

2012
Summer
No. 123

SEKAIWAHITOTSU

Gifu International Center International Information Publication

● Headline Interview

Creating new culture through multicultural promotion



NPO Brazil Tomo No Kai
(Brazil Friendship Association)
Kinjo Edilson

Outline: Brazil Tomo No Kai is based in Minokamo City, Gifu Prefecture, and was founded in 2000. It started as a volunteer self-help group made of Brazilian residents, and has turned into an NPO support organisation for foreign residents.

This year Brazil Tomo No Kai received two awards for being an outstanding community organisation. The 'Future Prize' was from a committee for supporting projects that contribute to the future by providing child rearing support. Brazil Tomo No Kai was chosen because of their contribution to an environment that is easy to raise children in. They also received the Prize for Global Citizenship from the Japan Foundation.



"Prize for Global Citizenship" press conference.

● Can you tell us how you feel about the awards?

To be perfectly honest with you, I was pretty surprised on both occasions. I didn't really know how widely our activities were known, but I feel that through this award we have been acknowledged and recognised to a degree.

● Out of all the activities you have run, what has left the biggest impression on you so far?

There are three things. The first is the Portuguese classes that we were teaching to second

generation Japan born children. We started out doing this in people's houses, but it got pretty cramped. The city hall let us use a citizen's hall for the classes. This has led to the Brazilian community becoming closer to the administrative bodies in Minokamo. The second is becoming an NPO in July 2007. This recognition has meant that we are more trusted as an organisation. The third thing is receiving these awards.



After school child care.

● Can you give us a brief outline of your view of the current situation of Brazilian people in Japan?

In the wake of the Lehman shock, the population dropped from 330,000 people to 210,000 people very suddenly. We would like to improve the lives of the people that stayed behind. We are putting our efforts into activities that will enable people to live long term in Japan, like Japanese language study, professional development, and participation in neighbourhood associations.

It is hard to tell whether the current trend of people settling permanently in Japan will continue or not. Individual situations, perceptions, political and economic circumstances play a big role. However it's pretty clear that foreign people have an important role to play in the future of Japan.

● What kind of developments or activities are you considering for the future?

I would like to continue activities that promote multicultural communities. I want to run something specifically targeted at people with an interest in multiculturalism. It is important for people to mutually understand and recognise the differences in values and ways of thinking that underlie different nationalities and cultures. New cultures are born within multicultural societies, and through this, I think we can enrich the lives of people living within those societies.

● What are your dreams or goals for the future?

First of all, I want to get young people involved. Then, I want to create a foundation or fund that can provide support to people in those communities that find it difficult to access the authorities.

Survey Results: Lifestyle of Foreign Residents in Gifu Prefecture

The foreign people who have remained in Japan within a harsh employment climate and difficult living circumstances in the wake of the Lehman shock are showing a trend towards permanent settlement as the generations proceed. In 2011 the NPO Brazil Tomo No Kai (Minokamo City, Gifu) carried out a survey as one of GIC's projects, with the goal of exploring what kind of facilities or organisations could help to improve the lifestyles of foreign residents in Gifu. Following are parts of the results of that survey.

1 Survey outline (abridged)

This survey was conducted with the cooperation of a network of organisations that operate in Minokamo City and Kani City, two cities where there is a relatively high concentration of foreign residents. The survey was handed out to people of Brazilian, Chinese, and Filipino nationality. 760 copies were distributed, and 459 answers were received.

218 Brazilian people, 124 Chinese people, and 117 Filipino answered the survey. 59% were female, and 40% male. By age, 7% were 20 or under, 67% were between 21 and 40, and 26% were over 41. By types of household, 34% were households with unmarried children, 29% were couples with no children, 14% were single person households, 7% were households with one parent and unmarried children, and 6% were households with extended families. 37% of households were in Minokamo, 32% in Kani, 8% in Gifu city, 12% were from other towns in Gifu prefecture, and 8% were from Aichi prefecture.

Respondents were surveyed about their basic living situation- family, residence, income, intended length of stay in Japan, Japanese language study, employment, social welfare, education (type and problem areas), and methods of support, among other things.



