



Shinjuku News

No. 29

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Foreign Language Website

www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/

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

The Registration System for Foreign Residents Will Change on Monday, July 9, 2012

With the introduction of a new resident management system and revisions to the Residential Basic Book Act, the registration system for foreign residents will change. For details about the change, please read the pamphlet *The Registration System for Foreign Residents Will Change*.



System Revisions—Key Points



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

With the abolition of the Alien Registration Act, the Residential Basic Book Act will also apply to those with a medium- or long-term stay visa (as a rule, foreign residents with a valid visa period of stay of over three months) and special permanent residents, and therefore a residence record will be made for such foreign residents as well.

★ Unlike the procedures for foreign resident registration, if you are planning to move out of Shinjuku City or out of Japan you will have to file a notification of moving out in advance at the Shinjuku City Office.

For More Information on Residence Records

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Tel: 0570-066-630
(From PHS or IP phones, Tel: 03-6301-1337)



Notification Letters of Provisional Residence Records Are Being Mailed Out

The City Office began mailing out the following notifications about converting to the new system, so you should receive one no later than Friday, July 6. Please check the information in the notification for accuracy.

★ A provisional residence record was made for foreign residents who are considered eligible for a residence record based on the information listed in the foreign resident registry, and a notification of registered items in the provisional residence records was mailed. The provisional residence records will become residence records on Monday, July 9.

★ A household status confirmation form was mailed to households believed to have both Japanese nationals and foreign residents (multinational households).

★ For registered foreign residents who are not eligible for the residence record, such as those whose visas have become invalid or who have only short-term stay visas, a notification stating that fact was mailed out.

For More Information on Provisional Residence Records

Resident Registration Section, Family and Resident Registration Division
(Please see the telephone number written below.)



A Residence Card or Special Permanent Resident Certificate Will Be Issued

Instead of the current foreign resident registration card, a residence card will be issued to those with medium- or long-term stay visas. In addition, a special permanent resident certificate will be issued to special permanent residents.

★ The residence card will be issued at the airport or seaport of entry or the regional immigration bureau service counter.

★ The special permanent resident certificate will be issued at the service counter of the Resident Registration Section, Family and Resident Registration Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F).

★ The foreign resident registration card currently held by special permanent residents and those with a medium- or long-term stay visa will serve as a residence card or special permanent resident certificate for a designated period of time.

For More Information on Residence Cards and Special Permanent Resident Certificates

Immigration Information Center, Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice, Tel: 0570-013904
(From PHS or IP phones: Tel: 03-5796-7112)

Inquiries

Until Friday, July 6: Call the consultation counter concerning provisional residence records and related matters (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. B1F), Tel: 03-5273-4359
From Monday, July 9: Contact the Resident Registration Section, Family and Resident Registration Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F), Tel: 03-5273-3601

Continued on page 2.

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

Those for Whom Residence Records Will Not Be Created on July 9

- Those with medium- or long-term stay visas who have not completed foreign resident registration

Foreign residents who have not completed foreign resident registration by Friday, July 6 will not have a residence record created, even if they are eligible for one. These people must bring their residence cards or other such documents and complete the designated notification procedures for creating their residence records within 14 days after Monday, July 9.

For more information, please call the Resident Registration Section, Family and Resident Registration Division, using the telephone number written at right.

- Personal seal registration for those not eligible for residence records
Illegal immigrants and anyone in Japan on a short-term stay, such as tourists are not eligible to have a residence record made. They

also cannot register a personal seal on or after Monday, July 9.

The personal seal registrations of anyone not eligible for a residence record will become void as of July 9, and these individuals will also not be able to obtain personal seal registration certificates.

- Please contact the responsible department concerning the changes in other services offered by the Shinjuku City Office.

Inquiries

Until Friday, July 6: Contact the consultation counter concerning provisional residence records and related matters (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. B1F), Tel: 03-5273-4359
From Monday, July 9: Call the Resident Registration Section, Family and Resident Registration Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F), Tel: 03-5273-3601

Changes in National Health Insurance Due to the Revised Foreign Resident Registration System

- For some multinational households, the family relationship will be changed if a residence record is created for foreign residents. If the head of the household changes, the person who is obliged to pay insurance premiums may also change. New health insurance cards will be issued in such cases to reflect the new head of the household.
- Along with the changes in household status, your National Health Insurance number may also change.
- Enrollment requirements for the National Health Insurance plan will change. Before the revision of the related laws, the enrollment requirement

was having a visa period of stay of one year or longer or having a document that clarifies a stay in Japan of one year or longer. After the revision, the enrollment requirement will be to have a visa status of residence of more than three months or having a document that clarifies a stay in Japan of more than three months. (Please note that there are also other enrollment requirements). Please call for more information.

