

Hyogo International Association Friendship Society



Membership card

The HIA Friendship Society brings together like minded people who support HIA's vision and actively participate in international exchange and other activities at the grassroots level to support the association. Why not consider joining the HIA Friendship Society yourself and participating in various events and expanding your network?

[Membership Fee]

Groups 10,000 yen/year
Individuals 3,000 yen/year

* This fee is regarded as a donation and can be claimed for tax-reduction purposes

[Outline of the Association]

Date of Establishment April 1, 1990

Basic funds
(as of April 1, 2022): 500 million yen

Organizational vision

Hyogo International Association was established to promote international exchange within Hyogo Prefecture, to contribute to the creation of a multicultural society in which people can live together with people from all over the world, to promote citizen-oriented international exchange activities, and to deepen mutual understanding and cooperation with other countries.



[History of Hyogo International Association]

- Apr 1990** Hyogo International Association is established (in Hyogo Ikuta Office Building)
Start of support for the Hyogo EC Association (later the Hyogo EU Association).
- May 1990** Hyogo Business and Cultural Center (Seattle, Washington) is established.
- Feb 1991** Recognized by the Ministry of Home Affairs as a regional international association in Hyogo Prefecture.
- Apr 1991** Office is relocated (Sogo Kobe).
- Oct 1993** European Representative Office of Hyogo Prefecture (Paris) is established.
Office is relocated (Kobe Transportation Center Building).
- Apr 1994** Information and Advisory Service Center is established (Kobe Transportation Center Building).
- Jan 1995** The office is damaged by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.
Temporary office and "Emergency Consultation Service for Foreign Residents" opened at Kobe Crystal Tower.
- May 1995** Office is relocated (Hyogo Shimoyamate Branch Office)
(Information and Advisory Service Center continues to operate in the Kobe Crystal Tower).
- Apr 1996** Start of support for the Hyogo Prefectural Chapter of the United Nations Association of Japan
- Mar 1998** Office is relocated (International Health Development Center).
- Apr 1998** Establishment of the Hyogo International Plaza
- Apr 2010** Change of status to a public interest incorporated foundation
- Apr 2011** Start of the project to create a comfortable living space for foreign residents and children in Hyogo Prefecture
- Oct 2012** Hyogo Business & Tourism Center (Hong Kong) is established.
- Apr 2013** Shared use of overseas offices with the Union of Kansai Governments begins.
- Jul 2014** Addition of the University of Hyogo office to overseas office
- Apr 2015** Hyogo Business and Cultural Center (Seattle, Washington) becomes jointly tied with Kobe City.
- Apr 2019** Hyogo Multicultural Counseling Center is established.
- Jul 2019** Project to promote the creation of a comprehensive regional Japanese language education system begins.
- Nov 2022** HIA joins the International Disaster Reduction Alliance (DRA).

HIA Publication "ComeHIA"

ComeHIA contains information on international exchange and cooperation efforts around Hyogo, as well as updates on HIA's recent activities. It is published twice a year and distributed widely throughout Hyogo Prefecture. Visit the HIA homepage for details!



公益財団法人 兵庫県国際交流協会

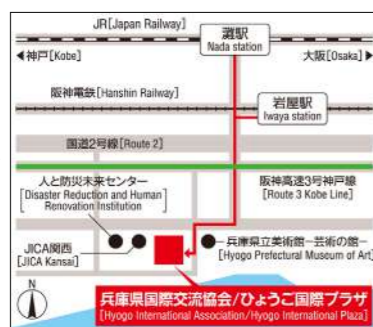
The Hyogo International Association (HIA) conducts programs aimed at promoting international exchange and strives to contribute to developing a multicultural society.

[Location / Contact]

■ **Main office**
TEL: (+81)-78-230-3260
FAX: (+81)-78-230-3280

■ **Hyogo International Plaza**
TEL: (+81)-78-230-3060
FAX: (+81)-78-230-3080

■ **Opening Hours**
Mon-Fri 9:30am till 5:30pm
(Excluding public holidays,
New Year holidays and
stocktake periods)



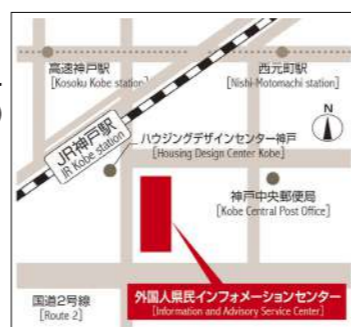
International Health Development Center,
2nd Floor 1-5-1 Wakinohamakaigan-dori,
Chuo-ku, Kobe, Hyogo, 651-0073, JAPAN

