



# Shinjuku News

No. 28

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Foreign Language Web site

[www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/](http://www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/)

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Please make your inquiries in Japanese when calling the coordinating division.

## Registration System for Foreign Residents to Change on July 9 (Mon.), 2012



With the introduction of a new visa control system and revisions to the Residential Basic Book Act, the registration system for foreign residents will change. Accordingly, the notification forms involving your address and other information will also change.

### Residence Records (*Juminhyo*) Will Be Made for Foreign Residents As Well

The foreign resident registration system will be eliminated, and the Residential Basic Book Act will apply to foreign residents as well. Residence records will therefore be made for foreign residents in the same manner as for Japanese residents.

#### Foreign Residents Eligible for Residence Records:

- Mid- and long-term residents (as a rule, foreign residents who stay in Japan legally and whose period of stay is for more than three months). People in this category are also eligible for a residence card. → See page 2)
- Special permanent residents, who are also eligible for a special permanent resident certificate → See page 2)
- Those with landing permission for temporary refuge or permission for a provisional stay in Japan
- Those in Japan through circumstances of birth, or who have renounced Japanese citizenship and are in a transitional period without any status of residence

Note: Residence records will not be made for foreign residents who do not fall under any of the abovementioned categories.

#### Notification Forms, Such as for a Change of Address

You must file a notification form if your address changes, or when there is a change in the head of the household or your family relation-

ships. Unlike the procedures for foreign resident registration, if you move out of Shinjuku City or out of Japan you must file a notification of your move in advance at the Shinjuku City Office.

Note: Since you will almost certainly need your residence card or special permanent resident certificate, please bring it with you when filing a change of address notification.

#### Certification of Address or Family Structure (copies of residence records, etc.)

When you need a document that confirms the contents of your residence record, such as your address or family structure, you must apply for a copy of your residence record or a certificate attesting to the items registered in it.

Note: Effective July 9, 2012, you will no longer be able to obtain a copy of the certificate of registered items in your foreign resident registration. If you need information from your voided foreign resident registration, you must ask the Ministry of Justice.

### From May 2012, We Will Notify You of the Contents of Your Provisional Residence Record

Since the current foreign resident registration system is being converted to the basic resident registration system, Shinjuku City Office will first make a provisional residence record that will serve as the base for your residence record. You will be notified the content of your provisional residence record by mail during or after May 2012, so please check your data for accuracy. If you need to make any changes, please complete the designated procedures in accordance with the current foreign resident registration system. The provisional residence record will become your residence record on July 9 (Mon.), 2012.

Note: Your provisional residence record will be based on the data in your foreign resident registration. Please update the information on your foreign resident registration before the new system takes effect.



#### About Residence Records

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications website: [www.soumu.go.jp/main\\_sosiki/jichi\\_gyousei/c-gyousei/zairyu.html](http://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/jichi_gyousei/c-gyousei/zairyu.html)

Continued on page 2.

The next issue of *Shinjuku News* will be published in June 2012. *Shinjuku News* is available at various public facilities, such as Shinjuku City Office, Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, Branch Offices, and public libraries.

## You Will Be Issued a Residence Card or Special Permanent Resident Certificate

Starting on July 9 (Mon.), 2012, residence cards will be issued to mid- and long-term residents to replace the foreign resident registration card. In addition, we will issue special permanent resident certificates to special permanent residents. Residence cards will be issued at airports, seaports, or at regional Immigration Bureau service counters. Special permanent resident certificates will be issued at the service counter of the Resident Registration Section, Family and Resident Registration Division, Shinjuku City Office. The main notifications and applications to be completed related to residence cards and special permanent resident certificates are listed in the following chart:

Type	Things to Handle at the Shinjuku City Office	Things to Handle at the Regional Immigration Bureau
Residence Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change of address notifications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes or corrections in your name, date of birth, sex, or nationality (country/region of origin)</li> <li>• Applications to renew your card's period of validity or get your card reissued</li> <li>• Notifications related to your organizational affiliation or spouse (Please ask the Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice for more details.)</li> </ul>
Special Permanent Resident Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change of address notifications</li> <li>• Changes or corrections in your name, date of birth, sex, or nationality (country/region of region)</li> <li>• Applications to renew your certificate's period of validity or get your certificate reissued</li> </ul>	As a rule, none.

