

Providing foreign residents of Takasaki with a safe, comfortable living environment.

Takasaki Native Language Assistance

Let us help you by interpreting from your native language to Japanese



What is Native Language Assistance?

Native Language Assistance is an interpreting and translation service offered by the Takasaki International Relations Society (TIRS) for people who don't speak Japanese as their native language in order that they have access to correct information and lifestyle support services. Foreigners themselves, international relations organizations, educational, medical, administrative and other not-for-profit bodies can apply for Native Language Assistance to help with communication in a number of scenarios; filling out forms, school meetings, hospital visits, shopping, when you want someone to talk to and in other situations that fall within the boundaries of international exchange and lifestyle support. Unfortunately Native Language Assistance is not available for matters where profit is involved or that require specialist knowledge or language skills.

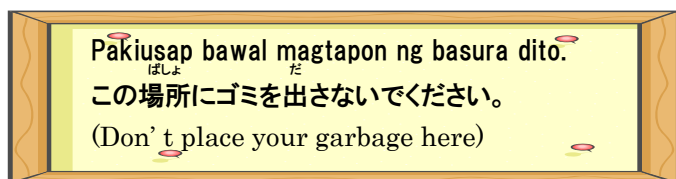
How to access Native Language Assistance

Please come to the Takasaki International Relations Office to fill out a 'Request for Native Language Assistance' form. Our office will review your request and make a decision about introducing you to a volunteer interpreter or translator. This is a free service.

Examples of requests

- Interpreting at a check-up at the optometrist
- Interpreting at TIRS events (e.g. at regular foreigner study and chat meetings)
- At a meeting with a child's kindergarten teacher
- Explanation of how to use a Japanese computer
- Translation of an information sign in an apartment building (picture below)

A sign that was translated from Japanese into Tagalog



About our registered interpreters

Languages: English (34 interpreters), Chinese (10), Korean (3), Spanish (3), Tagalog (1), Portuguese (1), Urdu and other (1)

Why don't you become a volunteer interpreter?

Register

Fill out a registration form at our office to become a volunteer interpreter. REQUIREMENTS 1. Understand and accept the aims of the Native Language Assistance program. 2. Speak and write Japanese plus another foreign language to a sufficient level to carry out interpretation and translation under the Native Language Assistance program. 3. Be a member of the Takasaki International Relations Society (annual membership fee ¥2000) and are over 18 years of age. 4. Able to attend training courses provided by TIRS in order to maintain and improve your ability to perform the duties required. 5. Contactable by email.

Tagalog, Thai and Portuguese speakers urgently needed!

The table below shows a breakdown of the top 5 foreign nationalities of residents of Takasaki. If we could find more volunteer interpreters who speak Chinese, Tagalog, Korean, Portuguese and Thai, the languages spoken by 80% of all foreigners in the city would be covered. Speakers of Indonesian and Vietnamese are also wanted.

Importance of communication support

Foreign residents of Takasaki need access to correct information in order to live in safety and comfort in our city. It is therefore of great assistance to be able to provide them with information and support in their native language or alternatively in simple Japanese. This is also effective in preventing foreigners from feeling helpless or without a sense of belonging because they are unable to find information on their own or interact with Japanese people simply because their Japanese isn't adequate. Native Language Assistance serves to join together people in need of support in their own language with those who can speak another language, in this way lessening the feeling of insecurity that might be felt by foreigners living in Takasaki

Takasaki foreign resident population (as at 31st December 2009)

1. China	1612	
2. Philippines	728	
3. Koreans	669	
4. Brazil	376	
5. Thailand	187	
Others	773	Indonesia (105) Vietnam (96) Peru (85)
TOTAL	4345	

To register as a volunteer interpreter or to use Native Language Assistance, please contact our office

Enquiries to:
Takasaki International Relations Society
 Takasaki-shi, Takamatsu-cho 35-1
 2nd Floor Takasaki City Hall
 TEL 027-321-1201
 FAX 027-330-1819
 Email intl@city.takasaki.gunma.jp