

Social Services

EPIC One-stop Consultation Desk for Foreigners

This is a good place to start if you have a question or need help. They can direct you to where you can get the help you need. Service available in more than 20 languages using a translation service in a 3-way call. You can call the following number or go to EPIC in person. Check the website for more information: <https://www.epic.or.jp/kurasu/sodan.html#SEC1>

Tel. 080-4783-5253

Monday—Saturday 9:00 – 17:00

Civil Liberties Counseling

Free paralegal counseling sessions for civil rights are sponsored by the District Legal Affairs Bureau and the Ehime Prefectural International Center (EPIC). All sessions will be strictly confidential.

Place: EPIC

Day/Time: 13:30-15:30 the 4th Thursday of each month.

To request another time, call EPIC at 089- 917-5678.

Languages: Japanese & English

(For help in another language, contact EPIC by the 10th of the month.)

Free Legal Consultation Service

Certified administrative procedures legal specialists (*gyouseishoshi*) are offer free 30-minute consultation services to non-Japanese on various matters such as residency, nationality, marriage, owning a vehicle, contracts, and setting up a business.

This service is supported by the Matsuyama International Center (MIC). To make an appointment, please complete the consultation form by 4:00 pm the Sunday before. The form is available at MIC. Your privacy will be protected.

Dates: Aug. 13, Sept. 10 (Wed.) 13:30-15:30

Place: COMS 4F International Meeting Room

For more information email MIC at mail@mic.ehime.jp or call 089-943-2025.

Community Life

Community Life is a local NPO that provides legal advice and help with daily life issues for free. They will do what they can to help you solve your problem and will arrange for translation in your language, if requested.

Email: foreignerfriendly@gmail.com

MIC Volunteers

Do you need help and some language support to go to the doctor, apply for a driver's license, or deal with official documents? MIC Volunteers (formerly called Otasukeman), a service of the Matsuyama International Center, will help you if you are having trouble managing your life in Matsuyama. The service is free, but you will be expected to pay for transportation. Your privacy will be respected, and only the person who helps you will be given the details of the kind of help you need. You can request their services by calling MIC at 089-943-2025 between 9:00 and 17:30 Tuesday through Sunday. Or fill out the request form here:

https://www.mic.ehime.jp/MIC/FORM/Applyform_otasukeman.html?Subject=%20need%20OTASUKEMAN%20!!

Japan Life Guide

The Council of Local Authorities for International Relations “Japan Life Guide” app has basic information concerning such topics as taxes, pension system, for foreign residents in Japan in English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Thai, German, Russian, Japanese (with Japanese syllabaries/furigana) and Simple Japanese are available. You can use this app as an everyday guide as well as in times of disaster.

<http://www.clair.or.jp/e/multiculture/index.html>

Bicycle Insurance/Registration

It is strongly recommended that you get the Traffic Safety (TS) Mark bicycle insurance. TS Mark insurance covers:

- 1) Liability (harm or damage to another person or property)
- 2) Accidents (harm or damage to yourself or your property)

To get a TS Mark sticker, have your bicycle checked for safety at a bicycle shop. Don't forget to have it checked every year.

Cost: ¥2000-¥3000 (TS Mark insurance is included.)

In Japan bicycles are registered in your name when you buy one. If someone gives you a bicycle you should have the registration changed to your name or the previous owner should give you the registration document and a note saying you can use it. Otherwise, if you are stopped by the police they will think it is a stolen bicycle.

Basic bicycle rules are shown in this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nwwg51juMA&t=21s>

Matsuyama City Central Library

The Central Library in the Community Center has a large English book section. You can register for a free library card in English. The 2nd floor Audio/Visual section has movies in English.

They now have a ‘Multicultural Corner’ with a Japan (learning about the culture and language) section, a foreign language periodical section and a multicultural coexistence section. At the counter they have an English guide sheet to help you find what you want.

Open 9:30-20:00 Open every day except Aug. 29. INFO 089-943-8008

The Association of Foreign Wives of Japanese

AFWJ aims to provide friendship, support and opportunities for social, emotional, educational and professional growth to non-Japanese women who are married or engaged to Japanese men.

INFO: afwjshikoku-rep@afwj.org, Website: www.afwj.org