Notes: 1. When you file a notification of a move, your residence record will be updated, and the change of address procedures for your residence card or special permanent resident certificate will be done at the same time. For that reason, please be sure to bring your residence card or special permanent resident certificate along when you file a notification of a move.

2. In some cases, failing to submit proper notification without a justifiable reason or submitting a falsified notification form may invalidate your visa and/or result in other penalties.

○ Since the foreign resident registration card you currently hold will serve as a residence card or special permanent resident certificate for a designated time after July 9 (Mon.), 2012, there is no need to convert to the new card immediately.

Note: Advance applications for the special permanent resident certificate are accepted at the Resident Registration Section of the Family and Resident Registration Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F). Please note that even if you file an advance application, your special permanent resident certificate will be issued on or after July 9 (Mon.), 2012.

○ For more information on the residence card or special permanent resident certificate, please call the Immigration Information Center at the Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice (Tel: 0570-013904) or read the websites below.



### About the Residence Card and New Immigration Control System

Ministry of Justice website: [www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact\\_1/en/index.html](http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_1/en/index.html)

### About the Special Permanent Resident Certificate

Ministry of Justice website: [www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact\\_2/index.html](http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_2/index.html)



## About Personal Seal Registration for Those Not Eligible for Residence Records

Since illegal immigrants and anyone in Japan for a short-term stay, such as tourists, are not eligible for residence records, they cannot register a personal seal. If you do not have a residence record, your personal seal registration will become void as of July 9 (Mon.), 2012, and you will no longer be able to register your seal or obtain a seal registration certificate.

★ A pamphlet with more detailed information on the new registration system is available in such locations as the Foreign Resident Registration Counter, Shinjuku City Office, and Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza. Please pick up a copy and read it.



### Inquiries

Resident Registration Section, Family and Resident Registration Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F)  
Tel: 03-5273-4094  
If you have questions about personal seal registration, please call 03-5273-3601.

Special  
Feature

# One Year Has Passed Since the Great East Japan Earthquake

One year has passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake. While conditions have gradually changed, disaster relief is still a priority. Mr. Lu Fei, a foreign student from China and a recipient of the Shinjuku City Scholarship for Foreign Students, traveled to Ishinomaki City in Miyagi Prefecture as a disaster relief volunteer. This special feature includes an interview we conducted with Mr. Lu, and also provides some helpful hints we hope might help you prepare for an earthquake.



**Name:** Lu Fei  
**Age:** 28 years old  
**Birthplace:** Henan Province, China  
**School:** Graduate School of Psychology, Mejiro University

## ■ How did you become a volunteer?

After the earthquake, I saw the disaster-struck area on TV and wanted to go there immediately and do what I could do to help. However, there was no way a person could go alone. Since they were recruiting disaster relief volunteers at the church I always go to, though, I went to Ishinomaki City of Miyagi Prefecture as part of a group.

## ■ What kinds of things did you do?

We loaded buses with lots of food and supplies to distribute to the disaster victims. After we arrived, we got instructions at the local volunteer center. We scraped out mud that got into the houses from the tsunami, threw away garbage, and prepared meals for people at the disaster evacuation sites.

## Experiences as a Disaster Relief Volunteer

### ■ What were your impressions of the disaster-hit area?

The air is somehow different in the town the tsunami struck. The volunteers, including me, stayed in an area that the tsunami did not reach. Every morning we commuted to the community disaster had struck, and the atmosphere of the community the tsunami hit was completely different. There was dust in the air, cars on top of buildings, and a lot of boats that should be in the ocean left on the streets where they had washed up. Although Japan is safe and very advanced in scientific technology, I sensed that as human beings we are all very weak in the face of natural disasters.

I went to the area twice in April as a disaster relief volunteer. When I went the second time, I had built a relationship of trust with the people who live there, and some of them told me their experiences. Some said they had lost family members, some had lost friends, and others had lost their homes. I felt pain and sadness when I listened to them, because they'd lost something precious and important. I think it is necessary to continue providing mental health care support to disaster victims even after the area is rebuilt.

### ■ Are you worried about your decision to continue living in Tokyo after the earthquake?

Every day I watched the TV for news about what was happening with the nuclear power plant accident that occurred due to the earthquake and other earthquake-related developments. Since I trust the reports announced by the Japanese government, and have done research about radiation levels on my own using books and the Internet, I am not worried at this point. I am a little lonely, though, because some of my fellow foreign students have returned to their country. However, since I'm determined to study at grad school, I will continue to do my best here.

