

ふれあい通信



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Utilization of “Easy Japanese”



It is said that the Japanese language is difficult for foreigners to understand. In recent years, “easy Japanese” has come to be used as one of the tools for communicating information to foreign residents in Japan, especially for technical terms which are difficult to understand.

Origin and Expansion

“Easy Japanese” was created after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995. Recently, it has come to be used more widely, not only in times of disaster, but also in everyday news and information documents at schools and kindergartens. However, according to the 2019 Agency for Cultural Affairs’ “Public Opinion Survey on the Japanese Language,” the Easy Japanese initiative is still only known by about 30% of the population.

Key Points of Easy Japanese

Easy Japanese refers to Japanese that is simpler than ordi-

nary Japanese and easier for foreigners to understand. Here are some examples from the *Guideline of Easy Japanese to Support Foreign Residents*, co-published by Immigration Services Agency and Agency for Cultural Affairs in August 2020.

- 1 Do not use double negatives.
- 2 Use simple words.
- 3 Avoid roundabout expressions and unnecessary repetition.
- 4 Avoid using foreign words (*katakana*) as much as possible.
- 5 End sentences with “desu” and “masu.” Use polite honorifics.

Another Benefit Seen in the Training

In a disaster drill, translation training was conducted to convey information from the prefecture, city, etc. to foreign residents and evacuees. By preparing the original text of the information to be conveyed in easy Japanese, the translation work could be shortened and variations in the content of the

multilingualized information could be reduced.

AED hands-on training was provided at a first aid workshop for foreign residents. AEDs were operated by following the announcements made by an automatic voice. The foreign residents who participated in the training were fluent in Japanese, but some said they were not sure if they would be able to understand the announcements when the time came. If the announcements are made in easy Japanese, more foreigners may give it a try.

NIA’s Efforts

NIA provides training for the use of Easy Japanese to the relevant departments of the City Hall, and encourages them to make it as easy as possible for foreign residents to understand at the administrative counter. We will continue our efforts to spread and promote easy Japanese. As always, your understanding and cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

The 28th Nishinomiya International Exchange Day

The annual Nishinomiya International Exchange Day will be held on February 3 (Sat) at Frente Nishinomiya’s 4th floor and the Frente Hall on the 5th floor. The theme is “Waku-waku Enjoy multiculturalism.” We will be holding a variety of events with the cooperation of volunteers from our association, Nishinomiya Sister and Friendship City organizations, NPOs, NGOs, and foreign residents. We look forward to seeing you there.

Contents	Hours	Places
Bazaar and Exhibition	10:00~ 16:00	4th Floor and 5th Floor, Hall Lobby
Japanese Speech Presentation	10:30~ 12:00	4th Floor Multipurpose Space
Chikyukko Club	10:30~ 11:30	5th Floor, Frente Hall
Experience Japanese Culture Corner	10:30~ 12:30	5th Floor, Frente Hall Practice Room
International Community Health Counseling	13:00~ 15:30	4th Floor Miyamizu Conference Room
International Café	13:00~ 15:30	4th Floor Multipurpose Space
Folk Music Performance	14:00~ 15:30	5th Floor, Frente Hall

We participated in The Nishinomiya Citizens' Festival to make our activities known.

The Nishinomiya Citizens' Festival, which attracts many people, is a good opportunity for citizens to get to know the Nishinomiya City International Association. We set up a booth in one of the many tents and had people answer a "Multiculturalism Quiz." The quiz was checked and small gifts were given by foreign student volunteers and a trainee from Shaoxing City.

The Nishinomiya Citizens' Festival was held on October 28 around Nishinomiya City Hall. Various groups active in Nishinomiya City prepared exhibits and games to introduce their activities. This year, when Covid-19 was downgraded to Class 5, the ban on food and beverage bazaars was lifted, and together with the sale of goods, the event became very crowded.

The Association handed out quiz sheets at the "Hometown Booth" tent. Those who answered the questions enjoyably exchanged words with foreigners in checking answers and choosing gifts. The question, "How



many foreigners live in Nishinomiya City?" was answered incorrectly by many. They were surprised to learn that there are more than 8,000 foreigners from about 90 countries living in Nishinomiya City.

To our delight, the line to answer the quiz

never stopped. When we asked the foreign volunteers who had no time to rest from grading the quizzes if they were tired, they replied with a smile, "I was a little surprised at the number of people, but it was fun and the time passed quickly."

