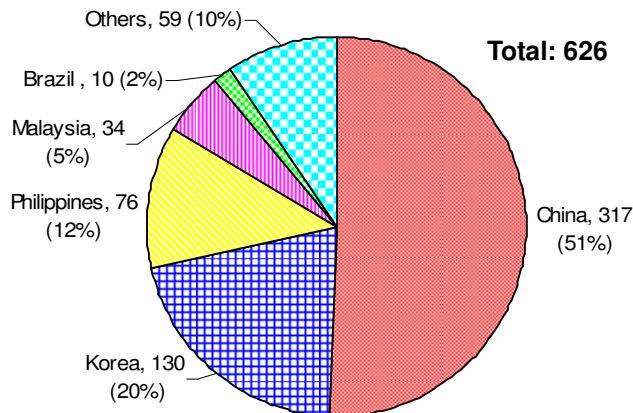


Foreign Residents in Yonezawa

Out of Yonezawa's population of roughly 90 thousand people, 626 are registered foreign residents. The majority are from Asian countries including China, Korea, and the Philippines. Based on residency status, permanent residents are largest in number, followed by those married to Japanese, and international students. Although life in Yonezawa may be difficult at times for foreign residents, the City and other local organizations provide various services to help and serve the needs of non-Japanese residents.

Number of Registered Foreign Residents in Yonezawa by Country (As of September 30th, 2009)



Others Include: Australia (2), Austria (1), Bangladesh (1), Canada (2), Denmark (1), India (3), Indonesia (9), Iran (2), Ireland (2), Mongolia (1), Nepal (1), Peru (1), Holland (1), Singapore (1), Sri Lanka (1), Thailand (9), Uganda (1), Myanmar (6), United Kingdom (4), USA (9), Vietnam (3)



Need help?

Come to the 3rd Floor of City Hall!

The International Affairs section of City Hall and the Yonezawa International Relations Association (YIRA) Office are located on the 3rd floor of Yonezawa City Hall in the Secretarial and Public Relations Division. Please drop by or contact the office any time when you are in need of assistance. The City also publishes the Yonezawa Living Guide, a guidebook for daily living in Yonezawa for foreign residents.

Living Consultation:

We provide consultation for foreign residents in Japanese and English. Please feel free to come talk about any questions or concerns that you have about living in Yonezawa with us any time.

Office Hours: Monday~Friday 9:00~17:00

Yonezawa Living Guide:

The living guide book is free and is available in English, Chinese, Korean, and Portuguese.

Did You Know ??

Sengenji Temple/ Horohado Hall



This is the temple of the Irobe family who served as the chief retainer of the Uesugi clan. It was originally located in Echigo (present day Niigata Prefecture). When the Uesugi clan was transferred to Aizu and then to Yonezawa, the Irobe family and Sengenji Temple was also transferred to Aizu, and then to Yonezawa as well.

Within the precincts of the temple is a hall known as the Horohado where a "naked" mochi making festival is held every year on December 4th. In 1641, pests spread through the fields and the harvest was in danger. After receiving and following a divine prophecy to scatter the dirt from below the Horohado on to the fields, the pests went away and the crops recovered. The villagers made and offered mochi to thank the gods, and since then, mochi making became a tradition at the temple. Young men in the area pound the mochi half naked and serve the mochi to guests. It has been passed down as a festival to celebrate the coming of the New Year.

Yonezawa City International Relations Association

The Yonezawa City International Relations Association (YIRA) was established in 1996 to promote mutual understanding and friendship with people from different cultures and backgrounds. YIRA holds various events throughout the year to provide opportunities for exchange for both Japanese and non-Japanese citizens of Yonezawa. Members of YIRA receive information about various international events, as well as discounts for YIRA events. There are also opportunities to volunteer at events and use your language and cultural experiences.

One Year Membership

Individual: 1,000 yen Group: 5,000 yen
Email: yira@omn.ne.jp
Home Page: <http://www.omn.ne.jp/~yira>



Yonezawa Four Seasons Photos

The city is seeking submissions of photographs that showcase daily life in Yonezawa throughout the different seasons. They will be published in the New Years edition of the "Koho Yonezawa" city newsletter. Photographs of scenery, events, or family photos are all welcome!

