



# Global Thinking

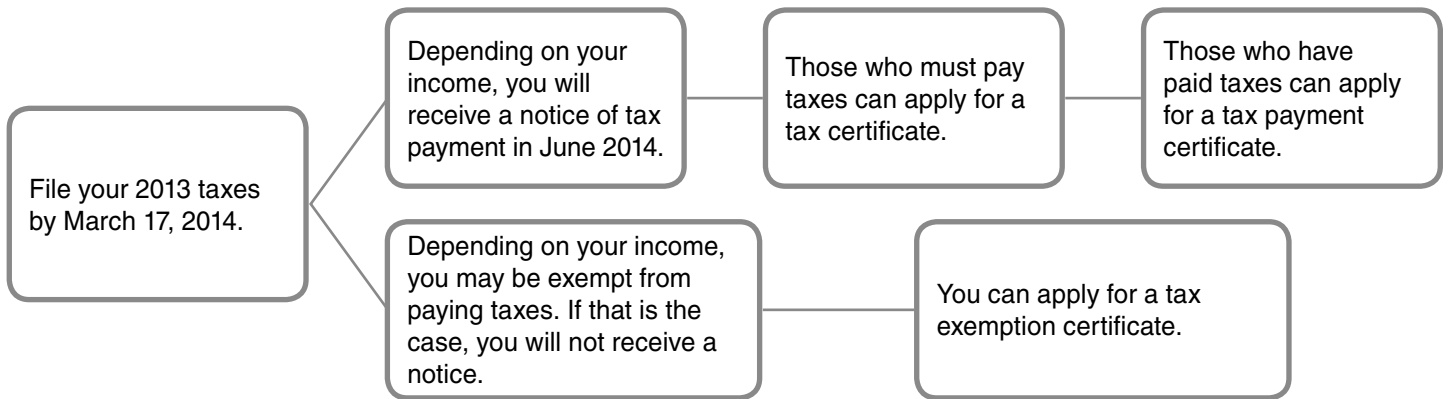
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## Handy Information for Foreigners on Taxes



### What Taxes Do I Pay, and What Are They Used For?

The national government and local (prefecture and city) governments use your taxes to provide public services. Income tax is levied by the national government, while the city government levies individual resident taxes (special city resident tax and metropolitan resident tax).

#### 1. Individual Resident Tax

For company employees, income tax is calculated based on his/her monthly salaries and bonuses and deducted from their salaries and bonuses. (This collection method is called tax withholding.) Individual resident tax amounts are determined in June by the government of the city, town or village the person lives in as of January 1. Payment of the individual resident tax based on the income in 2013 will start in June 2014.

Note: If you are leaving Japan to live in your home country or another country before the tax payment period, you must designate someone to pay the taxes on your behalf.

#### 2. Filing Earnings for Individual Resident Tax

Those who live in Kita City as of January 1, 2014 must report their income for individual resident tax at the City Office during the period noted above. Failure to do so will hinder your visa renewal process and may make your National Health Insurance premium calculation incorrect.

**Notes:** 1. Those who did not have any income the previous year must still file an income report.

2. Those who had earnings the previous year are requested to submit their withholding slip (see an example of the slip on the right).

3. Those who are financially supporting family members living

overseas are requested to submit a certificate of family relations and documents to prove the support (remittance certificate, etc.).

#### 3. How to Pay Individual Resident Tax

##### Regular Collection

This is the method in which you pay the taxes yourself. Based on the tax payment notification that the City Office sends, you pay at the City Office, or a financial institution or other designated location in four installments a year. Payment can also be made through bank transfers.

##### Special Collection

Under this method, the tax you owe is automatically deducted from your salary. As a rule, the tax is divided into twelve installments a year and deducted every month.

#### 4. Tax Certificates, Tax Exemption Certificates and Tax Payment Certificates

Any of the above certificates can be used to certify your previous year's income as printed on the document. Please note that you must file for individual resident tax to get these certificates issued.

An example of a withholding slip issued by a company



##### Inquiries

Taxation Subsection 1 through 4, Tax Administration Section  
Tel: 03-3908-1113  
Counters No. 8-11, 2F, Kita City Hall No. 1 Building (1-15-22 Oji-Honcho, Kita-ku)

# Kita City Gender Equality Center

Kita City hopes that the city residents can live freely and like themselves regardless of their sex. As one of its attempts to realize this objective, the Gender Equality Center “Space Yu” on the fifth and sixth floors of Hokutopia provides various measures.

## ● Seminars on gender equality

You can deepen your knowledge, meet friends and review your lifestyle through the seminars.

## ● Consultation services on domestic violence and other issues

Comprehensive consultation services for women are offered centering on domestic violence and legal consultations.

## ● Supporting exchanges among residents

The center is promoting the buildup of networks among city residents and groups, and the organization of various groups.

## ● Supporting independence

The center empowers both sexes and supports voluntary group activities to help residents live like themselves in the local community, including helping them find work and take part in social activities.

## ● Library services

The center offers books and magazines related to gender equality. You can also consult the information counter.



The Japanese government and Kita City both observe Gender Equality Week in June, and the city also hosts lecture meeting during the period.

You can enjoy various exhibitions at “Gallery Yu” free of charge. Please also feel free to stop by the center’s cafe space, where you can drink tea and relax.



“Gallery Yu”



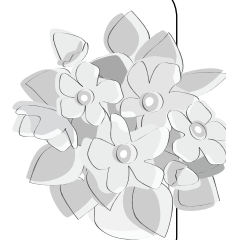
Multipurpose room

## Inquiries:

Gender Equality Center “Space Yu” (Hokutopia 5F and 6F)

Tel: 03-3913-0161 Fax: 03-3913-0081

URL: <http://www.city.kita.tokyo.jp/docs/facility/052/005234.htm>



# Overnight Japanese Homestay Experience in FY2012



This is an annual program that takes place between December and February the following year. Foreign students stay overnight at a Japanese home in Kita City to experience Japanese culture and customs.

