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Shinjuku News



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

Five Years After the Great East
Japan Earthquake

Self-Help and Cooperative Help: Keeping Disaster Damage to a Minimum

Five years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake struck in March 2011, with its epicenter in Sanriku offing off the coast of Tohoku, and the major disaster by the accompanying tsunami caused. Are you prepared for such a disaster? An earthquake in the metropolitan area may strike at any time, so let's be prepared for earthquakes and stay alert in case of an emergency.

Simple Toilet

If the sewage system is damaged, flush toilets cannot be used. It is wise to keep a simple emergency toilet ready for use.

First-Stage Firefighting

Cooperate with your neighbors in first-stage firefighting activities if a fire breaks out in the neighborhood. This prevents the damage from spreading.

Self-Help

Protect Yourself
and Your Family

Prepare a Stock of Emergency Supplies

When a disaster strikes, water, electricity and gas supplies may be stopped temporarily. It is wise to keep a minimum three-day supply of drinking water and food on hand, as well as a supply of medicine and first aid items.

Cooperative Help

Protect Your
Community
Together

Install Braces to Keep Furniture from Toppling Over

Keeping damage from toppling furniture to a minimum helps to speed up rescue and relief activities. Shinjuku City offers home-visitation consultation services about using braces to keep furniture from toppling over and free installation of braces for households in the city. (There is a charge for the braces.) For more information, please call the Security Affairs Section of the Security Affairs Division.
Inquiries: Security Affairs Section, Security Affairs Division, Tel: 03-5273-4592 (in Japanese)

Neighbors Help Each Other

After an earthquake strikes, government institutions such as the Shinjuku City Office and the fire department are not able to act immediately. In past earthquakes, families and neighbors rescued many people. Be sure to check on the safety of others and help with rescue activities, cooperating with members of the community, while protecting yourself.

Multicultural Disaster Prevention Festa Shinjuku Will Be Held on May 28 (Sat.), 2016

There will be various first-hand learning corners as well as fun programs, food and dancing from various countries, and a stamp rally with disaster prevention goods gifts. Interpreters will be available at the event. We look forward to welcoming you!

Date and time: May 28 (Sat.), 2016, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (This event will be canceled if the weather is bad.)

Location: Okubo Park (2-43 Kabuki-cho)

Inquiries: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabuki-cho, Tel: 03-5291-5171), Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. (closed on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, national holidays and during the year-end/New Year holidays)

Scenes from the previous event on February 6, 2016



Disaster prevention corner earthquake simulation truck



International exchange stage performance by Capoeira Tempo

The next issue of *Shinjuku News* will be published in July 2016. *Shinjuku News* is available at various public facilities, including the Shinjuku City Office, Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, Branch Offices and public libraries.

Welcome to Shinjuku City!

Please Take Advantage of Our Services for Foreign Residents

April is the time of year when many of us need to adjust to new surroundings, such as those entering school or a new job. We imagine that many people are making a new start in life in Shinjuku City as well. In this issue, we provide information for such foreign residents.

If You Have a Problem, Let's Talk about It!—Shinjuku Foreign Resident Advisory Corner and Foreign Resident Consultation Corner

What do you do when you have a hard decision to make, or have a question or problem in your everyday life here in Japan? If you've ever felt like you don't know whom to ask or don't know how to ask because you can't speak Japanese, then please read about Foreign Resident Advisory Corner and Foreign Resident Consultation Corner in this issue! Consultations are free of charge. Please take advantage of these services.



Shinjuku City Main Office Foreign Resident Advisory Corner
(consultations in person or over the phone)



Location: Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F (1-4-1 Kabuki-cho)
Hours: 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
English, Chinese and Korean				

English and Japanese, Tel: 03-5272-5060;
Chinese, Tel: 03-5272-5070; Korean, Tel: 03-5272-5080

Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza Foreign Resident Consultation Corner
(consultations in person or over the phone)



Location: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabuki-cho)
Hours: 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

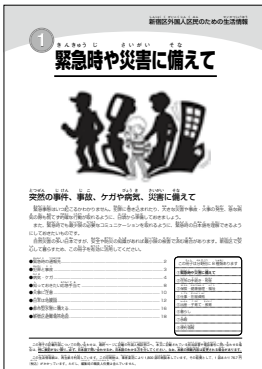
Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
Korean (afternoon only)	Chinese and Thai	English (first, third and fifth weeks only)	Chinese and Myanmarese	Korean
	Nepalese (afternoon only)			English (third week only)