Also, when she commented that she felt that Japanese people are used to quizzes, we were made aware of the habit that we had never been aware of before.

During the quiz on NIA's activities, we tried to promote the association by introducing that many volunteers teach Japanese and that we hold classes to learn about foreign cultures. More than 1,600 visitors took part in the quiz on the day of the event, and NIA's staff was pleased to see that their efforts were worthwhile in informing as many people as possible about the activities of the association. (Y. I)



Cassata (Ice Cake) from Italy

Sweets have a way of melting people's hearts with both the young and adults. This column will introduce you to various sweets from around the globe, and are associated with seasonal events.

Ingredients

for 18cm long mold or milk carton

- Ricotta cheese 200g
- Heavy cream 200g
- Granulated sugar...5 tablespoons
- A { Mixed nuts (roasted)
- Dried fruits
- Choco chips
- Frozen berries

Total 150g in your preference

the remaining sugar. Whip until it forms moderately.

- ④ Mix ③ into the bowl of ② for 2- or 3-times divided portions.
- ⑤ Pour the mixture ④ into a mold, smooth it out, cover with plastic wrap, and chill in the freezer.
- ⑥ Once set, remove from the mold, cut into portions, and serve in dishes.

How to make

- ① Place ricotta cheese in a bowl, break it up with a spatula, and add 2 tablespoons of granulated sugar. Mix until smooth.
- ② Add ingredient A to ① and mix well.
- ③ Pour the heavy cream in a different bowl placed over ice water and add



The popular Italian dessert in Japan, "Cassata," is an ice cake that contains ricotta cheese and dried fruits. However, it looks quite different from the traditional Cassata in its home region of Sicily. Tracing its roots, it seems to have originated around the 10th century under Arab rule as a food called "Quassato (qas' ah)" a mixture of sheep's ricotta cheese and honey. The early Cassata involved wrapping this in a wheat flour-based dough and baking it. Subsequently, techniques involving marzipan made from almond flour and sponge cake were introduced over time. Across the ages, it became a customary practice to envelop it in white or green marzipan on the outside, with sugar-coated fruits as toppings, and a filling of sponge cake and ricotta cheese. Nowadays, although there are various versions under the name Cassata, what they all share is the use of sweet treats incorporating ricotta cheese. The recipe introduced here is of the ice cake type. Please take a try! (Y. U)

The interviewee in this issue is Mr. Jeff Bryant, who was born in the state of California in the United States. Currently residing in Kobe, Mr. Jeff works as an English teacher. In addition to his teaching profession, he serves as a board member for Animal Refuge Kansai (ARK) on a voluntary basis, making the protection and rescue of animals his life's mission.

Aspiring to a society where we can coexist with animals

I visited Animal Refuge Kansai (ARK), where I had the opportunity to interview the director twelve years ago, and met Mr. Jeff Bryant who serves as a board member there. This time, we went to the Sasayama Office in the deep mountains of Tambasasayama in Hyogo. Mr. Jeff has a towering figure and a warm smile and is filled with a kind spirit towards both humans and animals. I listened about his life experiences.

Due to his father's job (serving in the United States Air Force), Jeff's childhood was marked by constant moves. Although born in California, he moved to various places in the United States almost every two years. During his middle school years, he even lived in Okinawa. Jeff, who jokingly wonders if Japan is his "hometown" due to his longer residence

periods in Japan, graduated from a university in Utah as an adult. He spent two years in Guam assisting missionaries, followed by several years working as a flight attendant for an airline, during which he frequently traveled between Japan and the United States. In 1990, he applied for the JET Program, becoming an English teacher at a high school in Ube City, Yamaguchi Prefecture, and later was hired as an ALT teacher in Kobe City. He continues to work as an English teacher to this day.



Jeff learned about ARK while living in Ube and became deeply interested, actively seeking information. Originally an animal lover, Jeff had questions about the way pets were kept in Japan, since they are different from the practices in the UK and the USA. He deeply resonated with Oliver, who had set up a shelter for animals that had lost their place. Initially, he joined the facility as a volunteer, and later, he became actively involved as a board member in its operation.

