

SHINJUKU NEWS

新宿ニュース



<http://www.city.shinjuku.tokyo.jp/>

First Issue
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Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza Will Open on September 1

This plaza will be a place where Japanese and non-Japanese residents can have friendly exchanges and deepen their understanding of each other's culture and history.

The plaza can be used for various purposes, including learning Japanese and collecting/exchanging information on Japanese culture and the community.

Please feel free to drop in for a visit.

Multipurpose Space

Japanese language classes are held, as well as various classes and seminars with the theme of international exchange and multicultural harmony. When not in use for classes, the open space can be used as a place where people can study and talk freely.

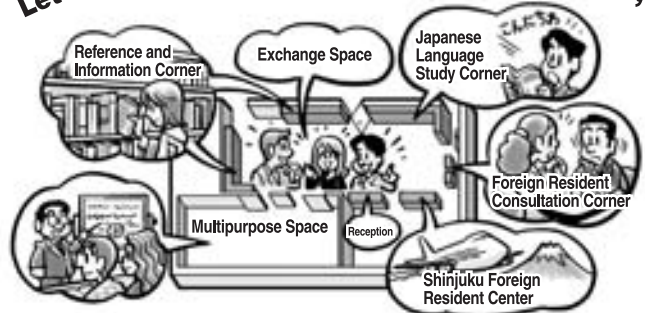
Exchange Space

This space can be used by individuals or groups and includes the following areas:

Reference and Information Corner

Various types of useful information for foreign residents are available on topics such as everyday living, classes/events, city administration programs, local governments and volunteer programs.

Let's gather beyond our differences of countries, culture and language!



Japanese Language Study Corner (Resource Corner)

Teaching materials and textbooks are available for those who wish to learn or teach Japanese. You can use the texts and study in this space. This corner is mainly operated by a Japanese-language volunteer network.

Foreign Resident Consultation Corner

Consultations are available in various languages for foreign residents who are experiencing difficulties in everyday life in Japan, and advice is available to help resolve any concerns. Consultations are free of charge.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Korean	Chinese	Korean	Myanmarese	Korean

Languages available depend on the day of the week.

Consultation Hours: 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

Shinjuku Foreign Resident Center

Information on immigration and visas is available for foreigners. (Application procedures are not possible; only information is provided.)

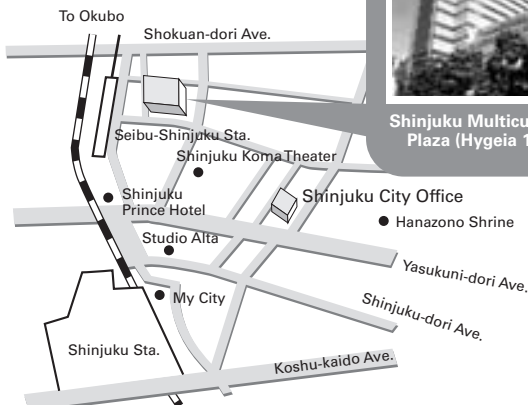
Address: Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabukicho
 A 10-minute walk from JR Shinjuku Station East Exit.
 A five-minute walk from Seibu-Shinjuku Station.

Hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Closed: 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month and during the year-end/New Year holidays (December 29 through January 3).

Inquiries: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza
 Tel: 5291-5171



Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (Hygeia 11F)



Greetings from the Mayor on the Start of Publication



Shinjuku City is a multinational city where people from over 100 different cultures can be found. I hope that the many cultures will coexist in harmony and flourish through the creation of a community where people live together and overcome any barriers created by differences in culture and language.

中山弘子

Hiroko Nakayama
 Mayor, Shinjuku City

The next issue of Shinjuku News will be published in October. Shinjuku News is available at various public facilities such as Shinjuku City Office, Branch Offices and public libraries.

The Oya-Oya Club

Parenting Classes for Foreign Residents



The Oya-Oya Club, which started in April, is a club that supports foreign residents who are raising children. Every month, classes provide useful information on child-raising and life in Japan, as well as events in which you can experience the culture of Japan and that of other countries. Why not meet new friends and fellow parents who you can ask for advice if you ever have a problem?

September Programs

The focus of the upcoming event will be “Korean Paper Crafts and Korean Obon.”

Korean paper crafts are handicraft items made of paper. Enjoy the fun challenge of making sturdy and beautiful accessories using paper with traditional designs and color schemes.

Korea celebrates its Obon Festival on September 18. Let's enjoy talking over Korean Obon rice cakes and citrus tea.

Date and time: September 17 (Sat.), 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Place: Cosmic Center (3-1-2 Okubo)

Eligibility: Foreign residents (Japanese residents also admitted) who are raising children – 30 persons; nursery service – 12 children.

Fee: ¥300 (for materials); babysitting and interpreting services are free of charge.