Inquiries National Health Insurance Eligibility Section, Medical Insurance and Pension Division, Health Department, Tel: 03-5273-4146

Beware of Food Poisoning!

The rainy season in Japan typically runs from June through July. Because rain can fall for several days straight during this time of year, everyone needs to be extra careful about health hazards such as mold and food poisoning.



Ways to Prevent Food Poisoning

- Disinfect your kitchen utensils with hot water or bleach and dry them completely.
- Place food in containers with lids or wrap them in plastic food wrap.

Note: You need to be especially careful about food that is eaten raw. In addition, because children have a low resistance to food poisoning, be careful when feeding them eggs and raw food.

Let's Go to a Summer Festival!

Kagurazaka Festival July 25 (Wed.) through 28 (Sat.)

Ground Cherry Plant Market

Potted *hozuki* (ground cherry plants) with their vivid vermilion-colored flowers will be on sale, and a refreshing beer garden will be open. There will also be a *yukata* (summer cotton kimono) dress up service and information on strolling through the Kagurazaka area.

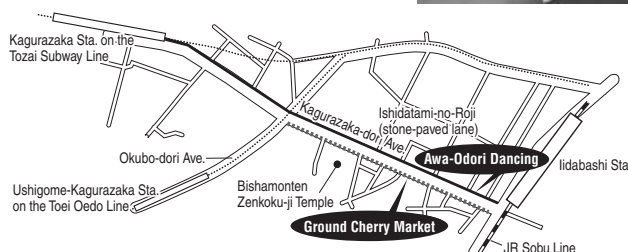
Awa-Odori Dancing

A total of approximately 15 groups (each consisting of dozens of people) will dance along the slope to the sound of the shamisen, flute, and Japanese drum.

Location: Kagurazaka-dori Avenue

Inquiries: Kagurazaka-dori Merchants Association Office

Website: www.kagurazaka.in/matsuri/index.html



Free Health Checkups



Shinjuku City offers free health checkups for those between 40 and 74 years of age who are enrolled in Shinjuku City National Health Insurance. Let's undergo a health checkup by December 31 (Mon.), 2012.

Shinjuku City Health Checkup Information Center

If you do not know how to make a reservation or if you do not have a health checkup slip, please call the Shinjuku City Health Checkup Information Center (Tel: 0120-502-252) anytime from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday between June 1 (Fri.) and September 29 (Sat.), 2012.

Inquiries: Health Checkup Section, Health Promotion Division (Shinjuku City Office New Wing of Annex 2, 1F), Tel: 03-5273-4207



Twelve Young People from Our Friendship City of Mitte in Germany Visited Japan

Our youth exchange program with the German city of Mitte, Berlin, one of our friendship cities, has been going on since 1992.

From April 1 through 12 this year, a group of 12 young people from Mitte visited Shinjuku City. They had a fun and meaningful stay filled with friendly talks with young Japanese, tours of facilities, and exchanges of opinions with various people.

In this issue, we will describe the tea ceremony the group participated in at Shinjuku Bunka Center during the third day of their stay.



Where Is Mitte?

Mitte means "center" or "middle" in German, and this district is located in the center of Berlin. In 1992, Shinjuku City signed a friendship-city agreement with the district, which was called Tiergarten at the time, and the friendly ties have existed ever since. In 2001, Tiergarten merged with two other neighboring districts to form Mitte. Shinjuku and Mitte have many characteristics in common, such as being in the center of the capital, having many foreign residents, and being rich in natural greenery.



Reichstag building (German parliament conference hall)



Brandenburg Gate



Activities of the Day

At the beginning, all of the participants sat on the floor Japanese style in a circle and learned the way of the tea ceremony. Later they drank Japanese tea and ate some sweets. Since the youths were unaccustomed to the Japanese language, a simultaneous interpreter interpreted what was said into German using a microphone, and the youths listened through earphones.



Learning about the tea ceremony while sitting on the floor Japanese style.



The visitors eating Japanese confections using small wooden spears.



Listening carefully to the explanation.



After the ceremony, the young visitors from Mitte enjoyed friendly exchanges with Japanese people in a relaxed atmosphere.

We Asked Our Visitors

Q: How does it feel to wear a kimono?

A: Although the obi sash feels very tight, I'm happy to be wearing a kimono that I like.