Size: L size (80mm×110mm) KG size (102mm×152mm)

Number: 1 photo per person

*Please inquire about submitting digital photographs

How to Submit: Please write the following 4 items on the back of the photo and submit by mail or in person.

① Title of the photograph; ② Season; ③ Comment about the photo (42 characters or less); ④ Address, name, phone number.

Send to: 992-8501 Kanaike 5-2-25
Secretarial & Public Relations Division

Deadline: Nov 27th (Fri)

Note: Be sure to have the image rights of the photograph.

Due to limited space, not all photographs will be published in the newsletter.

Inquiries: City Secretarial & Public Relations Division
TEL 22-5111



Other Events & Information

○Flea Market

When: 11/1 (Sun), 11/8 (Sun), 11/15 (Sun), 11/22 (Sun)
9:00~15:00

Where: Machi No Hiroba (Town Square)

Inquiries: City Commerce Division TEL 22-5111

○Yonezawa Citizen's Choir "Zao" Concert

When: 11/8 (Sun) 14:00~

Where: Yonezawa Shimin Bunka Kaikan

Cost: General- 2,000 yen, Students - 1,000 yen

Tickets: Available at Onuma Yonezawa Store, Yonezawa Saty, Denkokoku No Mori, Shimin Bunka Kaikan

Inquiries: Shimin Bunka Kaikan TEL 23-8510

○Japan-China Friendship Exchange Party

When: 11/15 (Sun)

Where: Tobu Community Center

Contents: Gyoza making, bingo game, etc.

Cost: Free for Chinese participants, 5,000 yen for others

Inquiries: Yonezawa Japan-China Friendship Association
TEL 23-3224

○Kinoene Daikokuten Shrine Festival

When: 11/19 (Thu) 10:00~, 12:00~

Where: Onogawa Hot Springs Kinoene Daikokuten Shrine

What: People from across the country come to pray for good luck at the Daikokuten shrine during the festival.

Inquiries: Kinoene Daikokuten TEL 32-2929

○Yonezawa Wind Orchestra Club "Family Concert"

When: 11/23 (Mon) 11:00~

Where: Denkokoku No Mori Okitama Bunka Hall

Cost: Parent/Child Pair Ticket 500 yen

Inquiries: Denkokoku No Mori TEL 26-2666

Yonezawa City International Relations Association (YIRA) Information



- YIRA Cafe Special Event -

Potluck Party

Bring a dish to share with everyone and enjoy casual international exchange!

When: 11/27 (Fri) 12:00~14:00

Where: Okitama Sogo Bunka Center 3F Meeting Room

Cost: Free Please bring 1 dish for 3~5 people (Anything simple is fine. Desserts and drinks are OK as well), plus your own utensils, plates, and cups.

Sign Ups/Inquiries: YIRA Office

TEL 22-5111 Email: yira@omn.ne.jp

Home Page: <http://www.omn.ne.jp/~yira>

○Horohado New Years Festival

When: 12/4 (Fri)

Where: Sengenji Temple (Horohado Hall)

Contents: A "naked" mochi making festival will be held from early morning at the temple to celebrate the New Year and to prevent pestilence and famine.

Cost: 1,500 yen (Cost for mochi, ceremony, and meal)

Inquiries: Sengenji Temple TEL 37-3708

If you would like to be put on our mailing list, or if you have any feedback for the newsletter, please contact us at:

Civic Exchange Section

Secretarial & Public Relations Division

Yonezawa City Hall, 3rd Floor

5-2-25 Kanaike, Yonezawa, Yamagata 〒992-8501

TEL: 0238-22-5111 Ext. 3005 FAX: 0238-24-4540

Email: hisyo-ka@city.yonezawa.yamagata.jp

Homepage: <http://www.city.yonezawa.yamagata.jp/shisei/matidukuri/kokusai/index.html>