

SHINJUKU NEWS



Foreign Language Website <http://www.city.shinjuku.tokyo.jp/foreign/english/>
Please make your inquiries in Japanese when calling the coordinating division.

No. 15

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Let's Make Our Lives Better by Learning Japanese

Hiragana, katakana, kanji ... It is said that Japanese is one of the most difficult languages in the world to learn. However, once learned, it is sure to make your everyday life in Japan much easier, such as when going through designated procedures at hospitals or banks, when shopping, or when making new friends. Why not take the opportunity to learn Japanese?

Shinjuku City Japanese-Language Class

First of all, let's start by learning basic Japanese that is needed in everyday life, such as how to greet each other! If there is an opening in the class, you can join even in the middle of the term.

Eligibility: The beginning level is open to those who need to learn Japanese expressions that are necessary in everyday life in Japan. However, junior high school students and younger children are not admitted.

Term: Classes are from April to July and meet either once or twice a week on weekdays. The day of the week on which classes are held differ according to the location.

Time: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (Thursdays only)

Location: Eight locations in the city, including Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

Fees: ¥2,000 per term for classes that meet once a week; ¥4,000 per term for classes that meet twice a week
Note: Once fees are paid, there are no reimbursements.

To Apply: Send a postcard, fax, or e-mail between January 25 (Sun.) and March 9 (Mon.) to the location below. Please be sure to give your (1) address, (2) name (with furigana), (3) telephone number, (4) nationality, and (5) desired day of the week and time. You will be notified of the results by mail by March 27 (Fri.).



Shinjuku Children's Japanese-Language Class

Let's have fun learning Japanese! Instructors teach Japanese in the children's native language.

Free!

Term: Classes are held from March 4 through 19 on weekdays, 2 to 4 p.m., for a total of 12 classes.

Location: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

Eligibility: As a rule, classes are open to children from the 3rd grade of elementary school through junior high school who are entering or transferring to a municipal elementary or junior high school or have recently so done.

To Apply: Send a postcard, fax, or e-mail to the location below. Please be sure to give (1) the child's name (with furigana), age, and native language; (2) the parent's name; (3) address; (4) telephone/fax number; and (5) name of the class. Details will be mailed to applicants.



Note: To prevent accidents and injuries, parents should accompany their children to and from the Japanese-language classes.

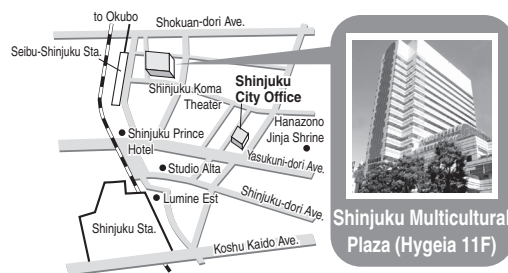
Inquiries: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza
Tel: 03-5291-5171 Fax: 03-5291-5172

E-mail: kokusai@shinjukubunka.or.jp

Address: Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabukicho, Shinjuku-ku 160-0021
A 10-minute walk from JR Shinjuku Station East Exit, and a five-minute walk from Seibu-Shinjuku Station.

Hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Closed: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month and during the year-end/New Year holidays (December 29 through January 3)



Shinjuku City Partnership Promotion Fund Subsidy Project

(1) Spring Vacation Oyako (Family) Japanese-Language Class

This class is ideal for families who have recently come to Japan and are not yet familiar with the language.

In addition, classes offer consultation services for parents who have questions or concerns about everyday life in Japan. Please feel free to join the class.

Term: March 26 (Thu.), 27 (Fri.), 28 (Sat.), 30 (Mon.), and 31 (Tue.)

Time: 10 to 11:45 a.m.

Capacity: 30 people

Eligibility: Children between 6 and 15 years of age and parents who are not able to speak Japanese well enough at school or in everyday life.

Fee: ¥800 per person

(2) Friendly Spring Vacation Exchange Party

Why not come to a party to create happy memories during spring vacation? Anyone is welcome to come join the fun. Regardless of national borders, let's have fun chatting and having delicious food!

Date and Time: March 31 (Tue.), 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.

Fee: Free of charge (However, this is a pot luck party, so each person is asked to bring one dish of his/her favorite food.)

Location: Mizorogi Dai-Ni Bldg. 3F for both (1) the family Japanese-language class and (2) the exchange party (1-4-13 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku; a one-minute walk from Shinjuku Gyoen-mae Station on a subway line)

Application: Apply by telephone, fax, or e-mail for either/both (1) and/or (2) by March 13 (Fri.), giving your name and telephone number.