I've taken pictures of everyday life in Tokyo and sent them to my parents and relatives in China so they won't worry about me. I want them to know that everyone in Shinjuku City is fine. Rather than listening to the news in China, I believe it's better to see actual pictures of life in Tokyo.

### In Conclusion

Mr. Lu Fei says he realized his own weakness and immaturity through his experience as a disaster relief volunteer. If he has the opportunity, he hopes to go to the disaster-struck area and help out again.

## Let's Be Prepared! Emergency Goods

It is a good idea to fill a backpack with basic necessary items and keep this backpack in a handy place in case you need to evacuate. It will be useful in case of an emergency.



### Food and Drinking Water

- Drinking water  
 Crackers, retort pouch food, and canned food

### Medicine

- First aid kit  
 Regular supply of medicine

### Valuables

- Cash  
 Bankbooks and a copy of your health insurance card  
 Inkan (personal seal)  
 Some form of personal identification (such as your foreign resident registration card)

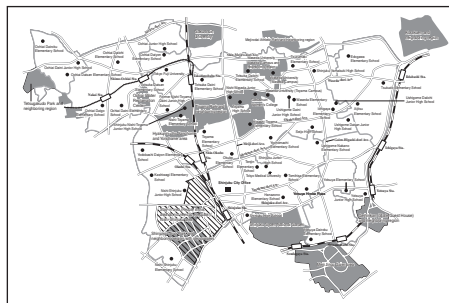
### Everyday Items

- Flashlight  
 Portable radio  
 Extra batteries  
 Kleenex and moist towelettes  
 Garbage bags  
 Lighter  
 Work gloves  
 Sanitary napkins

### Clothes

- Underwear  
 Towels  
 Clothes

## Map of Evacuation Areas within Shinjuku City



Shinjuku City has designated evacuation areas and evacuation sites in preparation for a major disaster. An evacuation area is a place where people can gather to protect themselves from a major fire or other such danger. An evacuation site is a place where people can stay temporarily if their homes have been destroyed.

A map of evacuation areas and evacuation sites can be viewed in the "Preparing for Disasters" section of *Information on Everyday Living for Foreign Residents of Shinjuku City* or on the foreign-language website of Shinjuku City. *Information on Everyday Living for Foreign Residents of Shinjuku City* is available in the waiting area of the Foreign Resident Registration Counter (Shinjuku City Office, Main Bldg. 1F).

## The Shinjuku City Website Is Now Equipped with an Automated Translating Machine!

An automated translating function has been added to the Shinjuku City website so that we can immediately provide information to you in the case of a disaster or other emergency. The device translates the Japanese content of the Shinjuku City website into multiple languages (English, Chinese, and Korean).

In an emergency situation, important information will appear in the red frame of the top page. Please use the automated translating function to check this information.

The Shinjuku City foreign-language website presents information geared toward foreign residents, and is updated on the 15th of every month. The information provided includes Shinjuku City Office announcements, news about international exchange events and Japanese-language classes, and introductions to aspects of Japanese culture, so please take advantage of this service as well.

### Accessing from the Top Page of the Shinjuku City Website



Shinjuku City official website  
[www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/](http://www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/)  
 Shinjuku City foreign-language website  
[www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/](http://www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/)

## Shinjuku City Scholarships for Foreign Students

Shinjuku City offers scholarships of ¥240,000 for one year to 15 (tentative) foreign students with high grades who find it financially difficult to continue their studies.

### Eligibility:

Those who fulfill all of the following requirements:

- (1) Those with a student visa status and who are studying at their own expense or have been dispatched by a foreign government (Japanese-government-sponsored foreign students are not eligible.)
- (2) Those who have studied for one year or longer in Shinjuku City (under a master's or doctor's course at a graduate school or as an undergraduate or junior college student or in a postsecondary course at a specialized training collage) and are planning to continue their studies for at least another year
- (3) Those who have completed foreign resident registration procedures in Shinjuku City and are currently living in Shinjuku City
- (4) Those with excellent grades, who are of good character, and find it financially difficult to continue their studies in Japan

**To Apply:** Applications are accepted every year in May. Please apply at the coordination section of your school office. The Shinjuku City Office will make a final decision after a letter of recommendation is received from your school.