To apply: No reservations required. If you would like to use the babysitting or interpreting services, please contact the Lifelong Learning Foundation by telephone or fax or via the website and give your name, telephone number, the ages of

the children for the nursery and the language required if you need interpreting services.

Inquiries: General Affairs Division, Shinjuku City Lifelong Learning Foundation

Tel: 3232-7701 **Fax:** 3209-1833

URL: http://www.regasu-shinjuku.or.jp/oayaoya/oayaoya_top.htm?g_num=7

Why Not Enjoy the International Exchange Salon?

The Exchange Salon is a venue for conversation that is held regularly every month. If you are a foreign resident who would like to practice speaking Japanese or would like to become friends with someone from another country, why not get together at the Salon? Please come directly to the site on the scheduled day.

Date and time: 2nd Friday of the month, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Place: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

Eligibility: Anyone (about 30 persons)

Fee: ¥200

Inquiries: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

Tel: 5291-5171

Information on Entry into Elementary and Junior High School

What is Compulsory Education?

According to the School Education Law in Japan, six years of elementary school and three years of junior high school – a total of nine years – or schooling for children from 6 through 15 years of age is regarded as compulsory education.

Although foreign residents are not obliged to attend elementary or junior high school in Japan, you can apply for admission if you would like to enroll your child. About 300 such children are currently attending school.

However, please note that, according to the School Education Law in Japan, a child may not be admitted to a junior high school in Japan unless he/she has completed studies at a Japanese elementary school.



To Apply for Admission:

Complete the following procedures if you would like to enroll your child in a municipal elementary or junior high school and your child meets eligibility requirements.

[Eligibility for elementary school] Those born between April 2, 1999, to April 1, 2000

[Eligibility for junior high school] Those born between April 2, 1993, to April 1, 1994

Application period: September 1 (Thu.) ~ 30 (Fri.) for elementary school; October 3 (Mon.) ~ November 4 (Fri.) for junior high school.

Application procedures: Bring the notification card and foreign resident registration card of the applicant to the Board of Education School Operations Division. If you do not speak Japanese, please come with someone who does.

Application/Inquiries: School Management Division, Tel: 5273-3089

Do Not Smoke Cigarettes While Walking or Litter the Streets with Cigarette Butts

Smoking on the Streets in Shinjuku is Prohibited as of August 1!

Smoking on the streets poses a threat to other people of passive smoke and burns from cigarettes. Do not hold a lit cigarette while walking on the street or litter the street with cigarette butts.

Let's follow the rules and concentrate on smoking in smoking areas so that those suffering from asthma, those who find it difficult to deal with smoke and small children can walk on the street safely with peace of mind!



Smoke in Designated Areas

Please restrict your smoking to smoking areas in the following five designated locations:

Seibu-Shinjuku Station-front Plaza, Shinjuku Station East Exit Plaza, Shinjuku Station Southeast Exit Plaza, under Shinjuku Station West Exit Carillon Bridge and Takadanobaba Station-front Plaza.

Inquiries: Environmental Conservation Division, Tel: 5273-3763

National Census to be Conducted

The National Census is a survey conducted every five years by the national government as required by law in Japan. The results of the survey are used as a basic reference for national administrative policies and city planning. The National Census applies to everyone who lives in Japan, regardless of nationality, and filing a response is obligatory.

The results of the survey will only be used for statistical purposes and not for such purposes as the regulation of illegal aliens, taxation or police files.



Please Cooperate in the National Census

A census enumerator will visit homes from late September to early October to distribute and collect the survey forms. There are bilingual National Census forms (in 19 languages) for those who cannot read Japanese, so please ask the census enumerator for one when he/she comes to your home.

Inquiries: National Census Implementation Headquarters (Regional Coordination Division), Shinjuku City, Tel: 5273-4096

A Leisurely Stroll in Shinjuku City

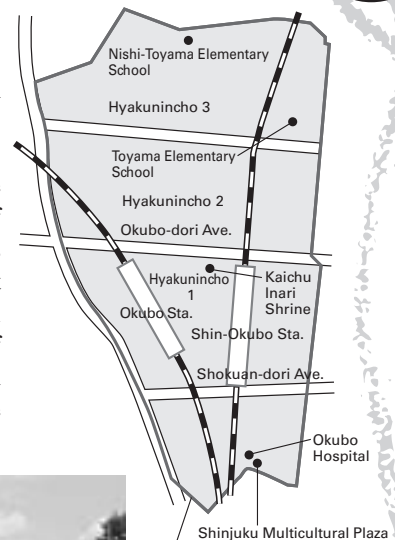
Okubo/
Hyakunincho Area No. 1

The area around JR Okubo Station is attracting many people due to the recent Korean boom and it's a place where you can enjoy Asian food. During the Edo Period, however, this area included the residence of the "Teppo Hyakunin-tai (Hundred-Gun Army)," which protected the shogunate, and, as a result, was called Hyakunincho (Hundred People Town). Even today, the area between the JR Yamanote Line and the Chuo Line still has this name.

