available, some students travel for up to an hour. They all come with a strong motivation to learn Japanese, and work very hard at their studies. We are often surprised by cultural differences, but our students are thoughtful and kind-hearted, and as volunteers, we always enjoy the times we spend in class together.

#### Contact information

- Kaizu International Exchange Group Chairperson: Hideko Goto
- Tel: 090-5636-1045 ■ Email: qqbk6mr9k@joy.ocn.ne.jp
- Website: <https://kaizu-kokusai.jimdo.com/>

New students and volunteers are always welcome! Those who are unsure about joining are welcome to observe a class first. (Please contact us in advance)

# Specialist Consultations at Gifu International Center

## Consultations with Certified Administrative Procedures Legal Specialists

We hold monthly free consultations for foreign residents in English, Chinese, Portuguese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese with the cooperation of Gifu Prefecture Administrative Scriveners' Association.

Are you facing issues in areas such as residence status, international marriages or divorces, business licenses, loans, or traffic accidents?

Confidentiality will be strictly maintained, so if you have queries like the ones below, please do not hesitate to use this service.

### Example queries

- Q. I am living in Japan with a "Spouse of Japanese National" visa. What will happen to my residence status if I get a divorce?
- Q. I am a permanent resident. Is it possible for me to bring my family to Japan from my home country?
- Q. What kind of process do I need to go through in order to open a restaurant?
- Q. I committed a traffic offence in the past: will this affect my application for permanent residency?
- Q. What is the process for naturalization in Japan?

## Free Consultations for Foreign Residents by Certified Administrative Procedures Legal Specialists

### Date and time:

First Wednesday and third Sunday of every month, between 13:00 and 15:00

### Location:

Gifu International Center (Gifu Chunichi Building 2F, 1-12 Yanagase-dori, Gifu-Shi)

### Consultation method:

One-on-one. Around 40 minutes per person/group.

### Appointments:

By phone in advance (Tel: 058-214-7700)



## What is a Certified Administrative Procedures Legal Specialist?

A Certified Administrative Procedures Legal Specialist has a national qualification which allows them to produce and submit documentation to the national or local government, or to the police, etc., on your behalf. You can also speak to an Administrative Procedures Legal Specialist when you are unsure of where to ask your questions.

### For example...

#### ● Residence status (visas)

An application agent (a specific type of Administrative Procedures Legal Specialist) can carry out procedures relating to residence status on your behalf at the Immigration Bureau.

#### ● Naturalization

Assistance with the naturalization process for those who wish to acquire Japanese citizenship.

#### ● Wills and inheritance

Assistance with drawing up a will or an Agreement on Division of Inheritance, and assessment of inherited property.

#### ● Contracts

Drawing up contracts such as land and building lease contracts and loan agreements.

#### ● Certification of Contents/Notarized Documents

Drawing up content-certified mail and notarized documents.

#### ● Vehicle registration

Assistance with vehicle registration processes such as changing number plates and ownership.

#### ● Establishing a company/various permits and licenses

Assistance with application procedures for permits related to establishing a company, construction, second hand dealing, opening a restaurant, etc.

## Kokoro no Soudan (Counseling Service)

GIC offers a counseling service in Portuguese and Tagalog with the cooperation of foreign mental health counselors.

Are you struggling with worries related to work, family, or relationships? Are you experiencing strong emotional ups and downs? Do you have continuous anxiety or sleeplessness? Why not consult with a mental health counselor?

Confidentiality will be strictly maintained.

## Kokoro no Soudan (Counseling Service) in Portuguese and Tagalog

### Portuguese

4th Sunday of every month, between 10:00 and 16:00

### Tagalog

December 8 (Sun.), February 9 (Sun.), between 10:00 and 16:00

### Location:

Gifu International Center (Chunichi Building 2F, 1-12 Yanagase-dori, Gifu-shi)

### Consultation method:

One-on-one. Around 50 minutes per person/group.

### Appointments:

By phone in advance (Tel: 058-214-7700)

The above dates are subject to change, so please contact us in advance if you are interested.

## Housing Information

Gifu Prefectural Housing Supply Corporation offers housing information at GIC. You can receive information about public housing in Gifu Prefecture and subsidies available from the Prefecture for those building or reforming houses.

## Housing Information for Foreign Residents

### Consultation times:

Every Wednesday from May 2019 to February 2020, between 13:30 and 16:30

※As a rule, information will be available on Wednesdays, but the day of the week is subject to change.