2 Survey results (abridged)

(1) Length of residence in Japan

Length of residence in Japan: 19% of respondents had lived in Japan for more than 3 years but less than 5 years, 22% more than 5 years and less than 10 years, and 35% more than 10 years. 52% were permanent residents, 29% and were long term residents. Both of these visa categories had a relatively high percentage of Brazilians. Plans for the future - 33% had no decided plans, 29% intended to remain in Japan, 21% planned to go home, and 15% intended to travel back and forth between Japan and their home country. Looking at these results by nationality, Brazilians had a higher percentage of people who were undecided, Chinese people were more likely to intend to settle permanently, and a higher percentage of Filipino people intended to live between the two countries. A large percentage of the Chinese respondents had a Japanese spouse, and it is also assumed that many Brazilian people are undecided because of the current unstable living situation.

<Length residence in Japan.>

Country	Less than 1 year.	From 1 to 2 years.	From 3 to 4 years.	From 5 to 9 years.	From 10 to 19 years.	More than 20 years.
Brazil	18.9%	22.5%	17.8%	20.7%	16.6%	1.8%
Philippines	28.4%	31.0%	19.8%	12.1%	5.2%	2.6%
China	11.3%	41.9%	26.6%	11.3%	4.0%	1.6%

Because of partially incomplete surveys, some statistics do not add up to 100%.

(2) Yearly income, savings, residence.

Among households with unmarried children, the yearly income was less than 2 million yen for 31%, more than 2 million and less than 4 million yen for 29%, more than 4 and less than 6 million yen for 17%, and more than 6 million yen for 3%. 46% of households with dual income had no savings, and 36% had savings of less than 1 million yen. In contrast to this, 62% of households were debt free, and 23% had debts of less than 1 million yen. 58% of respondents lived in privately owned rental properties, 17% in public housing, 14% in their own homes, and 8% in company housing. 6% of Brazilian people and 8% of Filipino people owned their own homes.

(3) Employment

10% of respondents were unemployed, 19% were permanent staff, 50% worked in dispatch companies, and 11% had part time or casual contracts. Many respondents were not in full time positions. 60% of respondents had contracts that lasted less than 1 year, and of those respondents 21% had contracts that only lasted 1 to 2 months. 38% of people had worked at their current job for less than 1 year, and the number of people working for more than 5 years in their current jobs did not go over 18%. Approximately 50% of the respondents had experienced unemployment at one time, and about 70% had changed jobs more than 3 times. When asked about their biggest problem in Japan, 24% of respondents answered 'employment'. This makes employment the largest problem facing foreign residents.

(4) Social welfare

14% of respondents had no health insurance, and 38% had no pension fund. Two of the main reasons cited for this were not being able to afford health insurance, and not knowing how the pension system worked. 37% of people had never used social welfare. The most often used services were for pregnancy and birth, which occupied 17%, followed by unemployment insurance at 11%, so we can assume that there are services that would be useful but are not accessed by the respondents. 35% of people did not answer how they were going to support themselves in their old age. 23% said that they would continue to work after retirement age, and 13% answered that they would retire on the public pension from either Japan or their own country.

(5) Japanese Language

About 40% of respondents could not read at all or could only read hiragana, even though they could understand and speak to a degree. 50% of respondents could not write or could only write a few words. In contrast to this, more than 60% of respondents expressed a desire to learn more Japanese.



(6) Education

When asked about plans for their children's future, 11% responded that they wanted their child to finish high school, 37% wanted their child to go to university, 42% wanted their children to find employment in Japan, 13% wanted their children to find employment in their home country, and 35% had left their child's education and employment decisions entirely in the hands of the child.

Among respondents with children in elementary or junior high school, 41% of guardians had participated in all school events like parent participation days, and 32% had participated once or twice. 48% percent of people responded that they confirmed whether there were any communications from the school with their children every day, and 35% checked sometimes. When asked about what kind of activities parents do with their children, 66% of people replied that they ate dinner with their children almost every day, and 12% about 2 times a week. About 70% of parents responded that more than once a week they would do a hobby, play sports or games together with their children, or teach them something, for example from their homework, or how to cook. 53% of respondents answered that they do have acquaintances that are also raising children, and 47% replied that they do not. Of that 47%, 65% of Brazilians replied negatively, 36% of Filipino people, and 29% of Chinese people. 66% of respondents replied that they only spend time with families from the same country, 25% spend time with Japanese people and people from their own country, and 3% socialise only with Japanese people.

