

◆ Beginning Japanese for Foreign Residents Online Course Part 2: Now Accepting New Students!

Our certified and experienced instructors will teach you beginning Japanese clearly and concisely. Study together with students from other countries via Zoom!

Participants: Foreign residents living, working, or attending school in Hyogo prefecture (15 years or older)

Program Length: November 10, 2025 (Monday) to January 26, 2026 (Monday). This course is taught twice a week for a total of eighteen sessions.

Time: 18:30 - 20:30

Format: Online

Application Period: September 29 (Monday) - October 27 (Monday)

Cap: Each class will have between seven to ten students.* (On a first come, first served basis.)

*Please note that preference is generally given to students who can attend every session.

How to Apply: Please apply on the HIA website: <https://bit.ly/3PnVfPx>

Course Fee: 1,000 yen (not including fees for teaching materials)

Contact: Hyogo International Association (HIA) Multicultural Affairs Division

TEL: 078-230-3261

E-mail: nihongo@net.hyogo-ip.or.jp

◆ World Festival

Date: October 19, 2025 (Sunday)

Time: 12:00 - 16:00

Place: Shio-Ashiya Exchange Center

Description: Enjoy watching stage performances, eating food from all around the world, looking at knick-knacks, and shopping in the bazaar!

Participation Fee: Free!

Sponsor: Ashiya Cosmopolitan Association

Please direct any inquiries to the Ashiya Cosmopolitan Association. TEL: 0797-25-0511.

Hours of Operation: 9:00 - 17:30

◆ The 27th Himeji International Friendship Festival

Come spend a very international Autumn day with us!

Date: October 26, 2025 (Sunday)

Time: 10:00 - 15:00

Location: Otemae Park

Description: This is a festival where all residents of Himeji city – foreign residents and residents alike! – can meet to enjoy exchanging cultures, learn about other cultures, and experience new things. Enjoy eating food from countries all over the world, watching stage performances like dancing and singing, trying on different traditional outfits, looking at aboriginal art, and more!

Participation Fee: Free!*

(*Please note that food and activities require payment.)

Sponsors: The Himeji International Friendship Festival executive committee, Himeji City, and the Himeji International Friendship Foundation

Please direct inquiries to the Himeji International Friendship Festival executive committee administrative office: TEL: 079-287-0820

◆ International Festival in Miki ~Let' s get to know and experience the world!~

Let' s enjoy new experiences and learn new things through cultural exchange!

Date: October 26, 2025 (Sunday)

Time: 11:00 - 15:00

Location: Kajiya no Sato Messe Miki

Description: Try food from around the world, enjoy traditional dances and songs, learn about different countries, experience new things, and more!

Participation Fee: Free!*

(*Please note that some things may require payment.)

Audience: Everyone is welcome!

Sponsor: Miki International Association

Please direct any inquiries to the Miki International Association:

TEL・FAX: 0794-89-2318 E-mail: kokusai@city.miki.hyogo.jp

◆ **Takarazuka Japanese Speech Contest for Non-Native Speakers: Let's Try Expressing Ourselves in Japanese!**

Date: December 13, 2025 (Saturday)

Time: 13:00 - 16:30

Place: Takarazuka International Cultural Center

Description: Using the Japanese they know, the speech contest participants will express their thoughts and feelings, how their country and Japan may differ, and their opinions on various regions and on societies.

Language: Japanese

Cap: About 15 people

Participation Fee: Free

Participants: Foreigners who aren't native speakers of Japanese

Sponsors: Takarazuka City, the Takarazuka International Friendship Association, and the Takarazuka Cultural Exchange Association

Deadline to Apply to Participate: Applications must be received by November 4 (Tuesday)

How to Apply: Via online application, e-mail, or fax

Please direct inquiries and applications to the Takarazuka International Friendship Association (TIFA):

TEL: 0797-76-5917 FAX: 0797-76-5918 E-mail: tifa@jttk.zaq.ne.jp

Online application: https://www.tifa.be/info_blog/event/entry-382.html

◆ **Kobe Lantern Fair 2025**

Lanterns of various sizes will light up Shin-Nagata. Please come enjoy this multicultural event and food from around the world with us!

Date: October 17 (Friday) and October 18 (Saturday), 2025

Time: 16:30 - 20:00

Location: Futaba School Building Floor 3, Futaba International Plaza, Futaba school entrance, KICC, the Taishosuji Shopping Street, etc.

Description: This event features a variety of stage performances, a snack rally (for those in middle school and younger), bouncy ball scoop games, prize fishing, a world games corner, and more for children to enjoy. Stage performances include chindon (a Japanese marching band), a janggu (traditional South Korean percussion instrument)

performance, Nepalese dancing, an erhu performance, a Mongolian music performance, and others. There will also be food stands with food from all over the world!

Participation Fee: Free (RSVP is not required)

Sponsor: Kobe Lantern Fair 2025 Executive Committee

Please direct any inquiries to the Kobe Foreigners Friendship Center (KFC):

TEL: 078-612-2402 E-mail: kfc@social-b.net