**Inquiries:** Culture, Tourism and International Affairs Division (until March 31, 2012)  
 Multicultural Society Promotion Division (starting from April 1, 2012)  
 Tel: 03-5273-3504 (in Japanese)

For information on other scholarships, please consult the school you attend or visit the following websites:

Japan Student Services Organization  
[www.jasso.go.jp/study\\_j/scholarships\\_e.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/study_j/scholarships_e.html)  
 Japan Study Support—Information for Foreign Students  
[www.jpss.jp/en/](http://www.jpss.jp/en/)

## Hope You Haven't Forgotten—Immunizations

Immunizations help infants develop their own immunity, which in turn prevents illnesses. Shinjuku City offers immunizations to eligible city residents. The locations and schedules for this service vary depending on your age and the type of immunization. Preliminary checkup sheets are mailed to those who are eligible.

### Government Recommended Immunizations

#### ● BCG

**Eligibility:** 5 months of age or younger

#### ● Polio

**Eligibility:** 3 months of age to 7 years and 5 months of age

#### ● DPT (Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus combination) 1st Term

**Eligibility:** 3 months of age to 7 years and 5 months of age

#### ● DT (Diphtheria and Tetanus combination) 2nd Term

**Eligibility:** 11 to 12 years of age

#### ● MR (Measles and Rubella combination) 1st Term, 2nd Term, 3rd Term, and 4th Term

##### Eligibility:

1st Term—12 to 23 months of age,

2nd Term—5 and 6 years of age; from one year before entrance to elementary school (April 1) up to the day before entrance to elementary school (March 31),

3rd Term—1st year of junior high school (April 1 through March 31 of the following year),

4th Term—3rd year of high school (April 1 through March 31 of the following year)

Note: Please call if your child is more than 2 years of age and has not yet received immunizations for measles or MR (measles and rubella combination).



#### ● Japanese Encephalitis

**Eligibility:** 1st Term—6 months of age to 7 years and 5 months of age

2nd Term—9 to 12 years of age

The 3rd Term has been abolished.

Children born between June 1, 1995, and April 1, 2007, who have not received or completed the required Japanese encephalitis immunization can now receive (or complete) the immunization. Please inquire for details.

### Optional Immunization

#### ● Hib Vaccine

**Eligibility:** 2 months of age to 4 years of age

The immunization fee is ¥3,000 per dose. Please call for more information.

#### ● Pneumococcal vaccine

**Eligibility:** 2 months of age to 4 years of age

The immunization fee is ¥3,000 per dose. Please call for more information.

#### ● Cervical cancer vaccine

**Eligibility:** Female children between the first year of junior high school and first year of high school (and those of an equivalent age)

The vaccine is administered free of charge. Please call for more information.

**Inquiries:** Disease Prevention Section, Public Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Division, Tel: 03-5273-3859 (in Japanese)

# Why Not Challenge Yourself by Participating in the Japanese-Language Speech Contest Shabeleon '12?

Why not show the fruits of all that hard work you had put into your Japanese-language studies and try expressing your thoughts in a seven-minute speech in Japanese?

**Date and Time:** Saturday, June 9, 2012, 12:30 to 5 p.m. (Party: 5 to 6:30 p.m.)

**Location:** Small hall, Shinjuku Bunka Center 3F (6-14-1 Shinjuku)

**Eligibility and Capacity:** Those who live, work, or go to school in Shinjuku City and whose first language is not Japanese; 18 contestants; restricted to those who have lived in Japan for two years or less; although those who have entered the contest before may participate up to two times, including the upcoming contest, those who have won an award are not eligible to participate in the contest again. If the number of applications exceeds capacity, preliminaries will be held.

**Theme:** As a rule, contestants are free to choose their own theme (must be unpublished).

**To Apply:** Submit an application form and the text of your speech in person or by mail by May 8 (Tue.). For more details, please refer to the contest guidelines.

Note: The speech contest application form and guidelines are available at the Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza; the Culture, Tourism and International Affairs Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F; Multicultural Society Promotion Division from April 1, 2012); and Shinjuku Bunka Center.

**Application/Inquiries:** Cultural Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future  
6-14-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku 160-0022; Tel: 03-3350-1141; e-mail: bunka@regasu-shinjuku.or.jp



## Shinjuku City Japanese-Language Classes (April through July)

Why not learn Japanese from a volunteer teacher in a class in your community? If there is an opening in the class, you can join even in the middle of the term.



**Eligibility:** Beginner to basic level—Those who need to learn enough Japanese for everyday living are eligible. Anyone who lives, works, or goes to school in Shinjuku City will receive priority. Note: Those who are of junior high school age and younger are not permitted to join these classes.