(7) Support measures

When asked about the desires from Japanese society, the answer that came up the most often was that foreign residents wanted Japanese people to understand that they were doing jobs that Japanese people would not or could not do, and following this was people wanted the same rights as Japanese people as they were paying the same taxes as them. Necessary support measures were seen as, in order of most often answered, free Japanese language education, medical interpretation, information in multiple languages for types, details, and methods of use for social services.

3 Proposal for measures based on survey results.

At the current point in time Brazil Tomo No Kai is still analysing the raw data of the survey. Specific measures will be announced once the analysis has finished.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact the NPO Brazil No Kai or GIC.

Gifu Prefecture and Jiangxi Province Friendship Agreement

Outline

- Gifu prefecture and Jiangxi Province have been joined by a friendship agreement ever since the Gifu prefecture chapter of the Japan-China Friendship Parliamentarians' Union visited Jiangxi on the 21st of June 1988. This was the first friendship agreement Gifu prefecture had formed with an overseas body.
- Even compared to other prefectures, the town of Anpachi and Kaizu are actively seeking to strengthen their ties with Jiangxi. Kaizu conducted international exchanges, sending students back and forth from Jiangxi between 1995 and 2006, then in 2007 sent a “citizens with wings” delegation of 105 people to Jiangxi (without entering into a specific friendship agreement). Anpachi has also been exchanging students with Fengcheng since 1993, and entered an official friendship agreement with Fengcheng in August 2007.
- In 2008 Gifu and Jiangxi made an agreement between their respective forestry planning authorities. In 2009 Gifu accepted Chinese trainees for 5 months, who studied Gifu Academy of Forest Science and Culture among other places.
- Gifu Local Horticulture Promotion Society’s Ikebana Branch and Jiangxi Floral Society signed an agreement in 2008, and in 2010 and 2011, for a period of 5 months each, Gifu accepted Chinese trainees to study ikebana.
- Gifu Keizai University and Nakanihon Automotive College are pursuing educational exchange through exchange agreements with universities in Jiangxi by accepting exchange students, among other things.
- Next year, in 2013, Gifu and Jiangxi will welcome the 25th anniversary of their friendship agreement.



June 1988
Inauguration Ceremony



June 1988
Photo Exhibition



November 2008
Governor plants a Memorial tree



Jiangxi Basic Facts

Population	Approx 44.3 million
Area	1.66 million km ² (16 times Gifu Prefecture)
Capitol	Nanchang
Ethnicity	99% Han, some other ethnic groups
Climate	The climate is subtropical and it experiences monsoons. There is a big temperature variation, with humid summers and cold winters. Average yearly temperature - 16 to 18° C.
Tourism	Nanchang’s Jinggang mountains (cradle of the Chinese revolution) Jingdezhen, the ‘Porcelain Capitol’ World Heritage Site Mount Lu
Friendship Agreements	Gifu Prefecture and Jiangxi Province (June 1988) Anpachi-cho and Fengcheng City (August 2007) Freidnship agreement planned for Kaizu Town.
Common points	Both have relatively large forested central areas, and both are famous for porcelain.

Introducing
our
New Coordinator
for
International
Relations

Hello everybody,
My name is Chao Gong, and I am from Xinyu City in Jiangxi Province. I started working at Gifu International Center in April this year. I will be working hard at holding exchange events, language classes, and deepening understanding between our two countries. I’ll be starting Chinese language courses from July, so I hope you have the chance to come and join me.



Useful Information for *Foreigners*

The Gifu International Centre provides lifestyle support to foreign residents in the following languages: English, Portuguese, Chinese, Tagalog. Portuguese and Tagalog consultants are available for consultations. Be reassured that all consultations are confidential.

In today's "Consultant Corner", we take a look at topics our consultants believe foreign residents should be aware of.

~ 9th July 2012 - the Start of a New Residency Management System in Japan ~

Major changes

1. Residency Card
2. Increase of period of stay to a maximum of 5 years
3. Re-entry permit authorization system
4. Abolishment of Alien Registration System

Other changes:

Moving-in or Moving-out notification

Those who have changed their place of residence to a different municipality are required to fill out a Moving-out notification with the municipal authorities. Upon relocating, when you file a Moving-in notification, you must show your proof of moving out and your residence card at your new municipality.