## Message from a Host Family



We became a host family to a foreign student for the first time. We were excited because we have long been interested in accepting foreign visitors. Though nervous at first, thanks to the frankness of Ms. Cai, we became friends very easily.

On the first day, we went to a conveyor-belt sushi bar for lunch and then bought groceries for supper. We decided to cook our native dishes for each other. The family prepared hand-rolled sushi and New Year's soup containing rice cakes and vegetables (*ozoni*), while Ms. Cai made fried tomatoes and eggs in the Chinese style. She showed us pictures of her hometown in China and told us about its history and culture. We later went to a public bath together.

The next day, we went to Taishakuten temple to pay our first visit of the year, and followed that with a visit to Yamamoto-tei Japanese garden where we listened to a *shamisen* (Japanese banjo) performance while drinking tea.

It was good that she was able to get a glimpse of Japanese culture and traditions. We were also thrilled to learn about a different culture and unfamiliar ways of thinking. We cherish this newly formed friendship.

## Comments of an Indonesian Student

It was fun staying at a Japanese home. My host family consisted of three people and a puppy. I am full of appreciation toward them for sharing the two days with me.

On the first day, they picked me up at the station at 4 p.m. We ate hand-rolled sushi for dinner. It was my first time to eat sushi, which was interesting and delicious. Later, we sat around a *kotatsu* (a low, covered table with a heat source underneath). I felt totally relaxed, as if I had become a real member of the family. I discussed politics with my host father and played with the puppy. My younger host sister played the *koto* (Japanese harp) for me, and it was very beautiful.

On the second day, we went to an event at Tokyo Dome called the Hometown Festival. We ate local food from various regions of Japan and watched traditional dance performances. Later, we viewed an illuminated site, rode the ferris wheel, and ate crepes.

Thanks to this homestay experience, I was able to feel the true Japan.



# Bus Tour for Foreigners in FY2012



As part of efforts to create an environment friendly to foreigners, Kita City holds bus tours that take its foreign residents to various places in the city. Twelve foreigners from China, Belgium, Australia and other countries took part in the tour and visited four facilities in fiscal 2012 (listed below).

Places visited: Disaster Prevention Center, Koyama Shuzo Co., Ltd. (a Japanese sake brewery), Kita Garbage Disposal Plant and the Arakawa Museum of Aqua.

Participants had this to say:

Participant A: At the Disaster Prevention Center, I experienced smoke and a simulated quake, and took part in a firefighting drill. I also learned how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED). They were all useful and new to me.

Participant B: Newly made Japanese sake was so delicious that I bought many bottles for our New Year's celebration.

Participant C: The garbage disposal plant was clean inside and out. I was impressed.

Participant D: I was able to learn a lot by visiting the Arakawa Museum of Aqua. For example, Japan is blessed with many rivers, but also has a long history of fighting floods.



Disaster Prevention Center



Koyama Shuzo Co., Ltd.



Kita Garbage Disposal Plant



Arakawa Museum of Aqua

# Events in Kita City



## The 59th Akabane “Baka” (Fools) Festival

April 26 (Sat.) and 27 (Sun.), 2014

Every year in April, Kita City holds the Akabane “Baka” (Fools) Festival in Akabane. This is a major event hosted by local shopkeepers, who were inspired by the efforts of the feudal warlord Ota Dokan to spread singing and playing instrumental music among local people about five centuries ago. The festival got its named name because the first event was held on the April Fools Day.



A portable shrine being carried at last year's festival



## 2014 Kita City Peace Prayer Week

Dates: August 5 (Tue.), 6 (Wed.) and 7 (Thu.), 2014 Location: Hokutopia (1-11-1, Oji)

Kita City, which adopted the “peace city declaration” in 1986, hosts a week of prayer for peace in early August every year and holds events to promote peace. The special week began in 1991. Last year, Akabane Hall became the site of a “peace exhibition” that included displays of photographs and goods from the wartime. It was also the venue for international exchanges to experience Japanese and non-Japanese traditional culture, the tasting of *suiton* (vegetable soup with flour balls), and a charity bazaar. A peace prayer monument was installed at Hokutopia with a motif of origami paper cranes.

We plan to host various events this year, too. Please check the July issues of *Kita City News* for the schedule.



Prayer for Peace Monument from last year



The Peace Exhibition at Akabane Hall



International exchange corner

## Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games Section Established

On September 8, 2013, Tokyo was chosen as the site of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic games. Kita City therefore decided to set up a new section for these international sporting contests as part of its efforts to help citizens enjoy sports more, including viewing and cheering the games. The new Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games Section was formally established on November 1.

## Introduction to Life in Japan

The speaker will discuss issues that foreign parents face at Japanese schools their children attend. Specific examples will be given.

**Date and time:** 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., March 21 (Fri.), 2014

**Place:** Kishimachi Fureai-kan Community Hall (1-6-17 Kishimachi, Kita-ku)

**Speaker:** Liang Enxin

**Fee:** free of charge

**Capacity:** Thirty people on a first-come, first-served basis; both foreigners and Japanese are welcome

**Application:** Please call, fax, or e-mail us, and tell us your name, nationality, telephone number and specific interests.

**Deadline:** March 15

**Inquiries:** Asia Commons (a nonprofit organization)

**Tel:** 080-5412-4914

**Fax:** 03-6427-7875

**E-mail:** asiacommons@gmail.com