Application/Inquiries: Nihongo-Kyoushi Organization

Mizorogi Dai-Ni Bldg. 3F, 1-4-13 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022

Tel: 03-3352-5480 Fax: 03-3352-1911

E-mail: info@npo-nihongo.org

The next issue of Shinjuku News will be published in March 2009. Shinjuku News is available at various public facilities such as Shinjuku City Office, Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, Branch Offices and public libraries.

Let's Enjoy Japanese Culture International Exchange Residents' Gathering

Every year, over 200 foreign residents come and enjoy various aspects of Japanese culture, such as trying on kimonos and experiencing



The traditional *hina matsuri* is held to celebrate the healthy growth of girls by setting up a *hina* doll display. It is celebrated on March 3.

suiboku-ga (painting in India ink), flower arrangement, and tea ceremony, at the annual *hina matsuri* (doll festival). Also, a rare seven-tier *hina* doll will be on display! No reservations are required. Simply come directly to the venue on the day of the event. ♪

Hina Matsuri (Doll Festival)



Unbroken concentration while facing the challenge of calligraphy in India ink



The satisfaction of drinking tea made by yourself at a tea ceremony

Date and Time: February 28 (Sat.), 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Locations: Shinjuku Bunka Center 3F and 4F

Fee: ¥500 (free for children of elementary school age and younger)

Inquiries: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, Tel: 03-5291-5171

Let's Have Fun with the Entire Family! Kami-Shibai and Storybook Time

There will be *kami-shibai* (storytelling with pictures) and a storybook time for children in Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean. There will also be a friendly gathering where there will be tea and snacks for the entire family to enjoy. Please feel free to come join the fun!

Date and Time: January 24 (Sat.), 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Eligibility: Preschoolers and elementary school children and their parents (regardless of nationality or age); children cannot participate without a parent in attendance.

Location: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

Fee: ¥100 (free of charge for children)

Application/Inquiries: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza
Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabukicho, Shinjuku-ku
160-0021
Tel: 03-5291-5171, Fax: 03-5291-5172
E-mail: kokusai@shinjukubunka.or.jp

To All 20-Year-Olds

Be a Part of the Gathering of 20-Year-Olds on Coming-of-Age Day

In Japan, young people join the ranks of adulthood—with all the rights and responsibilities that come with it—at 20 years of age. The objective of the Coming-of-Age ceremony is to encourage young adults to become aware of their new status and take responsibility for themselves. Shinjuku City holds an event of its own to celebrate the adulthood of new 20-year-olds.



Date and Time: January 12 (Mon., a national holiday), 1 to 3 p.m. (Reception will be open from 12 noon.)

Location: Keio Plaza Hotel (2-2-1 Nishi-Shinjuku)

Eligibility: Those born between April 2, 1988, and April 1, 1989, and who are registered as foreign residents of Shinjuku

Program: Ceremony and buffet party

Inquiries: General Affairs Section, General Affairs Department
(Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 3F), Tel: 03-5273-3505

Do the Japanese Love to Take Baths? Let's Go to a Public Bath!

It is said that Japanese people love to take baths. Not only do they like to take a bath at home, but they also like to go to hot springs or public baths. Taking a bath relieves stress and makes a person feel refreshed. In addition, baths have healthy effects, such as taking away the day's fatigue, relaxing tense muscles and joints, and stimulating blood circulation.

Because Shinjuku City has sento (public baths), why not go to one to feel refreshed?

For locations of public baths in Shinjuku City, please see <http://www.city.shinjuku.tokyo.jp/division/260100chishin/ofuro/list.htm> (in Japanese only)



Let's Become Familiar with Public Bath Rules!

- First, pay the fee and proceed to the dressing room to undress. Place your clothes in a locker or basket.
- Wash your body thoroughly in the wash area before entering the bath.
- Do not let your hair (if long) or towel soak in the bath water.
- If the bathwater is too hot for you, be sure to ask the other people in the bath for permission before adding cold water to the bath.
- When using the shower, please be careful not to get the people around you wet.
- When returning to the dressing room from the bath area, be sure to wipe yourself dry to prevent the dressing room floor from getting wet.

File Your Income Tax Report (Kakutei Shinkoku) during the Filing Period

The deadline for reporting and paying income and donation taxes for 2008 is March 16 (Mon.). The deadline for reporting and paying consumption and local consumption taxes (for sole proprietors) is March 31 (Tue.).

☞ Salaried income earners must file a report in the following cases:

- ① Those whose income exceeds ¥20,000,000
- ② Those who have an income other than salaried income and retirement benefits that exceeds a total of ¥200,000 (after deducting necessary expenses from revenues)
- ③ Those who have a salaried income from two or more sources and have not received a year-end adjustment

④ Those who have not paid withholding tax in Japan when receiving their salary because of such reasons as being paid overseas

- ★ To pay your income tax, consumption tax, and/or local consumption tax, please take advantage of the convenient account transfer payment.
- ★ For more information, please visit the National Tax Agency Web site (in Japanese and English) at <http://www.nta.go.jp>.

