

PREFECTURAL COUNSELING SERVICES

Kanagawa Prefecture offers counseling services that cities like Chigasaki cannot cover and they have systems and facilities to take care of foreign residents in many ways. So, if you have problems that are difficult to deal with, please contact the following offices:

Prefectural Counseling Services for Foreign Residents; Citizens' Voice/Counseling Center.

(Consultation hours: 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

English: 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays 045-324-2299

Spanish: Fridays and 2nd Tuesday 045-31207555

Portuguese: Wednesdays 045-322-1444

Korean: 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays 045-321-1339

Chinese: Thursdays and 4th Tuesday 045-321-1339

Note: Picked up here are offices in Yokohama only.

Legal Counseling (Consultation hours: 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.):

English - 3rd Tuesday

Portuguese - 2nd Wednesday

Chinese - 4th Thursday

Labor Counseling (Consultation hours: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.):

Spanish: Wednesdays 045-662-1166

Chinese: Fridays 045-662-1103

Other Counseling Services:

* For domestic violence:

House for Women "Saalaa" 045-901-3527

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday

* For consultation on housing:

Kanagawa Housing Support Center for Foreign Residents 045-228-1752

* If you need an interpreter: MIC Kanagawa 045-900-4675

Information from 'Hello Kanagawa'

Medical Information Series V

Doctors Available for Consultation in English

Igarashi Clinic (I,C) Saiwai-cho22-6-202 Tel:87-8282

I-toh Ganka Clinic (O) Higashi-kaigan Kita 1-2-19 Tel:83-7771

Oh-no Clinic (I,D,C) Midori-ga-hama4-29 Tel:88-0330

Kanemoto Ganka Clinic (O) Heiwa-cho4-26 Tel:87-1511

Kanemoto Internal Medicine & Circulatory Organ Clinic (I,C)

Heiwa-cho4-26 Tel:88-1231

Remarks:

I = Internal medicine C = Cardiology Circulatory Organs

O = Ophthalmology D = Digestive Organs

A Letter from an Exchange Student

On September 30th, 2005, I boarded an airplane that would take me to Japan for the next five months. There had been plenty of hesitation, anxiety, and unpleasantness regarding my fears and doubts about attending Japanese school and living with a family I had never met for the next half of a year, but I am pleased to say that I need not have worried about a thing. The generosity, sincerity and kindness of everyone I met during my stay astounded me more and more each day. After being greeted by bowing women in fluorescent pink airport uniforms, I was taken by bus and train to my new home in Chigasaki where I met my program coordinators and my new host family. The next five months went by faster than I could have imagined, filled with exquisite Japanese cooking, unbelievably cute cell-phone attachments, and enough ridiculous stories and adventures to fill a book with. As I learned about the Japanese language and its people as well as the life of a Japanese high-school student, I was given insight into my own lifestyle and culture, something that will stay with me for a long time to come. The hardest part has been describing the experience to those at home: my morning bicycle ride to school during which I could see Mount Fuji above the cables and rooftops of the town, my host mother singing along to 'Guns n' Roses' while cooking dinner, the hilarity of trying to fit nine people into a *Purikura* booth, and the wide-eyed adoration by Japanese teenagers of all things American. When my return home finally came, I felt like I was leaving a part of me behind. I wish that I could personally thank everyone who I met during my stay, with the most humble and correct Japanese possible. Then I might be able to convey how grateful I am to have been able to visit such a unique and wonderful city. Whether you only get a chance to visit briefly, or live there for a full year, Chigasaki is a city with a life and energy all of its own, and is not easily forgotten.

Chaney Howe, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

IAC ACTIVITIES

● ASSISTANCE TO OVERSEAS



One of the IAC's major activities is to assist overseas children or the younger generation in need of education or training to become basically independent. The countries recently involved include Cambodia, Peru, Nepal, and Laos plus Eastern Ache in Indonesia hit by the Tsunami. Assistance is rendered either directly or indirectly through various Non Profit Organizations. In the past, countries such as Kenya, Sri Lanka, and Kosovo in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been involved. In the case of Kosovo, it was to help a young girl to have a surgery in Japan in 2003. She had a serious injury on her head resulting in the civil war in the country.

The monetary assistance ranges from 50,000 to 200,000 yen per year/case and it comes from the membership, charity concert, and the sale of fancy goods from the Sewing Box Group and IAC T-shirts. The assistance is not large but it's been done consistently every year.

Embarrassing and strange things for foreigners....?

In the previous issue, we reported that IAC and the city jointly held an event titled "Discussion in Japanese by Foreign Residents". The themes given were: embarrassing and strange things living in Japan. Fifteen foreigners currently living in Chigasaki attended as speakers including two guests and there were about sixty people in the audience including foreigners.

First, the difficulty of communicating in Japanese especially at hospitals was brought up in addition to Japanese customs such as bowing, the uncertainty of *iidesu* (which could mean either okay or no thanks), *seiza* or sitting on the floor in Japanese fashion, jam-packed trains at rush hours, and so forth.

Other strange things they felt were in regards to the patience of Japanese people waiting in line for more than 30 minutes to buy a couple pieces of *manju* or bean paste cakes, sleepers in the train, a wedding ceremony at a Christian church regardless of religion, a fairly rough party beneath the cherry blossoms, a Dutch treat, adults' *Manga*, nude pictures on magazine covers, ladies-only train car, urinating outdoors, the number of crows in town, married priests, doggy bags, full-time housewives, etc.

The panelists this time were from countries such as Malaysia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Peru, and Korea, and the customs and culture are all different. So, it may be natural that they feel embarrassed or think strange as to what is done in Japan. There are a lot of things the Japanese can learn from what the foreigners felt in Japan.

IAC feels that the event was successful and looks forward to making it more meaningful in years to come.



Confucius says

Confucius says a young man must be filial to his parents at home, be obedient to his elders outside of his family, be discreet and faithful, love people and learn to be humane. If he has spare energy after practicing these, he must learn about culture.

Chigasaki Breeze has been issued every other month with the assistance of Chigasaki city. If you wish to subscribe, please send ¥480 in stamps for 6 issues to International Association of Chigasaki c/o Bunka Suishinka, Chigasaki City Hall, 1-1-1 Chigasaki, Chigasaki City 253-0041. Article submissions and items for classified ads are most welcome either via email chigasakibreeze@7jp.com or by post to the above address.

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Printed by Taisei Kikaku K.K.