Not only does the name remain, but also the "Teppogumi Hyakunin-tai Gyoretsu (Hundred-Gun Soldiers Procession)," which was a ritual of departure to the front in olden times, was revived in 1961. This procession takes place every other year and has been designated as an Intangible Folk Cultural Asset of Shinjuku City. It is also enjoyed by many visitors as a historical cultural legacy.

The procession will be held this year on September 25 (Sun.) from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. After conducting the ceremony of departure at Kaichu Inari Shrine (1-11-16 Hyakunincho), the troop will perform at such locations as the Kimuraya Building, Choko Temple grounds, the east side of JR Shin-Okubo Station and Toyama Elementary School. In addition, a battle demonstration will be given at Nishi-Toyama Elementary School.

Surrounded by the roar and smoke of firearms, this event is filled with impact and vigor, and will make you feel as if you have slipped back in time to the Edo Period.



The area within the bold line is the area where the residence of the "Teppo Hyakunin-tai" existed long ago.

Living Together

Forefront of Multicultural Living

Shinjuku City organizes programs to create an environment in which foreign residents can live in harmony with their Japanese neighbors. This section will focus on people who are active on this front.

For this first issue, we visited Shinjuku City Japanese Language Class, where a lot of effort is put into teaching people about the attractive qualities of Japanese culture through Japanese-language studies.

Let's Study Japanese Together at Shinjuku City Japanese Language Class

How would you express yourself if you could not speak Japanese and if you became involved in an earthquake, crime incident or traffic accident? Shinjuku City publishes foreign language bulletins for everyday living and public relations materials so that foreign residents will be able to handle problems and questions in everyday life. However, most important of all is being able to communicate with the people around you when necessary. The problem is that the number of people around you who speak your mother tongue is limited. If only you could speak Japanese even just a little...

Almost Mastering Everyday Conversation in Three Months

Shinjuku City offers Japanese-language classes for beginners taught by Japanese-language volunteers in eight locations to meet this kind of need.

On July 5, we visited the class held at Ushigome-Tansu Chiiki Center. There are 16 students who meet once a week for this class. Five volunteers, led by Mr. Kishida, divide and teach the class in five groups according to the level of the students' language skills. The class is conducted completely in Japanese. Having started in April, it has been three months since the class started, and the students are now al-



Mr. Kishida: "I would like to go to China and teach Japanese."



"It's hard but fun. By understanding the language, I have discovered that there are a lot of nice Japanese people. Although Koreans are nice, too..." (smiles) (from left, Ms. Kim, Ms. Yee and Ms. Son)



most all fluent in basic conversational Japanese. Ms. Son, with a look of happy satisfaction in her eyes, commented, "Although I can't understand everything, I can watch Japanese movies I like without reading the subtitles."

From Small Exchanges to a Bigger Circle of Friends

The staff members of this class are all volunteers. Leader Mr. Kishida says with a smile: "I first became involved in this program when I retired. Now, every day is so much fun. It's difficult to teach, but I think I learn more because of it. Because I have more opportunities to open my dictionary, I feel more active and refreshed." This attitude makes the atmosphere of the classroom very cheerful. Mr. Kishida continues: "The key is to enjoy what you're doing. My role is to make it fun to come to class." Mr. Kishida is keen to promote friendly ties and mutual exchanges and also admits: "Actually, I hope to learn Korean. After all, it would be a shame not to take advantage of the excellent teachers we have here! What I do may be just a small friendly exchange program, but I think what grows out of it is big and important."

Why not become a fellow student in this type of classroom?

Seeking Students

A new class will begin in October. If there are vacancies in a class, you can join at any time. Why not study Japanese at your local Japanese language class?

Class term: October ~ March. *No classes during the year-end/New Year holidays or on national holidays.

Location: 8 locations, such as Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

Date and time: 2 hours per class, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. There are classes that

meet once a week and those that meet twice a week. The day of the week depends on the location.

Eligibility: Those whose first language is not Japanese and who feel a need to speak Japanese in everyday life. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of vacancies, then those who live, work or go to school in Shinjuku City will be given priority. However, those of junior high school age or younger are not eligible to join the class.

Fees: ¥3,000 total for classes that meet once a week; ¥6,000 total for classes that meet twice a week. (Fees for textbooks are separate.)

Application/Inquiries: "Shinjuku City Japanese Language Class" Desk, General Affairs Division, Shinjuku Foundation for Culture & International Exchange

Tel: 5291-5171

Fax: 5291-5172

E-mail: kokusai@shinjukubunka.or.jp

URL: <http://www.shinjukubunka.or.jp>