Q: How did you like the taste of the tea and Japanese sweets?

A: I think it takes time to get used to the taste of Japanese confections, but the bitterness of the *macha* green tea goes well with their sweetness.

Q: Where would you like to visit in Japan?

A: Since it is flower-viewing season, I am looking forward to seeing the cherry blossoms of Japan.

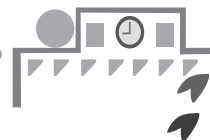


The three persons who answered our questions (left to right: Yannic, Anja, and Justus)

The young people from Mitte also asked many questions, such as, "Are the decorative wall hanging and flowers in the Japanese-style room related to the tea ceremony?" and "I heard that Japanese girls have to learn tea ceremony before they get married. Is this true?" We could see that they were eager to learn about Japanese culture.

With the recent visit of our German friends, we hope to maintain friendly ties between Shinjuku City and Mitte.

Municipal Elementary and Junior High School Enrollment in April 2013



Compulsory education in Japan comprises six years of elementary school and three years of junior high school for a total of nine years for children from 6 to 15 years of age. Although foreign residents are not obliged to go to a Japanese elementary or junior high school, parents can apply for their children's admission to a Japanese school if they so desire. There are currently about 480 foreign children attending public schools in Shinjuku City.

Please note that a child may not enroll in a Japanese junior high school if he/she did not graduate from a Japanese elementary school. If you would like to enroll your child in a municipal elementary or junior high school, please file an application for admission.

In addition, there is a school selection system for those starting the first grade of elementary school or first year of junior high school. Under this system, you may choose from a selection of schools outside the regular school district. (Please note that in some cases students cannot select certain schools designated in advance by the city.) If you would like to choose such a school, you will be issued a school selection application form at the time of application.

Elementary schools hold open houses between late August and late September, and junior high schools hold them between late September and late October. This is an opportunity to see a school and observe a class in session. Please call for more information on the date and time.

Eligibility for Entering Elementary School:

Those born between April 2, 2006, and April 1, 2007

Eligibility for Entering Junior High School:

Those born between April 2, 2000, and April 1, 2001

Application Period (for Submitting an Application for an Optional School):

For elementary school—September 3 (Mon.) through 28 (Fri.) (except for Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays)

For junior high school—October 1 (Mon.) through 31 (Wed.) (except for Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays)

To apply: Please bring the notice the Board of Education's School Management Division mailed to you; your residence card, special permanent resident certificate, or foreign resident registration card; and the same documents for the child you wish to enroll to the School Management Division of the Board of Education. Note: If you cannot speak Japanese, please bring along someone who can.

Application/Inquiries	School Management Division, Board of Education Secretariat
	Tel 03-5273-3089



Shinjuku City Japanese-Language Class, 2nd Term

Recruiting Students

Let's learn basic Japanese for everyday living!

If there is an opening, you can start in the middle of the year.



Eligibility	Beginning level—Those who need to learn basic Japanese necessary for everyday living. (However, those who are of junior high school age and younger are not permitted to join these classes.)
Date and Time	Weekdays, September through December, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Evening classes from 6:30 to 8:30 are offered only on Mondays and Thursdays. There are classes that meet once a week, and others that meet twice a week. Schedules vary depending on the class location.

Location	10 locations in the city, including Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza
Fee	Classes that meet once a week—¥2,000 Classes that meet twice a week—¥4,000 Note: There will be no refunds of fees.
To Apply	Complete an application form and send it to Shinjuku Bunka Center by mail (6-14-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku 160-0022) or fax (03-3350-4839). Application forms are available at Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, Shinjuku the Foreign Resident Advisory Corner in the City Office, and Shinjuku Bunka Center. It can also be downloaded via the website of the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future (www.regasu-shinjuku.or.jp/?p=630). Applications are accepted from June 29 through August 6. All applicants will be notified of the results by mail by August 16.

Inquiries	Cultural Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future	
	Tel 03-3350-1141	Fax 03-3350-4839
	E-mail bunka@regasu-shinjuku.or.jp	

Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza is a facility Shinjuku City created to promote the city's plans for a multicultural environment. Please feel free to visit the plaza, which offers:

- A Japanese-Language Study Corner with space to study and textbooks for learning Japanese.
- A Foreign Resident Consultation Corner with information on everyday living and consultation services for any problems. Note: You can also ask for advice concerning residence status and visas at the plaza.
- A Reference and Information Corner full of information and reference materials useful to foreign residents.
- A Multipurpose Space you can use for classes and events.

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: www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/plaza.html