### Location:

Gifu International Center (Gifu Chunichi Building 2F, 1-12 Yanagase-dori, Gifu-shi)

# GIC's Volunteer System

GIC is always looking for individuals willing to volunteer their time towards international exchange and the support of foreign residents. Our volunteer system introduces registered volunteers to international exchange organizations and similar groups in Gifu Prefecture as needed. This article will explain our volunteer system and report on some of the work which has taken place through this system in recent years.

## Types of Volunteers

<b>Language Volunteers</b>	Accompanying foreign visitors to Gifu as an interpreter, interpreting at receptions, translating basic administrative texts produced by the Prefecture or municipalities.	<b>[Requirements]</b> English: Eiken Grade 2 or TOEIC score of 600 or higher Other languages: Conversational ability or higher
<b>Disaster Language Volunteers</b>	Interpreting and translating at emergency shelters, etc., as requested by a disaster headquarters in Gifu Prefecture or other Prefectures and municipalities in the event of a natural disaster.	<b>[Requirements]</b> Conversational ability or higher in 2 or more languages including your native language. Alternatively, the ability to rephrase and rewrite into easy-to-understand Japanese.
<b>Japanese Language Support Volunteers</b>	Provide Japanese language instruction at volunteer Japanese classes run within the prefecture. Provide information necessary for foreigners residing in Japan.	<b>[Requirements]</b> Any of the following: · Passed the Japanese Language Teaching Competency Test · Completed all the requirements of the Japanese Language Teacher Training Course (420 hours as specified by MEXT) · Graduates of a 4-year university or graduate school with a major or minor in Japanese Language or Japanese Language Education. · Those with many years of experience as Japanese language instructors at Japanese language classes.
<b>Japanese Language Instruction Supporters</b>	Provide Japanese language instruction at prefectural volunteer Japanese classes, as well as run workshops and study sessions.	
<b>Homestay Volunteers</b>	Welcoming foreign visitors into your home and introducing Japanese culture and customs through daily life.	

## Report of Past Volunteer Activities (from the beginning of the 2018 fiscal year to present)

- Example 1** Request: for Japanese language instructors to assist at Japanese language classes in Gifu City.  
Result: after observing and participating in several sessions, 1 Japanese language instruction supporter began volunteering at classes on a continual basis.
- Example 2** Request: translation of garbage collection rules for foreign residents living in Kaizu City.  
Result: translation of around 30 pages of material into English, Chinese, and Portuguese by different volunteers for each language.
- Example 3** Request: Chinese interpreting during a reception for a Taiwanese delegation visiting Mino City.  
Result: Chinese interpreting by 2 language volunteers between 12:00 to 13:30 (lunch included).
- Example 4** Request: Korean interpreting for friendly exchange with a Korean youth delegation visiting Gifu Prefecture.  
Result: 1 language volunteer accompanied the delegation for 2 days to Gifu City, Ogaki City, the Prefectural Government, and other locations, and interpreted exchange between parties.

○Registration forms for each type of volunteer can be downloaded from GIC's website. Please fill in the required fields and return the form to us by post or in person. We look forward to hearing from those interested in volunteer work involving international exchange and supporting foreigners!

○Please see our website for details of how we accept requests and dispatch volunteers: <http://www.gic.or.jp/en/volunteer/>

## I N F O R M A T I O N

### Gifu Prefectural Consultation Center for Foreign Residents

Please get in touch if you are facing difficulties regarding life in Japan in areas such as taxes, housing, education, and welfare. We work with administrative parties to help you find solutions to your problems.

※We cannot provide services in certain areas such as medical interpreting.

●Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9:30~16:30 ※excluding public holidays and the new year holiday period

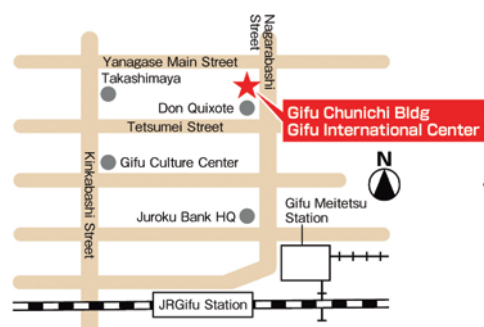
●Phone number: 058-263-8066

●Languages: English, Chinese, Portuguese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Korean, Indonesian, Thai, Khmer, Nepali, Burmese, Spanish, Malay, Mongolian

In-person consultations are available in English, Chinese, Portuguese, Tagalog and Vietnamese at Gifu International Center. For other languages, consultations are available over the phone only.

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Closed: Saturday, Public Holidays, New Year Period  
Languages: English, Chinese, Portuguese, Tagalog, Vietnamese



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