**Dates and Time:** Monday through Friday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (hours depend on class location). There are classes that meet once a week and those that meet twice a week. The day of the week on which classes are held differs according to the class location.

**Location:** Various locations in Shinjuku City, including Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza  
Note: Please inquire for details.

**Fee:** ¥2,000 for classes that meet once a week and ¥4,000 for classes that meet twice a week  
Note: There will be no refunds of fees.

**To Apply:** Complete the application form and send it by postal mail or fax to Shinjuku Bunka Center (6-14-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku 160-0022; Fax: 03-3350-4839). Application forms are available at the Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, the Foreign Resident Advisory Corner of the Shinjuku City Office, and Shinjuku Bunka Center. You can also download the form via the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future website ([www.regasu-shinjuku.or.jp/?p=273](http://www.regasu-shinjuku.or.jp/?p=273)).

**Inquiries:** Cultural Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future, Tel: 03-3350-1141, e-mail: bunka@regasu-shinjuku.or.jp

## A New Guide to Living in Shinjuku Has Been Published!

The Shinjuku City Office has published an updated version of its *Guide to Living in Shinjuku*, which contains guidelines for everyday living and convenient information for people who are just starting a new life in Shinjuku City. Written in Japanese (with kana alongside the kanji characters), English, Chinese, and Korean side by side, the guide is full of a wide variety of information, such as on Japanese-language classes, international exchange programs, foreign resident consultation, and Shinjuku City Office procedures. Other sections just as useful and fun to read include a Japanese-language conversation text and columns on Japanese culture. When completing foreign resident registration procedures at Shinjuku City Office, each person will be given this *Guide to Living in Shinjuku* along with their foreign resident registration card. It can also be downloaded via the Shinjuku City foreign-language website ([www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/index.html](http://www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/index.html)). By all means, please take advantage of this service!



**Inquiries:** Culture, Tourism and International Affairs Division (until March 31, 2012)  
Multicultural Society Promotion Division (starting from April 1, 2012)  
Tel: 03-5273-3504 (in Japanese)

## Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

**Address:** Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku-ku 160-0021

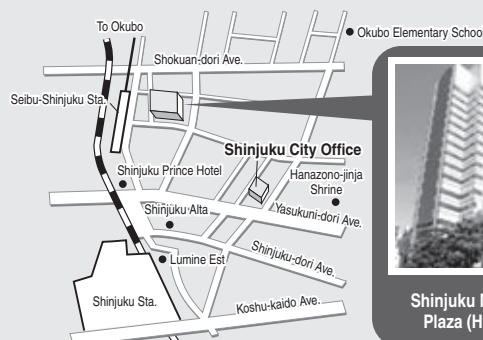
**Inquiries:** Tel: 03-5291-5171, Fax: 03-5291-5172

**How to Get There:** A 10-minute walk from JR Shinjuku Station's east exit or a five-minute walk from Seibu-Shinjuku Station

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

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

**Website:** <http://www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/plaza.html>



Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (Hygeia 11F)

# Did You Know?


## The Five Rules of Bicycle Safety

Bicycles are probably the most convenient means of rapid transportation we have. However, dangerous actions while riding and improper practices can lead to serious accidents. A bicycle rider who causes an accident may also be criminally liable, and in some civil cases may be required to pay fines for damage, injury, and loss. With that in mind, let's observe the traffic rules and be careful to avoid causing traffic accidents.

Inquiries: Traffic Planning Section, Traffic Affairs Division, Tel: 03-5273-4265 (in Japanese)

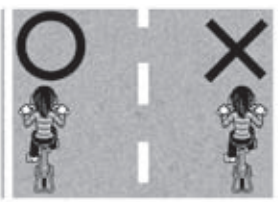
**1 As a rule, bicycles should be ridden on the street, and only be ridden on the sidewalk under special circumstances.**

According to the Road Traffic Act, bicycles are considered a type of vehicle. As a rule, bicycles should therefore be ridden on the street if there is a distinction between the road and the sidewalk.



**2 Bicycles should only be ridden on the left side of the road.**

Bicycles must be ridden on the left side of the road. In fact, it is against the law to ride on the right side of the road. Even when riding your bicycle on a path exclusively for bicycles, please stay on the left side.




**3 Pedestrians have priority on the sidewalk; bicycles should be ridden slowly there, and on the side closer to the road.**


When riding on the sidewalk, you must proceed at a speed that allows you to stop immediately if necessary. In addition, if your bicycle becomes an obstruction to pedestrian traffic, you must make a full stop.

