

NAPIA ***VOL. 30*** ***March***

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.



Contestants Wanted for the 7th Japanese Speech Contest for Non-Native Speakers

Are you a foreign resident of Nagasaki Prefecture? Would you like to use the Japanese you have learnt to make a speech about Japan, Peace or International Exchange, from the point of view of a foreigner?

At last year's contest, held in June, contestants hailed from China, the USA, Vietnam, the Philippines, Canada and Bangladesh and included students, housewives, and company workers. They spoke passionately about their feelings and experiences of living in Japan.

There are various prizes: 1st prize is 50000 yen, 2nd prize is 30000 yen, and there are even prizes for participation.

Why not try your luck? It'll surely be a good memory of your time in Japan!

We are looking forward to receiving your entries.

Entry deadline: 12:00 noon on Monday 18th May.

Competition date: 13:30 – 16:00, Saturday 20th June

Venue: Koryu Lounge, Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims
(7-8 Hirano-machi, Nagasaki City)



Foreign Residents of Nagasaki

大家好！*Dajiahao!* Hello, everyone!

My name is Huang Ji, and I am a Coordinator for International Relations at Nagasaki Prefectural Government.



Nagasaki: hometown of my favorite popstar, Fukuyama Masaharu. A place where the air is filled with ‘wakaran’, a fusion of Japanese, Chinese and Western cultures. Last year on April 11th, I traveled from Shanghai, across the sea, and arrived in this port city.

I was quite unsure about leaving Shanghai, where I had lived my whole life, to travel to a country I had never visited before, change my lifestyle and start a new job. I worried a lot about what I would do when I was lonely without my family and friends around me or if the food didn’t suit me.

I had a lot of concerns, but they soon disappeared, as the people around me were so kind and helpful. Nagasaki people always invited me to join them, saying “If you’re free, let’s have lunch”, or “Let’s play soccer next week”. I always thought to myself “I guess I have a lot of friends in Nagasaki, too!”

It’s not just the people of Nagasaki who are great – the food is excellent, too! For a food-lover like me, Nagasaki, with its abundant ocean, is truly paradise! I love seafood, and I was delighted to find I could enjoy it here for a cheaper price than in China.

I have been interested in Japanese culture since my junior high school days, and when I started university, I chose Japanese Culture as my major. Most of my classmates joined foreign-owned companies on graduation, but I found myself thinking of other possibilities. I realized that I wanted the chance to meet more people and to experience more cultures. In November 2013, I happened to see an advertisement recruiting for an international exchange project called the ‘JET Programme’, and I decided to apply.

I passed the interview and came to Nagasaki, where I was placed in the International Affairs Division of Nagasaki Prefectural Government. As a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR), working with the residents and visitors in Nagasaki, I have been able to form bonds with all kinds of people. The role of a CIR is to become a bridge between Japan and their own country, to help deepen mutual understanding between the people of both countries. My work has included organizing international exchange events and introducing the culture and current affairs of China through classes and lectures. Seeing people’s happy faces has really made my work feel worthwhile.

My strongest impression of Nagasaki has undoubtedly been exploring the deep links between Nagasaki and China. Nagasaki is home to a Chinese Consulate, Chinatown and the Confucian Temple. The physical links are obvious, but Chinese elements can also often be found in Nagasaki’s traditional culture. The O-Kunchi festival in the autumn includes *Ja-Odori* (a dragon dance) and at Lunar New Year in the Spring, the Lantern Festival celebrations are held on a scale larger than is seen even in China! It was easy for me to feel a great affinity with Nagasaki.

Time has gone by very fast. My appointment here ends in April, and I will have no choice but to leave Nagasaki. Over the course of a year, I have met so many people and collected so many special memories. I really feel that Nagasaki has become like a second hometown to me. My memories of my time here are engraved on my heart, and I will never forget this wonderful year.

To sum up, my year in Nagasaki has been the best experience of my life. Nagasaki – I thank you!!

What to know before disaster strikes



Q. What is a 'disaster'? And what is 'disaster prevention'?

A. A disaster (*saigai* in Japanese) is an incident where, for example, extreme weather like heavy rain or a typhoon, a natural phenomenon like an earthquake, a flood or a volcanic eruption, or a large fire or explosion, causes damage such as destruction of homes, injuries to people, and death of crops. Disaster prevention (*bousai*) consists of designing strategies to reduce or eliminate the damage caused by disasters, so that everyone can live in safety.

Q. How should I prepare, to be ready to evacuate in case of a disaster?

A. 1. Learn with your family/friends the best route to the nearest refuge centre.

Disasters do not only occur when you are with your family. Regularly discuss with your family where you would meet up in the case of disaster and what tasks you would each do.

2. With your family/friends, practice walking the route to the refuge centre.

3. Use a disaster prevention map to learn about dangerous areas.

4. Check how you will contact your family/friends in case of a disaster.

Choose a relative or friend who lives far away from the potential disaster area. Use them as a point of contact, as it will probably be easier to reach them by telephone. They can help to confirm everyone's safety.

5. Write on a piece of paper your family's details (such as names, addresses, telephone numbers, blood types, medical conditions, regular medications, family doctor, nearest refuge centre, etc.) and keep it in your purse.

6. Pack an emergency bag and stockpile supplies.



Q. What is an emergency bag? What are emergency supplies?

When a disaster happens, your home may be destroyed, and you may have to seek refuge elsewhere. Even if your home is not destroyed, electricity, gas and water supplies may be cut off, making it difficult to cook, have light at night, or get information from TV and radio, and so on. Every household should stockpile enough food for 3 days.

Here are some examples of things to keep in your emergency bag: flashlight (electric torch), food, drinks, clingfilm, aluminum foil, plastic bags, small radio, toilet paper, batteries, wet wipes, work gloves, small change, disposable handwarmers (*kairo*), portable gas stove, underwear, medication, paper cups and plates, sanitary goods, diapers (nappies) if you have children.

The most important thing in the case of a disaster is to check your surroundings, and respond calmly and appropriately to keep you and your family safe.

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. Yoriso 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/yoriso/hotline/files/yoriso-bill_eng.pdf
or: <http://279338.jp/yoriso/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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