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<http://www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/>

A Center for Multicultural Living and International Exchange

Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

Use the Plaza to Expand Your World



Name: Carla Valverde
Country: Portugal

I found out about the Plaza's Japanese-language classes from the Internet and started to attend them. Although it is difficult to do the homework when I am busy with work, thanks to the teachers who carefully teach me again and again I am improving little by little. I am thankful to the teachers who make the classes fun!



Name: Khan Munawar
Country: Pakistan

I found out about the Plaza when I went to Okubo Hospital, which is next door. Since then I come here to study Japanese and participate in the events. I think this is the ideal place to learn Japanese. If you are having problems with the Japanese language, you should try using the Plaza. Let's study together!

The Voices of People Who Use Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza



Name: Cho Sho
Country: China

I came to Japan from Shanghai at the end of last year when I got married. Since I cannot speak Japanese very well, my wife found out about the Plaza from the Internet and told me about it. The entire staff is very kind, and at the Japanese-language classes they explain whatever I don't understand with lots of details. I always enjoy coming here!



Name: Kim Geen Sook
Country: Korea

There are a lot of helpful materials and bulletins on events in Korean. In addition, since there are people at the Plaza whom I can ask for advice in Korean, I know I can come here whenever I need help.



Name: Bharat Karki
Country: Nepal

It's great that I can study in a relaxed atmosphere just like at home. The materials for studying Japanese are really good, too, and I especially like the study corner, which can be used free of charge. This is the kind of comfortable place I often drop by even when I don't have anything particular I need to get done.



Name: Lee Jong Ok
Country: Korea

The Plaza is conveniently located near the station, but I first heard about it from my friend. The Plaza's staff teaches foreigners like me all kinds of things in a warm and friendly manner. That's how I developed the habit of coming here first whenever I had any problems or concerns. I hope more people will discover the Plaza.

Please read page 4 for more information about Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza.



Shinjuku City Temporary Welfare Benefit

Shinjuku City Temporary Special Benefit for Households with Children

This is an announcement about two new programs—the Temporary Welfare Benefit and Temporary Special Benefit for Households with Children—designed to help low-income households and households raising children. The programs were established to alleviate the effects of the consumer tax hike introduced this April.

Temporary Welfare Benefit

1. Eligibility

Registered residents of Shinjuku City as of January 1, 2014 who are not assessed the FY2014 special city resident tax (per capita amount).

Note: Dependents of residents who are taxed the per capita amount and residents who receive public financial assistance for everyday living are not eligible for this program.

2. Benefit Amount

The benefit amount is ¥10,000 per person, or ¥15,000 for those receiving the Basic Pension for the Elderly, Basic Pension for the Disabled, or Child Support Allowance.

- ◆ The application form for the Temporary Welfare Benefit will be mailed out between mid-June and the end of July to residents who are eligible.

Temporary Special Benefit for Households with Children

1. Eligibility

Registered residents of Shinjuku City as of January 1, 2014 who received the Child Allowance for January 2014 and whose income for 2013 does not exceed the income restrictions set for the Child Allowance (see the table below).

Note: Residents eligible for the Temporary Welfare Benefit and those who receive public financial assistance for everyday living are not eligible for this program.

Child Allowance Income Restriction Amounts

No. of Additional Dependent Family Members/Relatives	Income Restriction Amount	Guideline for Income
0	¥6,220,000	¥8,333,000
1	¥6,600,000	¥8,756,000
2	¥6,980,000	¥9,178,000
3	¥7,360,000	¥9,600,000

2. Benefit Amount

The benefit amount is ¥10,000 per applicable child.

- ◆ The application form for the Temporary Special Benefit for Households with Children was mailed out in mid-June to those who received the Child Allowance in January 2014.

Note: Depending on conditions such as the amount of income you earned during 2013, you may not be eligible for this program.



The application period for both programs will be **from June 18 (Wed.) through December 17 (Wed.)**.

Application Procedures

When your application form comes in the mail, please fill in the required information and send it and the required documents back using the enclosed envelope. You can also file an application in person at the Temporary Welfare Benefit Office (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg., 6F). From June 18 (Wed.) through September 17 (Wed.), the service counter of Shinjuku City Office Annex 1, 1F lobby will also accept applications.



Caution! Beware of remittance fraud and fraudulent acquisition of personal information involving these programs.

For inquiries about application procedures:

**Shinjuku City Temporary Welfare Benefit Call Center,
Tel: 0120-78-9292 (toll-free)**

Languages: Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean
Reception Until December 17 (Wed.)
Period: Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays; however, inquiries will be accepted on Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays until August 24 (Sun.).

Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Until 7 p.m. on Tuesdays)
Information Provided: Details on the benefit programs, application procedures and application forms and notification mailing conditions.

Other inquiries (in Japanese)

Temporary Welfare Benefit Office
 1-4-1 Kabuki-cho (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 6F), Shinjuku-ku 160-8484
 Tel: 03-5273-4351

German Youth Tour Group Visits Japan

Twelve members of a youth tour group from the Mitte District of Berlin, Germany, visited Japan from April 13 to 23. The tour group stayed with Japanese families in Shinjuku City, played blind soccer, and experienced various aspects of Japanese culture, such as a tea ceremony, wearing a kimono, making *kazari-makizushi* (decorative sushi roll) and farming at Yatsugadake.