Inquiries: Yotsuya Tax Office (24 Sanei-cho,
Tel: 03-3359-4451)
Shinjuku Tax Office (1-19-3 Kita-Shinjuku,
Tel: 03-3362-7151)

Don't Forget to File a Change in Your Foreign Resident Registration if the Registered Items Have Changed!

- (1) If you have changed address within Shinjuku City or have moved into Shinjuku City, please complete the designated procedures at the Foreign Resident Registration Section of the Family and Resident Registration Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F) within 14 days of the change.
- (2) If you move out of Shinjuku City, please complete the designated procedures at the Foreign Resident Registration service counter of the municipal office of your new address within 14 days of the change. (You do not need to complete any forms at the Shinjuku City Foreign Resident Registration service counter.)
- (3) If there is a change in registered information other than your address (such as your name, nationality, visa status, period of stay, occupation, or name/address of your employer), please complete the designated procedures within 14 days of the change.



What to Bring: Please bring your foreign resident registration card. For (3), please bring some form of documentation certifying the change, such as your passport. Also, if there is a change in your name or nationality, please bring two photos in addition to your passport.

Inquiries: Foreign Resident Registration Section, Family and Resident Registration Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F), Tel: 03-5273-4094

Users of Bicycle Control Areas **Wanted**

Illegally parked bicycles obstruct pedestrian traffic and cause traffic jams. Moreover, in times of disaster, illegally parked bicycles block evacuation routes and interfere with rescue activities.

There are bicycle parking lots and bicycle control areas near train stations. If you would like to use these facilities, please apply for registration.

Period of Use: April 1 (Wed.), 2009, to March 31 (Wed.), 2010

Eligible Vehicles: Bicycles and motorcycles (engine size of 50 cc or less)

Application: Fill in an application form at your local bicycle parking lot or branch office between February 2 (Mon.) and February 27 (Fri.). Applications may also be submitted via Shinjuku City's Web site. If the number of applicants exceeds capacity, a lottery will be held.

Note: If you would like to use a bicycle parking lot, please apply directly with the particular parking lot you would like to use.

Inquiries: Bicycle Countermeasures Section, Traffic Affairs Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 7F), Tel: 03-5273-3896

Let's Practice Energy Conservation Habits That Are Both Environment- Friendly and Pocketbook-Friendly

Energy, such as electricity, gas, and gasoline, is absolutely necessary in our everyday lives. However, using energy causes global warming by increasing the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air. Global warming is causing alarming changes in the environment, such as abnormal weather and a rise in the sea level. Let's start with practices we can do by ourselves.

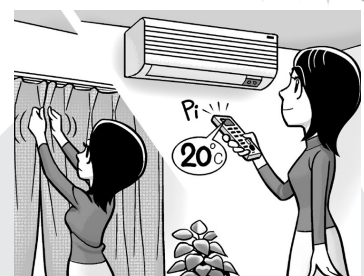
- Take your own shopping bag when you go shopping.
- Reduce the amount of electricity used by electrical item while on



standby by turning off the main switch and pulling out the plug.

- Use toilet seat covers.
- Set your air conditioner/heater to 20°C .
- Keep your curtains closed.
- Have family members use the bathtub in quick succession.
- Keep the stove flame smaller than the pot or pan you are cooking with.
- Use public transportation as much as possible.

Inquiries: Eco-Life Promotion Section, Environment Quality Division, Tel: 03-5273-4267



Living Together

“Multicultural living” refers to people of different nationalities and ethnic races living together, and accepting and understanding the differences between their cultures.

In this issue, we will report from the front lines of multicultural living.

There are approximately 33,000 foreign residents living in Shinjuku City. Against this background, there are NPOs, town councils, shopping areas, and volunteers who work on various programs geared toward a multicultural society.

In this issue, we spoke with Mr. Tadayuki Morita, executive director of the Shin-Okubo Shopping Area Promotion Union, located in the Okubo district where many foreign residents live. We asked him about programs that are available in shopping areas and incidents from his personal experience.

A Town Where Japanese and Non-Japanese Residents Live Together in Harmony Shin-Okubo Shopping Area

There is a growing number of foreign residents in Japan with each passing year. Tell us how this is affecting the Okubo community.

Yes, I believe there is a growing number of foreign residents in the Okubo community as well. There are people of all nationalities: Koreans, Chinese, Malaysians, Thais, Singaporeans, and Bangladeshis. The fact that there are a lot of foreign residents is a special characteristic of our community.