Tel: 03-5291-5171
Website: <http://www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/plaza.html>



Useful Information for Everyday Living

Website: www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/pdf/startbook.html
(Guide to Living in Shinjuku)



Information on Everyday Living for Foreign Residents of Shinjuku City

This guide is divided into eight themes and offers information that foreign residents need for everyday life. (1) Preparing for Emergencies, Accidents, Injuries, Illnesses and Disasters; (2) Procedures for Changes of Address and Taxes; (3) Insurance, Health Maintenance and Welfare; (4) Employment and Status of Residence; (5) Childbirth, Child-Raising, and Education; (6) Living; (7) Leisure; and (8) Useful Information.



Guide to Living in Shinjuku

When foreign residents first come to Japan, they typically have a lot of problems and difficulties that are a result of differences in language and culture. This guidebook contains a number of easy-to-understand explanations with illustrations and helpful information on various aspects of everyday life, such as Japanese-language classes, procedures to be completed at the Shinjuku City Office, and descriptions of aspects of Japanese culture.

Languages: Japanese (with kana), English, Chinese and Korean (the *Guide to Living in Shinjuku* is written in all four languages; for Vietnamese, Nepalese and Burmese, download the summarized version from the Shinjuku City website.)

Where you can find the guide: City Administrative Information Corner (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F, 1-4-1 Kabuki-cho), Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabuki-cho), Branch Offices, etc.

Recruiting Students for Shinjuku City Japanese-Language Class (April through July)

Let's learn basic Japanese for everyday living! If there is an opening, you can start in the middle of the term.

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, April through July 2016. 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

To apply: Please contact the Regional Exchange Division below.

Website: www.regasu-shinjuku.or.jp/?p=273#sjc

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



Enjoy Studying with Your Kids! Family Japanese-Language Classes for Foreign Residents

Babysitting Services Are Available



Wouldn't it be fun to learn Japanese with your family? There are babysitting services, so families with infants and toddlers can study in a worry-free environment. You can join in at any time.

Eligibility: Foreign children and parents whose Japanese is at an introductory or beginner level

Date and time: Every Saturday from May 14 (Sat.) through July 16 (Sat.), 2016, from 10 a.m. to noon for a total of 10 sessions

Location: Okubo Elementary School 3F, Tsutsuji Room (1-1-21 Okubo, Shinjuku-ku)

Fee: ¥500 per person (total of 10 classes); babysitting services are free of charge

Capacity: 20 families on a first-come, first-served basis

Cosponsor: Shinjuku Niji-no-kai (Rainbow Club)

To apply: You can apply by fax, e-mail or postal mail to the Regional Exchange Division below. Please be sure to supply or write down (1) the parent's name (including *furigana*) and language he/she usually speaks; (2) the child's name (including *furigana*), age, and language he/she usually speaks; (3) address; (4) telephone number; (5) fax number (if you have one); and (6) name of the class.

Website: www.regasu-shinjuku.or.jp/?p=40305

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



Why Not Challenge Yourself by Participating in the Japanese-Language Speech Contest "Shabeleon '16"?

Fill a seven-minute speech with your enthusiasm, and show everyone the fruits of your Japanese-language studies!

Date and time: June 18 (Sat.), 2016, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. (subject to change)

Note: A party will be held after the contest.

Location: Shinjuku Bunka Center 3F, small hall (6-14-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku)

Eligibility and capacity: Those who live, work, or go to school in Shinjuku City and whose mother 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), excluding those that criticize or praise a particular person or organization.

To apply: Submit a completed speech contest application form and your planned speech in person or by mail to the Regional Exchange Division below by May 11 (Wed.), 2016. For more information, see the contest guidelines.

Note: The speech contest application form and guidelines are available at the Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, the Multicultural Society Promotion Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F), Shinjuku Cosmic Center, and Shinjuku Bunka Center.

For inquiries regarding the above-mentioned classes and events:

Regional Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future
Inside Shinjuku Cosmic Center, 3-1-2 Okubo, Shinjuku-ku 169-0072, **Tel:** 03-3232-5121, **Fax:** 03-3209-1833

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 with a student visa status (Japanese-government-sponsored foreign students are not eligible.)
- 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 specialized course at a specialized training collage) and are planning to continue their studies for at least another year
- Those who have completed foreign resident registration procedures in Shinjuku City and are currently living in Shinjuku City
- 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: Multicultural Society Promotion Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F), **Tel:** 03-5273-3504



Tax Rates for Light Motor Vehicles (Including Motorcycles) Will Change in FY2016



Although the tax for all motorcycles will increase equally, the tax for three-wheeled and four-wheeled motor vehicles will be different depending on the date of the vehicle's first inspection. Three-wheeled and four-wheeled motor vehicles that receive their vehicle number during FY2015 and have designated environmental functions will have a lower tax rate according to those functions. Please call for more information.