"I think Shinjuku is a wonderful town with age-old traditions as well as the latest technology," said Helene, a 21-year-old member of the group. "I hope that both our cities will prosper even more through this exchange program."



▲Making *kazari-makizushi*

We believe that the young people who recently came to Japan will become bridges of friendship between our two cities.



▲Attending a tea ceremony and trying on kimono

About the Mitte District

Mitte is located in the center of Berlin, Germany's capital, and shares many characteristics with Shinjuku City, including having many foreign residents and plenty of natural greenery. Mitte and Shinjuku signed a friendly cooperative agreement in 1994.

A Useful Free App Made in Various Languages!



This free app, called Tagengo seikatsu joho (Japan Life Guide), presents information that can make everyday life in Japan more convenient. There is no charge for use of this app. Please take advantage of this service!

Contents:

- "Visa status of residence," "Housing," "Education," "Medical treatment," and more.
- Information will also be transmitted when an earthquake with a seismic intensity of 5 or more occurs.

Languages Available:

English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Thai, German, French, Russian and Japanese (with *furigana*).

How to Download the App:

Access the website: <http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengo/>

Access the Apple App Store via iOS or Google Play via Android phones and use the search engine to find "多言語生活情報 (Multilingual Living Information)" or "Japan Life Guide."

Inquiries: Multicultural Living Division, Multicultural Living Department, Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), Tel: 03-5213-1725

Invoices for Resident's Tax and National Health Insurance Premiums Mailed Out



The invoices for National Health Insurance premiums and residents tax* for the current fiscal year have been mailed from Shinjuku City Office to the homes of residents paying taxes. Please pay according to the information on your invoices. You can pay using these invoices at financial institutions such as banks and post offices, and those with a bar code can also be paid at convenience stores.

* This applies to those who pay via regular collection (i.e., whose residents tax is not deducted their monthly wages).

Inquiries (in Japanese):

Concerning resident's tax:

Taxation Section No. 1, Tax Affairs Division,
Tel: 03-5273-4107
Taxation Section No. 2, Tax Affairs Division,
Tel: 03-5273-4108

Concerning National Health Insurance premiums:

Collection Section, Medical Insurance and Pension Division, Tel: 03-5273-4158

Let's learn basic Japanese for everyday living!

Recruiting Students for Shinjuku City Japanese-Language Class (September through December)



Eligibility: Beginning level. For those who need to learn basic Japanese necessary for everyday living. However, those junior high school age and younger are not permitted to join the class.
Date and Time: Weekdays, September through December. There are

classes that meet once a week and those that meet twice a week. Schedules vary depending on the class location. Class hours are 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (Evening classes are on Mondays and Thursdays only)

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 mail, fax or email it to the Cultural Exchange Division. Application forms are available at Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, the Foreign Resident Advisory Corner in the Shinjuku City Office, and Shinjuku Bunka Center. You can also download the form via the website below. The application deadline is August 4. The results will be mailed out to all applicants by August 14.

Application/inquiries:

Cultural Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future
Shinjuku Bunka Center, 6-14-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku 160-0022
Tel: 03-3350-1141, Fax: 03-3350-4839

E-mail: bunka@regasu-shinjuku.or.jp

Website: www.regasu-shinjuku.or.jp/?p=630

Improved Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza Services for Foreign Residents



(1) You can study Japanese



(2) There are reference materials and information in various languages available



(3) You can participate in activities to promote multicultural harmony



(4) You can ask for and receive advice in your native language

The Plaza has various services, and we hope that everyone will use them. We look forward to serving you!



(1) Japanese-Language Study Corner

Various study materials are available for those who wish to learn Japanese. Since there are also books on culture and international exchange, some people use the space like a library. It is a popular location.



(2) Reference and Information Corner

The local bulletin Shinjuku City produces for foreign residents is available here as well. Various types of useful information to enrich your life in Japan—such as on city administration, Japanese-language classes, volunteer programs, international exchange, lectures and other special events—are provided.



(3) Multipurpose Space

This space can be used free of charge for events with the goal of encouraging multicultural harmony and deepening understanding of foreign cultures, as well as for friendly gatherings. For example, international exchange groups can use this space.



(4) Foreign Resident Consultation Corner, 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

At the Plaza, consultants are available to listen to your concerns in your native language. They can explain how to complete administrative procedures at the City Office, as well as how to handle any minor difficulty you may be experiencing in everyday life. If you are not able to come to the Plaza in person, you can also call for advice. Please feel free to ask for help instead of worrying alone.

Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
Korean (afternoon only)	Chinese, Thai and Nepalese (afternoon only)	English (every first, third and fifth Wednesdays of the month)	Chinese and Myanmar	Korean and English (every third Friday of the month only)



Shrestha Shahadave, Nepalese Consultant

It doesn't matter how minor your problem or question may be in everyday life, or if you would like to find out about studying Japanese. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask for help. We can think of a solution together!

As of April, consultation services in Nepalese are available on Tuesday afternoons.

Consultation Support Center for Foreign Residents

The Plaza also has a Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau consultation service counter where you can ask for advice about visa procedures and various everyday problems.
Telephone consultation (free of charge): Tel: 03-3202-5535 or 03-5155-4039
Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed on the second and fourth Wednesdays)
Languages: English and Chinese are available during business hours. Portuguese, Spanish and three other languages are available depending on the day of the week.



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)

しんじゅく多文化共生プラザ

Search