What kinds of programs are available in your shopping area that help foreign residents adjust to living in your community?

In our shopping area, we have street radio announcements in four languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean). This program was started quite a long time ago, and I think it was the first experiment in a local shopping area in Shinjuku City. The public announcements are not for business purposes but for everyday living, such as, “Let’s keep the outside of shops clean” and “Let’s park our bicycles in the bicycle parking lots.” I imagine there are many things in everyday life that Japanese people take for granted but foreign residents are not aware of. That is why those of us who are involved in the shopping area are sending messages to let people know what the basic rules

of living in Japan are. Street radio broadcasts help our shopping area achieve the goals of its city-planning programs.

To show that we welcome people of all nations, we made stickers that welcome them in four languages and placed those stickers at the entrance of shops. In addition, we have lists of basic expressions used in stores, such as “Thank you” and “Hello,” that are written in four languages.

Tell us about a memorable incident that occurred in your community as a result of so many foreign residents living here.

Well, once, there were five foreign residents who came to a soba (buckwheat noodle) restaurant in our shopping area for a meal, and they were doing their best to speak Japanese. Sensing that they were really struggling with the language, the restaurant

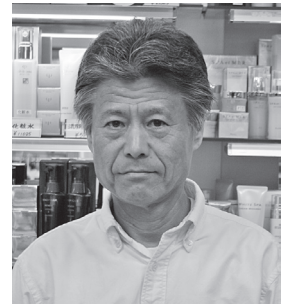
employee said to them, “Please feel free to speak in your native language.” Then, the foreign residents responded, “We are all from different countries, and Japanese is the only language we have in common!” When the other customers in the shop heard this, everyone smiled warmly.

Some Japanese feel uncomfortable about having so many foreign residents living in the community. But when people saw that there were foreign residents who tried really hard to learn Japanese and even communicated with other foreign residents in Japanese as their common language, I think everyone really admired their efforts.

Finally, what message would you like to give to foreign residents who live in Okubo?

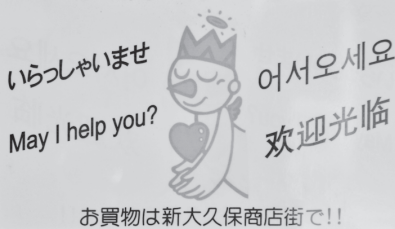
I would like to encourage them to become familiar with Japanese culture and make the most of their time here in Japan. Japanese customs in everyday life are rather unique, and I imagine that everything is new to foreign residents.

At Shin-Okubo Shopping Area, there is an increasing number of Korean shops due to the Korean boom in recent years. The number of Korean employees working in these shops is increasing as well. I hope that Koreans and people from other countries will become more aware of the fact that Okubo is a part of Japan and that they will grow to know and love Japan more.



“I think it’s important for Japanese people to not assume that foreign residents cannot follow the rules simply because they are foreigners. I think it’s important for both Japanese and non-Japanese to live according to the rules.”

天使のすむまち



お買物は新大久保商店街で!!

Stickers welcoming foreigners in four languages

お店でよく使う言葉 4カ国語集			
韓国語	中国語	英語	新
여기주세요 (여기주세요)	欢迎光临 (환영인강판신)	May I help you?	
안녕하세요 (안녕하세요)	你好 (니하오)	Hello	
몇 살으세요? (네 살이 몇 살이세요?)	您多大 (넌 나이 몇 살이세요?)	What would you like?	
몇 드릴까요? (네가 무엇을 사시겠습니까?)	您要什么 (넌 무엇을 사시겠습니까?)	Please have a seat	
앉으세요? (안녕하세요)	请坐 (칭자오)	Please enjoy shopping	
정말치 보세요 (정말치 보세요)	请慢点看 (칭만디안칸)	Please feel free to try	
언제든지 물어주세요 (언제든지 물어주세요)	请随时问 (칭순시윈)	I'm sorry, but we are closed	
어제는 못드려요 (어제에는 못드려요)	不可便宜 (부커비안)	This is a new product	
저게 잘 사시는거예요 (저게 잘 사시는거예요)	这个是很优惠的便宜 (저게는 아주저렴한 가격입니다)	Is this for a gift?	
신제품입니다 (신제품입니다)	这是新产品 (저게는 신제품입니다)		
몇개 필요하세요? (몇개 필요하세요?)	要几个 (야오지거?)		
선물하실거예요? (선물하실거예요?)	是人的礼物吗? (넌 선물을 사시겠습니까?)		
지금 기다리세요 (지금 기다리세요)	请稍等一下 (칭샤오디안기다려주세요)		

List of basic expressions used in stores



Rows of signs in Korean and other foreign languages