**You are permitted to ride your bicycle on the sidewalk in the following cases:**

- (1) Where a road sign is posted that expressly permits it
- (2) If you are a child 12 years of age or younger, a senior citizen 70 years of age or older, or physically disabled
- (3) When it is dangerous to ride on the street




A road sign designating use by both pedestrians and bicycles



**4 Observe safety rules**


**Riding a bicycle under the influence of alcohol is prohibited.**

**The penalty:** Imprisonment for up to five years, or a maximum fine of ¥1,000,000




**Make a full stop at intersections and do a safety check.**

**The penalty:** Imprisonment for up to three months, or a maximum fine of ¥50,000



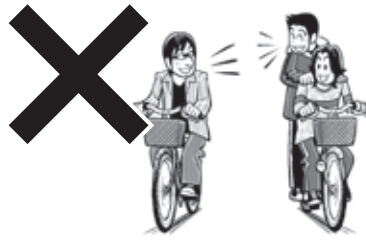
**Riding while using an umbrella or cell phone is prohibited**

**The penalty:** A maximum fine of ¥50,000




**Riding with passengers and riding with other riders in a row across the lane is prohibited.**

**The penalty:** A maximum fine of ¥20,000



**5 Children must wear helmets.**

Parents of riders 12 years of age or younger should have them wear bicycle helmets at all times.



● Examples of High Compensation When Bicycle Riders Cause Traffic Accidents

Compensation amount	Accident description
¥60,080,000	A high school student riding to school ran into a pedestrian, resulting in the pedestrian suffering a serious spinal injury.
¥50,000,000	A female high school student riding her bicycle at night while using her cell phone and without her headlight on crashed into a female nurse. The nurse remains seriously disabled.

## Living Together 1

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

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

The street, which is always bustling with people, is lined with many food and beverage outlets and various shops from a wide range of different countries all the way from Okubo-dori Avenue near JR Shinjuku Station to Shokuan-dori Avenue in Shinjuku City. While this liveliness does make the town exciting, it can also cause such problems as traffic jams, littering, and noise pollution deep into the night. These are issues that the Japanese and non-Japanese people who live in, work in, or even just visit the community must think about and solve together.

In this issue we report on clean-up activities in Shinjuku, organized by people in the Korean community who want to beautify their town.

# Shin-Okubo Clean-Up Activities

## Programs of the Shinjuku Korean Development Committee

On November 8, 2011, more than 50 Korean people gathered near Shokuan-dori Avenue to clean up the Okubo area. They were people from all walks of life, including businessmen who run companies and shops in the Okubo area, their employees, and high school students from the Tokyo Korean School.



Many people gathered at the meeting place.

The Shin-Okubo Clean-Up Activities program takes place every second Tuesday of the month, and is sponsored by the Shinjuku Korean Development Committee (hereafter referred to as "the Committee"). The Committee was established in April 2009 as a local organization based in the Hyakunin-cho and Okubo areas by Koreans that came to Japan in or after late 1980s. From around that time the Okubo area began flourishing, filled with Korean food and beverage outlets and popular Korean shops. The area was spotlighted as a town where people could enjoy Korean foods and Korean pop culture. However, the community has also faced such issues as littering, noise pollution, and illegal bicycle parking. The Committee formed under these circumstances, filled with the strong sense that "We Korean people must feel responsible for this town as well. We want to pour our efforts into the community as people of Shinjuku City." Since its establishment, the Committee has conducted clean-up activities every month without fail.



Participants passed out flyers to tourists as well.

On this day, in addition to the regular clean-up activities, staff members of the police department, Tokyo Metropolitan No. 3 Construction Office, Shinjuku City Traffic Affairs Division, and Shinjuku City's Okubo Branch Office also participated to advise on the removal of illegal posters and the handling of illegally parked bicycles. Organizing events in which city administration representatives and the Korean community work together makes it possible to accurately explain the town rules to both Japanese and Korean residents in their respective languages. The clean-up program was explained to local shop owners and even to tourists visiting the Okubo area, and everyone was encouraged to prevent littering.



After everyone divided into groups and began cleaning, it became clear that there was a lot of garbage littering the street. There were containers for food bought from vending machines, used plastic shopping bags, broken umbrellas, and cigarette butts. Every piece of litter was picked up. When they found garbage that shops and companies had disposed of at times other than the designated garbage collection days, clean-up participants entered the establishments and explained that they should dispose of items according to the methods Shinjuku City has designated.

