



# Global Thinking

**No. 47** September 2014

P2: Peace Prayer Week  
 P3: FY2013 Kita City Short-Term International Exchange Program Report  
 P4: Information on Changes in Kita City Japanese-Language Classes

Edited and issued by the General Affairs Section (International Affairs), General Affairs Division, Kita City Office  
 1-15-22 Oji-honcho, Kita City, Tokyo 114-8508 Tel: 03-3908-9308 Fax: 03-3905-3423

## Public Libraries

There are 15 libraries and branch in Kita City, including Chuo Library. You are welcome to come to libraries and read materials even if you do not live, work or go to school in Kita City. Please take advantage of the services available by all means. Among our libraries, Chuo Library has over three hundred thousand volumes in its collection as a center of lifelong learning, and in the multicultural corner, there are books in about thirty foreign languages, such as English and Chinese. The library is composed of a red brick warehouse which is a historical building and a newly built wing. The interior is of a universal design without steps or stairs. Bookshelves, desks and restrooms are easy to use for those in wheelchairs, too.



In addition, there is a children’s library on the second floor that can be used as a childrearing information support room, with space for nursing infants and changing their diapers as well. Books and paintings donated by Mr. Donald Keene, a well-known scholar of Japanese literature, are on display in the Donald Keene collection corner. There is also a space for tea where people can enjoy some refreshment as well as books. The area is creatively designed as a place where people can spend some time in a relaxed atmosphere. By all means, please drop by!

Note: The Takinogawa and Akabane libraries also have multicultural corners.

### Kita City Public Libraries

Library	Address	Tel.	Library	Address	Tel.
Chuo	1-2-5 Jujodai	5993-1125	Kami-jujo	3-3-9 Kamijujo 3F	3905-3533
Chuo Branch	1-14-12 Toshima	3912-8566	Akabane-kita	1-18-1-111 Akabane-kita	3907-6412
Takinogawa	1-23-3 Nishigahara	3910-9092	Higashi-tabata	2-14-15 Tabata-shinmachi	3810-4341
Akabane*	Undergoing earthquake-resistance reinforcement	3901-1992	Kamiya	3-35-17 Kamiya 1F	5249-1200
Ukima	1-8-2-102 Ukima	3965-6531	Takinogawa-nishi	6-21-25 Takinogawa 5F	3576-8800
Akabane-nishi	5-7-5 Akabane-nishi 3F	3907-5992	Toshima	3-27-22 Toshima 1F	3927-3421
Showamachi	3-10-7 Showamachi 3F	3893-5418	Higashi-jujo	3-2-14 Higashi-jujo 1F	5390-6680
Tabata*	Undergoing renovations	3828-5569			

Note: The Akabane and Tabata libraries are closed until April 2015 (tentative) because of earthquake-resistance reinforcement and renovations. Since only partial counter services are available at the temporary locations, there are no bookshelves, newspaper/magazine corners and reading room. For more information, please call the specific library.



# Peace Prayer Week



To commemorate the “peace city declaration” that Kita City made in 1986, we hold a Peace Prayer Week every year in August, during which we put on various events with hope for peace as their theme. Through these programs we hope that everyone will understand the objective of the peace city declaration and make use of this opportunity to think about, pray for, and do all we can to achieve peace.

The events held during Kita City A Peace Prayer Week include the Peace Prayer Concert, folding origami cranes for peace, a memorial to the war dead, *suiton* (dumpling soup)-tasting and experiential corners—*ocha-kai* (tea gathering) and *washi* (Japanese paper) doll making, which are aspects of traditional Japanese culture as well as programs for peace and international cultural exchange. A lot of people join in these events every year.



Peace Memorial Monument



Peace exhibition hall



*Washi* (Japanese paper) doll corner



Tea ceremony corner

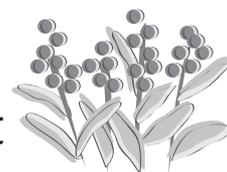


Mongolian cultural exchange



*Bon-odori* dancing

# FY2013 Kita City Short-Term International Exchange Program Report



The Kita City short-term international exchange program, which is conducted every year from July through September, was successfully completed again in FY2013. Seventeen international exchange participants were hosted with the cooperation of Toyo University, Teikyo University, the Japanese language school affiliated with the Chuo College of Technology, and the JET Academy; at seventeen locations, including three welfare facilities, three children's halls and eleven nursery schools.



