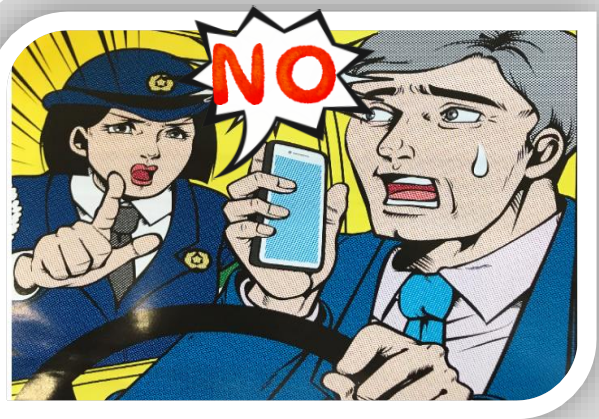




Hello Okaya

Okaya Culture Promotion Group Okaya Int'l Center
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Spring 2020 edition (英語)

This newsletter is distributed four times a year by the Okaya International Center with the aim of providing foreign residents with information necessary for daily life, as well as insights into Japanese culture. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or feedback you might have.



The Road Traffic Law Has Been Amended

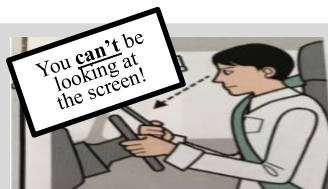
Stricter penalties will be enforced !

It's illegal to use your mobile phone while driving

An Explanation of the New Policy and Penalties

Driving while holding a mobile phone

The following penalties will be incurred when a driver is talking on and/or looking at a mobile phone (or similar device) while the device is in their hand



Using a smartphone while driving...

Before Amendment

For Standard-sized vehicles

Fine: Up to ¥50,000

Penalty: ¥6000 (standard-sized vehicles)

Point(s): 1 point



After Amendment (New Law)

Fine: Up to 6 months imprisonment or ¥100,000 fine

Penalty: ¥18,000 (standard-sized vehicles)

Point(s) : 3 points

Driving while using a mobile phone (and an accident occurs)

The following penalties will be incurred when a driver causes an accident and they are found to be talking on a mobile phone with the device in their hand, and/or looking at the screen (regardless of whether the device is in their hand or not)



...And then an accident happens

Your drivers' license will immediately be suspended!

Before Amendment

For Standard-sized vehicles

Fine: Up to 3 months imprisonment or ¥50,000 fine

Penalty: ¥9000 (standard-sized vehicles)

Point(s) : 2 points



After Amendment (New Law)

Fine: Up to a 1 year imprisonment or ¥300,000 fine

Penalty: The rules for traffic ticket charges do NOT apply. All charges will be subject to penalties

Point(s) : 6 points (license suspension)

Driving at Night Is Dangerous!

It's
harder
to see at
night!



Most fatal car accidents involving pedestrians occur at night...



① Cars turning left into an intersection can be dangerous for pedestrians!

Pedestrians crossing from the right, as seen by the driver of a car, tend to not immediately see the approaching vehicle because of the lack of light from the car's head lights. Pedestrians should wait until the car has passed, especially if there is a car approaching from the left.



② Even after a car has passed, the intersection is still dangerous!

From the viewpoint of the driver, it is difficult to see pedestrians crossing the street right after an oncoming vehicle because of the bright lighting coming from the oncoming car's head lights. Pedestrians should not cross immediately after a car passing from the right and make sure that there isn't a car approaching from the left.

Are you planning on going out at night?

Before you leave home, make sure to check the following:



- You are wearing light or brightly-colored clothing which can easily be seen (like a white t-shirt)
- You are bringing some sort of reflective gear, such as a sash, wristband, vest, or sticker (for bags, etc.)
- You have a flashlight or some other means to light the ground
- You are aware of your surroundings and pay attention to road safety

You Can Prevent Accidents By Not Biking Recklessly And Following The Rules Of The Road!

In Principle, Ride Your Bike on the Road and Not on the Sidewalk



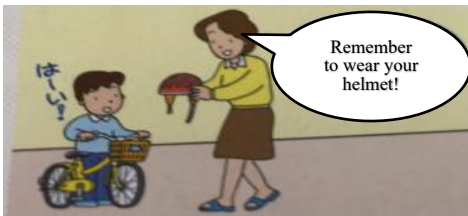
Ride Your Bike on the Left Side of the Road



Slow Down and Give Right of Way to Pedestrians



Wear a helmet



Remember the Rules of the Road

- Stop at intersections and train tracks before continuing
- Use a headlight at night
- Ride single-file if in groups
- No biking while intoxicated
- Follow traffic light signals
- No double riding



■ Cycling Seminars

Cyclists who have been arrested twice or more within three years due to certain violations (such as ignoring traffic lights, biking while intoxicated, etc.) are required to take a cycling safety seminar (these seminars are held at either the nearest Driver's License Center or Police Station).

■ You can take preventative measures against accidents or injuries by having Personal Liability Insurance

Liability for damages caused in bicycle accidents are covered by Personal Liability Insurance (個人賠償責任保険・こじんばいしょうせきになほけん・Kojin Baishō Sekinin Hoken), whereas personal injuries are covered through Accident Insurance (傷害保険・しょうがいほけん・Shōgai Hoken). Make sure to review and confirm the details of your insurance coverage.

Subject / Type of Insurance	Party Involved in the Accident		Oneself
	Life · Body	Property	Life · Body
Personal Liability Insurance	○	○	×
Accident Insurance	×	×	○

For inquiries regarding insurance, call: ☎03-3255-1215 (The General Insurance Association of Japan)

It is mandatory to have Cycling Insurance in Nagano Prefecture. To learn more about cycling laws and Bicycle Liability Insurance, please visit the Nagano Prefectural Government homepage.

Search for:

<https://www.pref.nagano.lg.jp/kurashi-shohi/anzen/201903hokenkanyu.html>



The International Center's Annual Events

The Okaya International Center organizes many different events throughout the year which aim to promote international awareness and create a pleasant environment for all residents.



Spring

~Mid-April~

English Hanami Picnic

Enjoy speaking English with native speakers and other picnic goers underneath the spring foliage



Summer

~Late July~

Mt. Pleasant City Sister Exchange

Students experience Japanese culture and take part in the Taiko Festival while doing a homestay with a local family



Fall

~October~

Okaya City Tour for Non-Japanese Residents

Join us in touring and experiencing the different types of sights and services Okaya City offers to residents



Winter

~Mid-December~

International Christmas Event

Elementary school students and their families can enjoy the Christmas season through different international games and traditions

Consultation for Foreign Residents

English, Portuguese, Chinese

9:00~15:00 International Center Office

Translation & Interpretation

※ Official administrative documents

8:30~16:00 International Center Office

Japanese Classes

FREE ※personal textbook fee required

Every Monday

Beginner and Intermediate Classes

Culture Center 19:00~20:30

School Support Services

Language support services for foreign students entering local schools

Local city elementary and junior high schools

Year-round events

Please visit the OIC homepage and Facebook page for more up-to-date information regarding any of the events and programs listed in this newsletter.