The volume of general paperwork required will be reduced

You are required to submit a notification if any of the following apply to you:

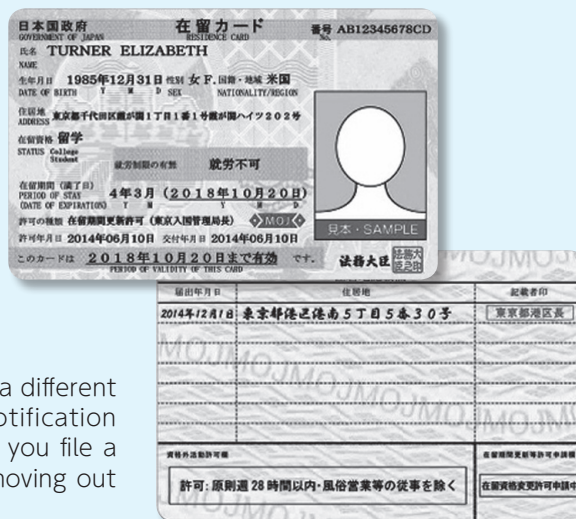
Change to residency status, passport, name, citizenship or occupation.

For further details, please contact :

Foreign Resident's General Information Centre (Weekdays 8:30~17:15)

Tel : 0570-013904

* IPTel, PHS, overseas : 03-57967112



~ Are you aware of the female consultation service we offer? ~

Consultants at the Gifu Women's Advice Center work one-on-one with you to find the best way to tackle problems, provide advice on how to overcome hardships, and provide general information. Consultations are free of charge, so do not keep your problems to yourself, just contact us.

- Domestic violence
- Issues between husband and wife, offspring, parents in law
- Personal relationships in your neighborhood, workplace
- Marriage, divorce, relationships with the other sex
- Issues that you would rather not speak of to others

● Telephone consultation enquiries

(Weekdays) 9:00~21:00
(Weekends) 9:00~12:00 13:00~17:00
(Not including New Year period)

● Interview consultation enquiries

(Weekdays) 9:00~21:00
(Not including New Year period)
* Generally requires advance booking

● Telephone 058-274-7377

● Place

Gifu Women's Advice Center
(Gifu Ken Fukushima Nougyou Kaikan (Social Welfare and Agriculture Hall) 2F, 2-2-1 Shimonara, Gifu City)

Note: Sessions are scheduled between 13:00 and 16:30 on the second Thursday of each month for consultations that require interpreting in Tagalog. On other days, we endeavor to provide ample services for consultations in other languages. If you need an interpreter, please consult the Gifu Women's Advice Centre or alternatively the Gifu International Centre in advance.



Second Round of Subsidies available for International Exchange or Multicultural Community Support Projects

The Gifu International Centre promotes and provides valuable support to societies, groups and individuals that conduct activities and events aimed at promoting international relations and coexistence in a multicultural society here in Gifu Prefecture.

Applications for subsidy

During the first round of grants, 14 subsidies were granted to groups and individuals,

We are currently accepting applications for the second round of grants. We hope you take advantage of this offer!

1 Application period

9th July 2012 through 3rd August 2012.

2 Type of projects being targeted

Projects in Gifu that contribute to the promotion of international relations, exchange and coexistence in a multicultural society, held between the 1st of and the 7th of March 2013, that are deemed to be highly necessary or beneficial to society, of a forerunning and original nature, which can act as a role model to other societies or groups.

3 Target applicants

Entities (groups or individuals) with established operations in the prefecture that we envisage will continue their international relations oriented activities into the future.

4 Amount of subsidy

International relations and exchange events: An amount not exceeding 1/2 of the cost of holding the activity, up to a maximum of 500,000 yen.

For events promoting coexistence in a multicultural society: An amount not exceeding 2/3 of the cost of holding the activity, up to a maximum of 500,000yen.

Please note that for those entities receiving grants from Gifu Prefecture or any of its municipalities, that subsidy will be subtracted from the cost before a calculation is made.

5 Application forms etc

Please refer to the GIC homepage <http://www.gic.or.jp>, or contact us directly.

Information about the recipients of the first round of subsidies awarded can be found on our website.