Inquiries: Collection Section, Tax Affairs Division (Shinjuku City Office, Main Bldg. 6F), **Tel:** 03-5273-4139 (in Japanese)

Discover Shinjuku's Most Attractive Qualities

Shinjuku City has many tourist sites, such as Kabukicho, Japan's leading downtown district, and the Shinjuku Imperial Garden, a famous site for viewing cherry blossoms. There are also many cultural assets that reveal the culture and history of the community right in everyday places that are easy to overlook.

This new series describes cultural assets and traditional events that tell the history of Shinjuku City. In this first issue, we introduce tangible folk cultural assets. Why not discover Shinjuku's most attractive qualities by learning about hidden cultural assets, famous places and traditional events?

Inquiries: Cultural Resource Section, Culture and Tourism Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. B1F), Tel: 03-5273-4126 (in Japanese)

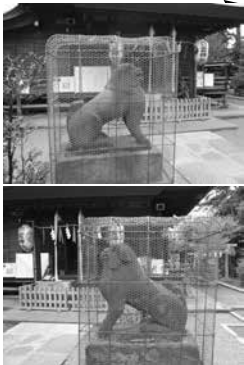


Nakai Goryo-jinja Shrine

Stone Guardian Dogs of Nakai Goryo-jinja Shrine

Location: 2-29-16 Nakai
Date of creation: Early Edo Period (1603-1867)

These are the oldest existing stone guardian dogs in Shinjuku City. These important works of stone show the bond between the residents in Nakai and the guardian shrine during the Edo Period.



Yoroi-jinja Shrine

Yoroi-jinja Shrine and Stone Guardian Lion Dog Koshin Tower

Location: 3-16-18 Kita-Shinjuku
According to legend, the armor of Yamato Takeru, famous as the god of swordsmanship, and that of Tairano Masakado, military commander during the Heian Period (794-1185), are buried here. At Ten-jinja Shrine within the shrine grounds, you can see a very rare stone guardian dog *koshin* tower.



Zenkoku-ji Temple

Stone Tiger of Zenkoku-ji Temple

Location: 5-36 Kagurazaka
Date of creation: Late Edo Period
Bishamonten—the deity Zenkoku-ji Temple is devoted to—had a tiger as his avatar and guardian from ancient days. The stone tiger is very rare in the metropolitan area, and this is the only one in Shinjuku City.



Ichigaya Kamegaoka Hachimangu Shrine

Power Stones of Ichigaya Kamegaoka Hachimangu Shrine

Location: 15 Ichigaya-Hachiman-cho
Date of creation: Late Edo Period
On such occasions as religious festivals, the village people would compare their strength and techniques in lifting massive stones, and then dedicate these as power stones. The year of dedication, the name of the persons who held up the stones and the weights are engraved on the stones.



Taiso-ji Temple

Statues of Enma and Datsueba at Taiso-ji Temple

Location: 2-9-2 Shinjuku
Date of creation: Late Edo Period
At 5.5 meters high, this is the largest statue of Enma, the King of Hell, in the metropolitan area. With fixed, glaring eyes and an open mouth, the great Enma attracted the faith of the common people since the Edo Period as "Enma-san of Naito-Shinjuku." It is said that Datsueba—or Old Hag of Hell—served the great Enma, and took off the clothes of the dead who came to cross the Sanzu River and weighed their sins. Because she took off people's clothes, she was worshipped as the goddess of commerce in the brothels of Naito-Shinjuku.

Note: Taiso-ji Temple will put the statues of Enma and Datsueba on display on July 15 and 16. There is also the bronze statue of the seated Jizo Bosatsu, which is designated as a cultural property of Tokyo.



Shojuin Temple

Statue of Datsueba at Shojuin Temple

Location: 2-15-20 Shinjuku
Date of creation: Around early Edo Period
Since hood-like cotton is draped from the head to the shoulders of the statue, it is also called Wata-no Obaba (Old Cotton Lady). Many pilgrims visit the temple seeking divine aid in curing coughs.