## FY2013 Hosting Location—Takinogawa-higashi Day Home

### Program

The program participants mainly helped with everyday life support of the day home's users during the day for four days. In the morning they prepared tea to be served, participated in the stretching exercises, and presented a quiz and video on the geography and cultural assets of their home region of Hunan Province, China. In the afternoon, they had friendly exchanges with the service users while playing cards and Othello. At the end of the day, they saw the service users off and assisted with the cleaning of the facility.

### Impressions of the Short-Term International Exchange Host

Even though they were there only for a short time, the program participants were able to communicate well with the day home's users. They have good and quick understanding, and proceeded with their program while being sensitive to the feelings of the service users. They always smiled while talking to the users, and made activities fun by mixing jokes in their conversation.

We saw them gradually improve in the program procedures each day, and that with always something new and creative. Everyone worked very hard, and the four days were fun.



## Impressions of a Short-Term International Exchange Participant

I participated in the recent short-term international exchange program sponsored by Kita City Office from September 17 to 20. What was most memorable to me was that while the average age of service users was 81 years old, they spent each day with youthful hearts. I realized that compared to the elderly of China, the people in Japan are healthier. I would like to be this healthy when I reach this age. I was also impressed at how hard the facility staff members work to provide services for the users. I know it's not easy! Although it was a long commute from Tachikawa to the day home, I learned a lot from this experience. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity!



# Information on Changes in Kita City Japanese-Language Classes

Due to earthquake-resistance reinforcement and renovations for elevator installation at Chuo Park Culture Center, the location of Japanese-language classes taught by volunteers was changed in June of last year. Construction work was completed on April 16 of this year, and now that Chuo Park Culture Center has reopened, some of these classes have resumed there. We have listed all the Japanese-language classes below, along with their locations and contact numbers.

## Updated List of Japanese-Language Classes

**Fee:** ¥100 per session (Japanese-language Terrace Group: ¥200)

Date and Time	Group Name	Program	Format	Location and Contact Information
Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to noon and Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to noon	Japanese-Language Friends	Original materials; conversation	Classes are divided according to levels/groups Individual lessons	Location: Chuo Park Culture Center Tel: 090-2562-3970, Akiko Mori 03-3915-0228, Sayoko Koda
Fridays, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.	Join-Us Japanese-Language Club	Original materials; conversation	Classes are divided into groups Individual lessons	Location: Volunteer Plaza, Hokutopia 4F Tel: 090-1813-6154, Takashi Takahashi
First, second, fourth and fifth Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to noon	Asuka Japanese-Language Family	Original materials; conversation	Classes are divided according to levels/groups Classroom/ individual lessons	Location: Volunteer Plaza, Hokutopia 4F Tel: 03-3900-2738, Nobuyuki Suzuki
Saturdays, 2 to 5 p.m.	Japanese-Language Terrace (formerly Japanese-Language Salon)	Original materials; conversation Independent activities (actual costs)	General	Location: Volunteer Plaza, Hokutopia 4F Tel: 090-6501-9974, Hiroshi Yoshida

## Announcement Corner

### Subsidies for Parents of Foreign Resident School Children/Students

This subsidy is provided for foreign resident parents with a child between three and fifteen years of age (third year of junior high school or the equivalent) living in Kita City and attending a school for foreign residents (this includes various types of schools). Please call for more information.

**Inquiries:** Subsection for Raising Future Generations, Child Rearing Support Section, **Tel:** 03-3908-8143



### Hometown Kita City Citizens' Festival—International Fureai Plaza

At the Oji site of the 31st Hometown Kita City Citizens' Festival, there will be vendors offering the cuisine and folk craft items of various countries around the world. There will also be an International Fureai Plaza, where you can enjoy performances of ethnic arts and have all kinds of friendly international exchanges. Volunteers are being recruited to help with the setup, operation and cleanup of the event site.

**Date and time:** October 4 (Sat.) and 5 (Sun.), 2014

**Location:** Asukayama Park, Fountain Plaza

**Inquiries:** General Affairs Subsection, General Affairs Section, Kita City, **Tel:** 03-3908-9308



Enjoying African instruments

### Bus Tours for Foreign Residents



This is a program started four years ago that everyone seems to enjoy every year. The tours are meant to help foreign residents learn more about Kita City, including introducing facilities and factories that are unique to Kita City.

The tours are scheduled for December 2014 through February 2015. Please read the *Kita City News* for more details.



Making *tawashi* scrub brushes at Nishio Shoten