Hiring out event space and country flags

1 Event space / rooms

The Gifu International Centre provides the following free of charge to groups or individuals that conduct strictly not for profit projects to promote international relations and coexistence in a multicultural society in Gifu Prefecture as a place for exchange and collaboration. Hours of availability are the same as the Gifu International Centre opening hours, and we accept bookings up to 2 months in advance.

- 1) International Relations Salon: a small sectioned-off space within the office seating approximately 20 guests.
- 2) Meeting Room: separate facility seating approximately 30 guests.

2 Country flags

Flags from 113 countries are available for hire to groups or individuals that conduct not for profit events or activities to promote international relations and coexistence in a multicultural society here in Gifu Prefecture for use in projects. Please note that these can only be leased and returned at the Gifu International Centre in person.

UNESCO Gifu

- Founded in 1948
- 127 members
- Represented by Director Kae Hirai
- Offices : within Gifu Sogo Chosha (general government offices), Tsukasa-machi, Gifu City.
(Relocation planned from around autumn this year to Gifu Prefecture Think Tank Government offices)
Telephone : 058-266-0070
Website : <http://www.unesco.or.jp/gifuken/index.html>



▲A study group in Cambodia from March this year.

● Outline

UNESCO is people's grass roots conscientious group made by individuals who felt that all people should be at peace because we are all connected by intellect and morals. Examples of activities run by UNESCO are the "World Terakoya Movement", an international education program that provides non-formal learning opportunities for illiterate adults and out of school children, the 'Youth Grand Prix Award', which is for schools in Gifu prefecture that are conducting exceptional activities. UNESCO representatives also introduce their activities to schools and interact with children as part of their international understanding educational initiative.

● Study Tour to Cambodia

Young people from Gifu prefecture are able to go to

Cambodia and visit the 'Terakoya' schools that are run by UNESCO. These tours are designed for participants to know, feel, and think about the situation on the ground. As well as visiting the schools and interacting with the children, participants will study the history, culture, natural environment, and lifestyle of Cambodian people. Recently, the study tour also visited a Japanese anti-land mine support group, and observed their activities in the field.

● A message from the Director, Kae Hirai

I want young people to know and to see the world, particularly developing countries. There are a lot of young people involved in overseas efforts. I want them to know the importance of education and how wonderful Japan is.

JICA corner



▲In class

Hi everyone, this is Mari Kagami from the JICA desk. I would like to extend my thanks to all of the people who responded to our volunteer drive in May. I enjoyed getting to meet you all, and wish that I could apply myself again! I was a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer myself until January this year in the Republic of Ghana. Let me tell you a little about my second home.

I was situated in a public technical college in Ghana's second biggest city, teaching fashion and design. My main responsibilities were overseeing the graduation work of the 3rd year students and instructing the whole school in illustration.

The culmination of my work was holding a fashion show of recycled clothes. We made clothes using water bags that are usually thrown away as rubbish. We got a fair amount of attention from the media, and I think we were able to raise some awareness about environmental issues.



▲Ghana volunteers acting as models

Ghana basic facts



- Capitol : Accra
- Population : 25 mill
- Area : 2/3 of Japan
- Official Lang : English
- Average temp : 30 C
- Staple Diet : steamed, starchy foods like corn, yams

Our next intake starts from the 1st of October! Hear more at one of our recruitment meetings. Looking for volunteers with drive, ambition, and consideration, who want to utilise their skills.

~Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me regarding volunteering overseas or lectures on international understanding.~
Mari Kagami, Gifu Coordinator for International Cooperation, Gifu Prefecture JICA Desk
Gifu International Center, Gifu Chunichi Bldg 2F, 1-12 Yanagase Dori, Gifu City
Tel : 058-263-8069 (direct) E-mail : jicadpd-desk-gifuken@jica.go.jp
JICA Home page www.jica.go.jp

Message Board

In this section, we introduce events run by internationally minded associations. If your group would like to post anything, please make an enquiry with GIC.

International Exchange Event

“Australian Tea Time”.

Make Australian finger food, and enjoy eating it over conversation.

- **When:** 25th of July (Wed)
2:30 pm to 4:30 pm
- **Where:** Cinex Hall
(Gifu City, Yanagase)
- **Capacity:** 20 people
(In order of application)
(Priority given to GIC members)
- **Fee:** 700 yen
(300 yen for GIC members)
- **Enquiries:** Gifu International Center

“Coffee and Brazil”.