ARK is recognized as a specified nonprofit corporation, and all operating expenses are covered by individual or corporate donations. It is an organization that rescues and cares for dogs and cats without homes due to various circumstances and is seeking new adoptive families. Jeff himself, a strong supporter, has lived with 11 cats and 1 dog. To become an adoptive parent, one must accept animals as part of the family and be able to care for them in a suitable environment because animals are not just "objects" but living beings. The pet situation in Japan has changed over the past 20 years, and Jeff expresses his desire to continue supporting such activities, mentioning celebrities and activists involved in rescue activities. Sasayama ARK is also an unfinished and developing facility. Jeff says, "People commend me for saving dogs, but no, it's the dogs that have saved me." I have learned many things from Jeff, such as the tranquility of the heart, healing, love, trust, and the many things we receive from animals.

(M. M)

ARK WEBSITE



Charity Calendar of Sheltered dogs and cats



NIA Information Box

INFORMATION

Free Consultation for Non-Japanese residents

A judicial scrivener will provide consultations free of charge (under seal of secrecy). Please make an appointment by email or by telephone.

Date & Time	Subject	Place
Jan.21 (Sun.) 13:00~16:00	Visa Status	NIA Conference Room
Mar.17 (Sun.) 13:00~16:00		

International Kids Club

~ Get-togethers for babies / pre-school children ~ with foreign roots & their parents

Date	Contents	location
Jan.27 (Sat) 10:30~11:30	Yoga for Kids and Parents	NIA Conference Room
Mar.2 (Sat) 10:30~11:30	Tsumami Zaiku	

Participation fee: Free



◆Volunteers Wanted◆

NIA is seeking volunteers for the following works:

- **Newsletter volunteers A:**
Preparation work before shipping (4 times a year)
- **Newsletter volunteers B:**
Delivery to near-by institutions (4 times a year)
- **Volunteer interpreters and translators**
(Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese and Portuguese etc.):
We are seeking volunteers with different levels of ability. The work ranges from simple interpretation of daily conversation to translation of the NIA newsletter.

◆Sponsor Members Wanted◆

To promote activities of the international exchange program, we need your support.

- **Annual membership fee:**
Group : ¥20,000 Individual: ¥3,000
Volunteer: ¥ 2,000
- **Privileges:** Books can be borrowed for free. Conference rooms and the exhibition corner can be rented at a discount price. Other privileges include invitations to events run by NIA and discount tickets to Nishinomiya based facilities.

Events and disaster information etc. are provided in multiple languages.

Nishinomiya City International Association (NIA) Facebook



We recommend that you to register for our Facebook page.

Current Number of Foreign Residents in Nishinomiya ※as of Nov. 2023

Nationality	Number	Percent
South and North Korea	3,107	38.04%
China	1,388	16.99%
Vietnam	1,023	12.52%
The Philippines	387	4.74%
Nepal	296	3.62%
U.S.A.	259	3.17%
Indonesia	215	2.63%
Myanmar	180	2.20%
Taiwan	174	2.13%
Brazil	121	1.48%
Thailand	103	1.26%
Bangladesh	96	1.18%
England	76	0.93%
Other	743	9.10%
Total	8,168	100.00%

Total Nishinomiya population 483,789

The percentage of foreign residents in Nishinomiya 1.69%

WANTED:

Volunteers to Edit our PR Paper

"*Fureai Tsushin*" is produced by volunteers and NIA staff. We are looking for volunteers to work with us. If you are interested, please contact us with your comments on our newsletter.



Advertisement wanted!

- ◆ NIA publishes Japanese copies, English copies, Chinese copies and Korean copies of its newsletter four times a year.
- ◆ It's distributed among NIA supporters, foreign members, volunteers, the general public, other international associations, public halls in Nishinomiya, citizens'halls, libraries, high schools and colleges in the city.
- ◆ We will also publish issues on the website for one year after being issued.

◆FEES

	Price
L:	40,000 yen /year (including a 20,000 yen organization membership fee)
S:	32,000 yen /year (including a 20,000 yen organization membership fee)



NISHINOMIYA

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Official Facebook Information are now distributed

<https://www.facebook.com/frentenishinomiya>

Official Application Information is now distributed

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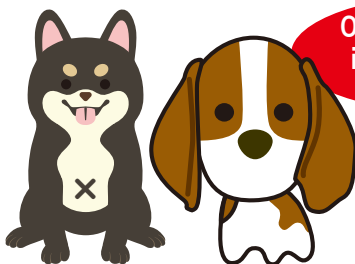
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- 設立年月日：昭和40年10月27日
- 事業内容：○建物管理運営事業 ○住宅管理運営事業 ○環境施設管理事業
○不動産ファンドマネジメント事業 ○その他の事業

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