After an hour, the Committee members sorted the garbage collected and then ended the clean-up activities for the day. Mr. Lee Hyo-Yeol, chairperson of the Committee, took a few minutes to explain about the program.



A lot of garbage was collected!

"This clean-up activity is carried out mostly by Korean people, but I believe it would be ideal for the whole multicultural community if we could include not only the Korean people who manage businesses in the Okubo area but also businesspeople of other nationalities and local people as well. To accomplish this, we need to deepen our understanding through working together on various events, such as local community crime prevention programs, patrols, and festivals. By inviting other foreign communities, I hope to get as many people as possible to join our activities and develop this area."

The key to multiculturalism is that people of various positions in the community—people who live here, work here, and even just come here to visit—all work together and understand each other. When people are from different countries, their culture and customs are different, of course; however, if Japanese and non-Japanese people live according to commonly shared rules, this will create an even more comfortable environment. The Committee we report about here is actively working on programs for their town, conscious that each and every person is a member of the community even though they are not of Japanese nationality. These types of foreign communities serve as important multicultural links that bring Japanese and non-Japanese people together.

We hope that you will also take a good look at your community. The town you live in is not somebody else's town, it is your town as well. Why not stop and think about what you can do for your town?

We will continue to spotlight the activities of our foreign communities in this "Living Together" section of the newsletter.

## Living Together 2

*I would love to study Japanese, but since I have children I can't just leave them at home and step out. Is there anyone out there who feels the*

same way? Then why not take your children with you to study Japanese as a family on the weekend?

Shinjuku Niji-no Kai (Shinjuku Rainbow Club), a Japanese-language volunteer group, conducts Japanese-language classes that you can participate in as a family. Children play with nursery room teachers in the adjoining room while the adults study Japanese. (Children who want to study Japanese can join the class as well, of course.) The Family Japanese-Language Class offers a place where the whole family can learn Japanese, make new friends, and build new relationships. Why not join us as a family on the weekends?



# Enjoy Learning Japanese!

## Shinjuku Niji-no Kai Family Japanese-Language Class

The Family Japanese-Language Class, which is held on Saturday mornings at Okubo Elementary School, is an enjoyable Japanese-language class where volunteers and participants can have fun studying Japanese. A major advantage is that there is a babysitting room next door where nursery room teachers play with the children. Not only can parents who are raising children study Japanese, their children who want to learn together can join the class as well.

On Saturday, January 14, 2012, 19 participants from various countries, including the United States, China, South Korea, and Turkey, gathered at Okubo Elementary School. Most of them brought their children, and the class began in a cheerful atmosphere where the laughter of children filled the air. During the first half of the class, the participants enjoy games and conversation in Japanese for one hour. On the day of our visit, they played the games *fuku-warai* (a contest where blindfolded players take turns arranging parts of a face), *karuta* (a traditional Japanese card game), *koma* (spinning tops), and *sugoroku* (a Japanese version of Parcheesi). During the latter half, participants studied according to their language ability for one hour.

Since participants can have an enjoyable time at the Family Japanese-Language Class with other participants and the volunteers, attending the class is a great opportunity for making new friends. Those who come to the class alone can feel comfortable as well, since they can find someone to study Japanese with. People who cannot speak a word of Japanese are of course very welcome. The volunteers are friendly, and can teach you from the very beginning. Why not join the fun?



A Comment from Ms. Jung-Mi Lee, a Shinjuku Niji-no Kai Member



With these classes, there's no need to feel shy about bringing your children. Since we are aiming to create a classroom where families feel free to join in, we will always help you, regardless of whether the children are crying or making noise. We are looking forward to your participation!



Peace of Mind with  
Babysitting Services

## Recruiting Students for Family Japanese-Language Class

Why not have fun learning Japanese with the entire family? There are babysitting services so that families with infants and toddlers who could not attend other Japanese-language classes can study here with great peace of mind. The participation fee is ¥500. You can join even in the middle of the term.

<b>Date and Time:</b>	Saturdays from May 12 through July 14, 2012, 10 a.m. to noon (total of 10 sessions)
<b>Location:</b>	Okubo Elementary School (1-1-21 Okubo)
<b>To Apply:</b>	Cultural Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future, Tel: 03-3350-1141

