

# ***NAPIA*** ***VOL. 26 May***

***NAPIA is a newsletter issued by Nagasaki International Association for foreign residents.***

Edited by: Nagasaki International Association

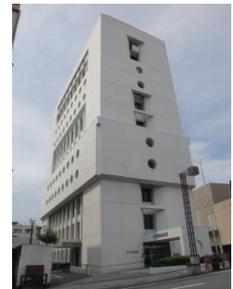
## **Introduction to the Nagasaki International Association**

We promote international exchange by acting as a bridge between Nagasaki and a variety of countries from all over the world. We provide a wide range of information on life in Nagasaki and opportunities for international exchange. This edition of NAPIA contains more detailed information on specific activities and events that we hold.

We are open every week,

Monday to Friday, from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm.

Our lobby contains many books, pamphlets and other materials that are free to access, and we also regularly hold Japanese culture classes.



## **The 6th Japanese Speech Contest for Non-Native Speakers**

The Japanese Speech Contest is an event where foreign residents of Nagasaki give a speech about their experiences of living in Nagasaki and Japan as a whole. On the day, around 10 people, who have passed the initial round of the contest, will deliver their speeches.

Last year, 11 contestants from China, South Korea, Mexico, and Germany passionately told their stories. It's very interesting and sometimes surprising to listen to people from various countries talk about their thoughts on Nagasaki and Japan! Last year, someone who came to watch the contest even decided that they would participate this year – so why not come along and see what you think? Entry is free, and you can come and go as you wish.

Please invite your friends and come and listen to some interesting speeches.

Date & Time: Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 13:30 – 16:00

Venue: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Hall, Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture  
(1-1-1 Tateyama, Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Prefecture)



## Do you know about the Japanese National Pension System?



All people who are registered to reside (live) in Japan and aged between 20 and 59, irrespective of their nationality, are required by law to be covered by the National Pension system and to pay contributions.

If you are a non-Japanese resident, you must first process your Certificate of Residence (*juuminhyou*) at your local municipal office. You must then enroll in the National Pension System at the pensions counter of the same municipal office. If you become a naturalized Japanese citizen, or otherwise obtain Japanese citizenship, you must report your change of status to the municipal office.

However, if you are employed to work at a company, factory or other such workplace, and are covered by insurance systems including the Employees' Pension Insurance system, your employer is responsible for completing your enrollment to the pension scheme on your behalf. In this case, you do not need to do the enrollment procedures by yourself. For more information, please ask the staff in charge of social insurance at your workplace. Your pensions contribution is deducted from your salary at source (before you receive your salary), and then your employer will pay it to the Pension Service.

When your enrolment procedure is complete, you will receive your Pension Book. Your Pension Book is essential to prove your identity when you apply to receive your pension or inquire about your pension. You will need it throughout your lifetime, so please keep it very safe.

The contribution amount for the National Pension is ¥15,250 per month for the period April 2014 to March 2015. You must pay your monthly pension contribution for each month by the end of the following month. You can pay your monthly pension contribution in cash at banks and other financial institutions, post offices, and convenience stores. You can also pay it using automatic bank transfer (direct debit) or via the Internet.

Alternatively, you can make payments at a discounted rate if you choose to make an advance payment for some future months at one time. There is a further discount if you choose to make advance payments using automatic bank transfer rather than cash.

If you have difficulty paying your contributions because your income is too low or for other reasons, you can apply for a partial or full exemption at your local municipal office.

In order to eliminate dual compulsive coverage as well as to totalize qualifying periods for benefits between two countries, there are bilateral social security agreements between Japan and several countries. Please visit this website for more details: <http://www.nenkin.go.jp/agreement/index.html>

If you have any questions, enquiries can be made by telephone to 'NENKIN Dial' at the number below. Please note that this service is only available in Japanese.

If you make an enquiry, please have ready your Pension Book, or other documents containing your Basic Pension Number.

