

◆ Kasai Annual Festival

Enjoy this summer festival with international food stalls featuring drinks and snacks from around the world!

Dates and Times:

August 1st (Sat), 2026, 17:00 – 21:00,

August 2nd (Sun), 15:00 – 21:00

Location: Kasai City Hall

Info: We're setting up international food stalls that offer drinks and light snacks from around the world. Come by for a chance to interact with those of foreign nationality living in Kasai!

Sponsor / Inquiries: The NPO Kasai International Association

Phone: 0790-33-9455

For more information, please see: <https://kasai-kokusai.or.jp/events/kasaisaisai/>

◆ The 31st “Celebrate Diversity” Children’s Essay Contest

Application Period: July 17 - September 24*, 2026

*Applications must be received no later than September 24.

Qualifications: As of July 2026, the applicant must be an elementary, middle, or high school student living in Japan and be twenty years of age or younger. (There are no restrictions with regard to nationality or language.)

Essay Info: This is an opportunity for children of diverse backgrounds to share your thoughts on the people around you, school, and society. You are free to use any language, including but not limited to Japanese, Chinese, Korean, etc. The essay must be no more than either 3000 “kanji” characters or 1500 roman characters in length. The work must be your own and not have been previously published. One entry per person.

How to Apply: Please download the application form from the Hyogo Foreign Resident Education Research Council website* and enter the following information: the title of your essay, your name**, the name of your school, your age, nationality, ethnic background, how long you have lived in Japan, the name of a person in charge at your school who we can contact, the address of your school, etc. Email our office (attaching both the completed application form and your essay as a Word document) to apply.

*The application form as well as the flyer is available in multiple languages on our website.

**Please include how to pronounce your name as well as how to write your name in the relevant native language, if applicable.

Sponsors: The Kansai Foreign Resident Education Network in Japan (Kansai Net) and the Hyogo Foreign Resident Education Research Council, Hyogo Prefecture Executive Office

Phone and Fax: 079-425-1245

Email: kengaikyo@jeans.ocn.ne.jp

Please direct any inquiries regarding applications to the Hyogo Foreign Resident Education Research Council.

For more information, please see our website at <https://kengaikyo.sakura.ne.jp> or inquire via email.

◆ 2026 International SDGs Forum: “Climate Change and Biodiversity Viewed through the Lens of Synergy”

With the nearby ocean setting the stage, we will introduce examples of synergy where local initiatives extend beyond environmental conservation to contribute to disaster risk reduction and the revitalization of the local economy. Together, let's

find new perspectives and approaches for our future activities!

Date: July 22 (Wed), 2026

Time: 16:00 - 17:00

Location: Lasse Hall

Info: We are pleased to welcome Visiting Professor Nobutoki Masato from Kobe University and Professor Aidy M. Muslim from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu. They will give an accessible overview of cutting-edge initiatives both within and outside Japan regarding “Blue Carbon,” which contributes to local revitalization efforts, as well as Eco-DRR (Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction), which harnesses the power of nature through mango groves, coral reefs, and other ecosystems.

Languages: Japanese and English (simultaneous translation provided)

Participation Fee: None, free to participate

Format: Hybrid (in person at the lecture hall and online)

Sponsors: The Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) and the
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

Co-Sponsor: Hyogo Prefecture

How to Participate: Please apply via the application form:

<https://isap.iges.or.jp/2026/jp/ps3.html>

Please direct any inquiries to the APN Center:

Phone: 078-230-8017, fax: 078-230-8018, email: apnseminar@gmail.com