

## Suginami Association for Cultural Exchange

# Connecting people and bridging communities

- Suginami Association for Cultural Exchange (SACE) was established by Suginami City in 2006.
- SACE works to **contribute to the creation of a vibrant multicultural society and regional revitalization by connecting people and developing exchanges with communities.**
- SACE holds events and programs with three aims.
  1. Supporting foreign residents
  2. Promoting exchange between Suginami City and its domestic/foreign friendship cities
  3. Improving mutual understanding to create a multicultural symbiotic society
- SACE operates Comu-Cul Shop on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Suginami City Office. The shop sells goods of Namisuke, Suginami City's official mascot, and popular local products from friendship cities.

## 1 Supporting Foreign Residents

We hold various events and programs for foreign residents in order for them to feel comfortable living in Suginami City.

### **Welcome Party**

Foreign residents can learn the rules necessary to live in local communities, including how to separate waste, disaster prevention measures, road safety rules, etc. It is also a great opportunity to meet and interact with people.

### **Support Desk for Foreign Residents**

SACE volunteer staff members help foreign residents in foreign languages with procedures and paperwork at the city office. You can consult them about any worries and difficulties that you may have. (The operating hours and languages are shown on p. 4.)

### **Free Professional Consultations for Foreign Residents**

A free professional consultation operated by municipalities participating in the Tokyo Support Network for Foreign Residents. Consultations are held in Suginami City annually in collaboration with specialists including lawyers, labor and social security attorneys, certified tax accountants, administrative lawyers and volunteer interpreters in approximately 10 foreign languages.

### **Japanese Classes**

Volunteer groups offer Japanese classes for foreign residents at SACE meeting room. (Mondays through Fridays)

## Volunteering: “Language Volunteers” and “Home stay/Home visit Program”

Using the Tokyo 2020 Olympic & Paralympic Games as a good opportunity, the registration for volunteers began in Suginami City in June 2019. This has enabled many citizens to volunteer in various ways.



SACE recruits Language Volunteers who work as interpreters at events held by Suginami City and SACE as well as volunteers in the “Home stay/Home visit Program” which is an exchange program with visitors from friendship cities of Suginami as well as international students.

In addition, we offer seminars for volunteers to improve their skills.

## A Trend of Foreign Residents in Suginami City

In recent years, not only foreign tourists but also the number of foreign residents has been increasing. This trend is prominent in Suginami City. There has been a 54 percent increase in the past 10 years. Especially Nepali and Vietnamese have shown a sharp increase in numbers.

The number of foreign residents in Suginami City      Top 10 countries/area

As of April, 2009			As of April, 2019	
Total	11,778		Total	18,152
China	3,905		China	6,006
Rep. of Korea	3,542		Rep. of Korea	3,074
U.S.A	712		Nepal	2,167
Philippine	566		Vietnam	1,528
Nepal	488		Taiwan	1,034
England	266		U.S.A.	793
Thailand	208	54 % increase	Philippine	572
Myanmar	194	in the past 10 years	England	307
Canada	188		France	284
France	163		Thai	244

## 2 Promoting Exchange between Suginami City and its Domestic/Foreign Friendship Cities

We promote exchange between Suginami City and its domestic/foreign friendship cities.

### Friendship Cities of Suginami City

In Japan: Nayoro City (Hokkaido), Minamisoma City (Fukushima), Kitashiobara Village (Fukushima), Ojiya City (Niigata), Town of Higashiagatsuma (Gunma), Oshino Village (Yamanashi), Town of Minami-izu (Shizuoka), Ome City (Tokyo), Musashino City (Tokyo), Ogasawara Village (Tokyo)

Overseas: Willoughby City (Australia), Seocho District (South Korea), Taiwan

### Friendship and Goodwill

We participate in events held by the friendship cities in Japan and abroad in order to strengthen the ties of friendship.

Tokyo Koenji Awa Odori: We promote exchange with friendship cities through Tokyo Koenji Awa Odori performances.

Junior high school goodwill baseball games with Taiwan teams: We organize tours for Taiwan to support Junior high school goodwill baseball games.

### **Exchange with Citizens of Suginami City and Friendship Cities**

To promote grass-roots cultural exchange, we organize tours for citizens to visit friendship cities. We also hold exchange parties and Home stay/Home visit programs.

### **Selling the Local Products of Friendship Cities and Promoting Tourism**

We expand exchange by selling local products of friendship cities and promoting tourism.

## **3 Deepening Mutual Understanding to Create a Multicultural Symbiotic Society**

In order to create a symbiotic society where people of different generations, positions and nationalities feel comfortable living, we offer opportunities to learn about other cultures and interact with each other.

### *Experiencing Foreign Culture*

#### **Foreign Cultural Seminar**

Focusing on a certain country every year, we introduce its culture and history to deepen citizens' understanding of that country.

### *Marugoto Taiwan Fair*

Taiwan and Suginami City deepen ties through junior high school goodwill baseball games. We introduce charms of Taiwan to citizens by Marugoto Taiwan Fair every year.

### *Learning the perspective of foreign people*

#### **Japanese Speech Contest**

Foreign residents make speeches about living in Japan from their perspective. This helps us to deepen mutual understanding.

### *Learning how to communicate with foreign people*

#### **Yasashii, easy to understand, Japanese Seminar**

This seminar encourages you to communicate with foreign people in plain, easy to understand, Japanese.

### *Deepening understanding through exchange programs*

#### **The Intercultural Understanding Seminars**

These seminars aim at deeper mutual understanding through cultural exchange. Here foreign residents introduce their own cultures.

### *Learning Foreign Languages*

#### **Introductory course of foreign languages**

We offer introductory courses of English and another foreign language to the citizens every year.

## ● Support Desk for Foreign Residents

Volunteer advisors of SACE help foreign residents with procedures and paperwork at the city office. You can consult them about any worries and difficulties that you may have. Your privacy is assured. Free of charge.

Place:	1F, Suginami City Hall		
Languages:	English	Every Mon.	13:00 – 16:00
		Every Fri.	9:00 – 12:00 noon
	Chinese	Every Mon.	9:00 – 12:00 noon
		the 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Fri.	13:00 – 16:00
	Korean	the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri.	13:00 – 16:00
	Nepali	the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed.	9:00 – 12:00 noon
Except year-end and New Year's holidays and national holidays			

## ● Japanese Classes

Volunteer groups offer Japanese classes for foreign residents at SACE meeting room. (Mondays through Fridays)

LTC Tomo no kai	Every Tues.	10:30 – 12:00 noon
		13:15 – 14:40, 14:50 – 16:15
	Every Thurs.	10:30 – 12:00 noon
Nihongo Koryu Club	Every Wed.	9:00 – 10:30, 10:30 – 12:00 noon
ALL Group	Every Mon.	9:00 – 10:30, 10:30 – 12:00 noon
	Every Fri.	9:00 – 10:30, 10:30 – 12:00 noon

## ● Commu-Cul Shop ( Community Culture Shop)

Operating Hours 9:00 – 16:30 Weekdays (Except Sat., Sun. and holidays)

Goods of Namisuke, Suginami City's official mascot, and popular local products from friendship cities are sold at the Comu-Cul Shop, 1F, Suginami City Office. Please come and enjoy shopping.

## ● SACE Membership System

Annual membership fee: 1,000yen

Members will receive newsletters and event information by postal mail.

Applications: Please send your name, home address, phone number to SACE by post, fax or email. There is an application form on the website of SACE.

Suginami Association for Cultural Exchange

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<http://suginami-kouryu.org/>



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