Educate yourself over a cup of coffee, from the history of coffee to how to make it.

- **When:** 29th of August (Wed),
2 pm to 4 pm
- **Where:** Ishigure Coffee
(Gifu City Yanagase)
- **Capacity:** 10 people
(In order of application)
(A repeat event will be considered if there are sufficient numbers.)
- **Fee:** 700 yen
(300 yen for GIC members)
- **Enquiries:** Gifu International Center

Free Legal Consultation

- **When:** 22nd of July (Sun)
10 am to 3 pm
- **Where:**
Kani Multicultural Center ‘Frevia’
- **Fee:** Free
- **Application:** People requiring an interpreter are required to book ahead of time. Some languages cannot be accommodated.
- **Enquiries:** Kani Multicultural Center
<http://www.ckn.ne.jp/~frevia/>
- **Telephone:** 0574-60-1200
(Portuguese, English, Visaya)

E-Boat International Exchange Event

Let's get people together through the E-boat- foreign residents, local residents, high school boating teams-Enjoy cold 'nagashi' noodles and watermelon

after we've finished in the river.

- **When:** 28th of July (Sat)
10:30 am to 1 pm
- **Where:**
Minokamo City Shimoyoneda-cho
(at the rowing practice area near Koyama Kannon)
- **Who:** Participants must be older than 3rd year Elementary school students. Elementary school students must be accompanied by a guardian.
- **Capacity:**
50 people in order of application.
- **Fee:** 200 yen
(Price includes insurance).
Minokamo International Exchange Association members- 100 yen.
- **Enquiries:** Minokamo International Exchange Association
<http://www.miea-jp.com/>
- **Telephone:** 0574-24-7771

Yukata and Obon International Exchange

Do the summer Obon dance with locals! Please bring your own Yukata. Someone will be there to help you put it on.

- **When:** 29th July (Sun) 6:30 pm to 9 pm
- **Where:** Minokamo City, Nozasa-cho
(In the APITA car park)
- **Fee:** Free
- **Enquiries:** Minokamo International Exchange Association
Contact details as above

Filipino Cooking Class

Learn about home cooking in the Philippines! Cook something yourself!

- **When:** 11th of August (Sat)
10 am to 1 pm
- **Where:**
Minokamo Lifelong Learning Center
(Shogai Gakushu Center)
- **Capacity:**
20 people in order of application
- **Fee:** 500 yen 1st Floor Chori shitsu
(Cooking Room)
- **Enquiries:** Minokamo International Exchange Association
Contact details as above

Play in English

“Summer festival and goldfish scooping- have fun!”

An event for children to practice their English while playing with foreign residents.

- **When:** 3rd of August (Fri)
4 pm to 5:30 pm
- **Where:**
Yoro Town International Learning Hall
- **Who:** Elementary school and above
- **Fee:** 500 yen
(People with membership free)
- **Enquiries:**
Yoro Town International Learning Hall
- **Telephone:** 0584-32-0216
- **Website:** <http://www.yoro-kokusai.jp>

Japanese cooking class

Learn how to cook Japanese food with local people- “maki sushi” and ‘chawan mushi’.

- **When:** 2nd of September (Sun)
10 am to 1 pm
- **Where:**
Wakakusa Plaza Gakushu Joho Kan
(Learning and Information Hall)
(Next to Seki City Hall)
- **Who:** Foreign residents
- **Application:** by phone or fax, deadline 3rd of August.
- **Capacity:** 30 people in order of application
- **Fee:** 300 yen
- **Enquiries:** Seki International Relations Association
<http://www.city.seki.gifu.jp/cosmopia/>
- **Telephone:** 0575-23-6806

Sustainability- growing forests to protect animals

Plant acorn seedlings in the Toki Aqua Silver forest for the wild animals to eat. Make a contribution to the future by creating a sustainable environment.

- **When:** 7th of October (Sun)
9:30 am to 11 am
- **Where:** Aqua Silver Forest
(Kujiri, Izumicho, Toki City)
- **Enquiries:** Toki City International Exchange Association
- **Telephone:** 0572-59-3266

Issued by:Gifu International Center (GIC)

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

Opening hours: Sunday to Friday 9:30- 18:00 Closed: Saturday, Public Holidays, New Year Period.