'NENKIN Dial' (calling from within Japan): 0570-05-1165 (charged at local call rate)

'NENKIN Dial' (calling from outside Japan): +81-3-6700-1165 (charged at international call rate)

For other information and resources, please see <http://www.nenkin.go.jp/n/www/english/index.jsp>

## Farewell from our Chinese CIR

Da jia hao! Hello, everyone!

I'm Xie Qin, one of the Coordinators for International Relations at Nagasaki Prefectural Government. It feels like I've only just arrived, but the time has come to say goodbye. My term as a CIR ends this April, and I'm going back to my home country. Over the last few days it's hit me that I'm leaving Nagasaki soon.



When I look back over my year in Nagasaki, I can say unreservedly that it has been great. That's because it has been a year full of all kinds of new experiences. Having spent a total of seven years studying in Japan, I didn't see Japan as a country of unknowns, but since I set foot in Nagasaki, I have encountered endless surprises.

From the cute streetcars, the quiet flagstone pathways winding up the hills, and the numerous temples showing Chinese influence, to that special noodle dish... not quite udon, not quite soba, not quite ramen... that's right, champon! And the festivities in each season, from the romance of the Tall Ships Festival in springtime, and the startling explosions of firecrackers at the midsummer *shoro nagashi* festival to commemorate the dead, to the autumn festival of *O-kunchi* which resonates with the mixture of Japanese, Chinese and Western culture, and then the main event of winter, the Lantern Festival, where the streets glow red in the lantern-light... it was all new and fresh for me, and I had nothing but admiration for the people of Nagasaki and the unique culture they have created here, expertly blending elements from all over the world.

On a personal note, last July my three-year-old son came to Nagasaki, and lived here together with me. He attended a Japanese preschool, quickly picking up the Japanese language, becoming a "little foreign-exchange student". Without a doubt, this has been a precious experience both for myself and for my son.

When I arrived in Nagasaki last year, the cherry blossoms were in full bloom. And now, as I leave Nagasaki behind me, they are in full bloom again. I will miss Nagasaki greatly. I wish you all the best of health, and I pray for everlasting peace for Nagasaki. I hope that we may meet again in the future. For now, *zai jian, sayounara, farewell!*

## Activity Volunteers Wanted!

Help to widen our circle of international exchange by giving a talk about your country, playing sports, and more. Would you like to help out? Please get in touch! Email: [nia@nia.or.jp](mailto:nia@nia.or.jp)



## Useful Information for Foreign Residents and Visitors



### 1. Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR)

This service provides information about living in Japan, for foreign residents. The information is available in 13 languages and is divided into 17 sections. There is also a version (app) for smartphones. The smartphone app contains the same information as the website, in an easy-to-browse format, and also includes a feature which provides emergency earthquake alerts issued by the Japan Meteorological Agency, in 13 languages.

URL: <http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengo/index.html>



### 2. Japan Legal Support Center 'Houterasu'

The Japan Legal Support Center, also known as 'Houterasu', provides support to solve legal problems. Houterasu has now started a foreign-language service.

To use the service, visit your nearest Houterasu office and ask for an interpreter, or call this number: 0570-078377 (the Houterasu Multilingual Information Service).

You can find more information on their website: <http://www.houterasu.or.jp/multilingual/index.html>

### 3. Yorisoi Multilingual Advice Line

Specialist staff are available to work with you to find a solution to your problems. Call the toll-free number: 0120-279-338, and after the Japanese guidance, press 2.

For more information, see: [http://279338.jp/yorisoi/hotline/files/yorisoi-bill\\_eng.pdf](http://279338.jp/yorisoi/hotline/files/yorisoi-bill_eng.pdf)

or: <http://279338.jp/yorisoi/foreign/index.html#eng>

The advice line service is also available Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Chinese, Thai and Korean.

### 4. Multilingual Medical Questionnaire

This is a medical questionnaire available in 18 languages. You can use it to communicate with medical staff, for example when you visit a hospital, to tell them about your symptoms.

URL : <http://www.kifjp.org/medical>

If you have any comments or suggestions about NAPIA, Please let us know

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