■ Information and Advisory Service Center (Hyogo Multicultural Counseling Center)

TEL: (+81)-78-382-2052
FAX: (+81)-78-382-2012

[Consultation Hours]

- General Advice
Mon-Fri 9am till 5pm
- Legal Advice
Mondays only
(by appointment)
(Excluding public holidays
and New Year holidays)



Kobe Crystal Tower, 6th Floor
1-1-3 Higashikawasaki-cho, Chuo-ku,
Kobe, Hyogo, 650-0044, JAPAN



Contributing to the Development of a Multicultural Hyogo

Creating a Multicultural Society, Promoting International Exchange, Developing Human Resources

2 Promoting International Exchange

We carry out activities to promote international exchange within Hyogo Prefecture.

1 Creating a Multicultural Society

Our projects aim to create a multicultural society in which foreign residents can live safely and comfortably as members of their local communities.

Creating a comfortable living space for foreign residents
Working together with local volunteer groups, we support foreign residents by creating a living space where they can live comfortably and by providing classes for them to learn Japanese and their mother tongue.



Community-based Japanese language support
We hold local Japanese classes for foreign residents where they can learn the Japanese necessary for daily life.



Promoting exchange activities
Transcending cultural and lingual boundaries, we support projects that aim to bring people together as members of the same community to interact and work together.



Supporting the foreign community
We work together with organizations that support foreign communities to provide foreign residents with useful information necessary for daily life and opportunities to interact and socialize in their neighborhoods.

Information and Advisory Service Center (Hyogo Multicultural Counseling Center)
We have staff at the center that can provide consultation for foreign residents regarding various general issues in English, Chinese, Spanish and Portuguese (and up to 22 languages are supported with the use of external interpreters). We can also provide special consultations regarding legal and immigration issues with a lawyer or staff from the immigration bureau via appointment.



Disaster preparedness support
We carry out various projects to support foreign residents during times of natural disasters, such as disaster preparedness training where we practice living together in an evacuation shelter and consider communication and information dissemination methods.

Hyogo Homestay Network
We arrange homestays for visiting foreigners where they can experience Japanese daily life. This allows both sides to gain a deeper understanding of each other's cultures.



Oxbridge English Summer Camp
We host students from Oxford University and Cambridge University to come to Japan where they engage in English classes and cultural exchange activities with local high school and university students.



Hyogo International Exchange Caravan Project
Hyogo's Coordinators for International Relations hold events and presentations around Hyogo, providing local residents an opportunity to connect with and learn more about foreign cultures.



Promotion of grassroots-level international exchange and cooperation
HIA Friendship Society members and local residents implement various grassroots-level international exchange projects.

International Organizations Network
We have established a network of international organizations where we discuss and tackle various problems together. This also provides opportunities for local international organizations to connect with each other and strengthen their ties.



Educational trips to Japan and school exchange programs
We are fostering exchanges among students and carrying out educational trips and school exchange programs to Japan in order to promote international exchange and boost interest in Hyogo.

3 Developing Human Resources

We support the education of the next generation of people that will play a leading role in an international society.



Hosting seminars on international exchange and cooperation
We are creating new opportunities for exchanges as well as generating interest in international issues and international cooperation.

Hosting Overseas Trainees
We create collaborative training opportunities by hosting trainees from Hyogo's sister cities, including other countries.



Facilities Operated by the HIA (Photos show the building in which each office is located)

Overseas Offices We operate three overseas offices to broaden our global network.



European Representative Office of Hyogo Prefecture (Paris)



Hyogo Business & Tourism Center (Hong Kong)



Hyogo Business and Cultural Center (Seattle)

- Business operation**
- Promoting international exchanges in various fields with our sister and friendship cities
 - Promoting Hyogo Prefecture's industries, tourism, and local products at various events
 - Supporting the expansion of businesses overseas
 - Supporting academic exchanges conducted by universities and schools

Hyogo International Plaza

The Hyogo International Plaza contains useful resources and a space to participate in international exchange.

Resource Center

The Resource Center contains approximately 24,000 books in 18 languages including Japanese learning materials, texts in both Japanese and foreign languages, newspapers, magazines, and approximately 2,500 children's books in 10 languages. Anyone is free to browse, and Hyogo residents can borrow up to five books for two weeks at a time.



International Gallery

The International Gallery hosts exhibitions and seminars on topics relating to international exchange and cooperation.

