

Sendai Multicultural Center News

Sendai Multicultural Center is moving!

Q: When will the center move?

A: Moving will begin on the 10th of February and continue until the 16th. We will be closed during this period. The last day open at our current location will be the 9th of February. Our first day open at the new location will be the 17th of February.

Last date open at current location	9 Feb 2025 (Sun.)
Moving period ※	10 Feb (Mon.) - 16 Feb (Sun.)
First date open at new location	17 Feb 2025 (Mon.)

※The center is not open during this period. If you would have a consultation during this period, please contact the International Relations Department of SenTIA (022-268-6260, kokusaika@sentia-sendai.jp). Responses may be delayed.



Q: Where is the new location?

A: The address is: "1F Sendai Park Bldg., 3-6-1 Kokubuncho, Aoba-ku, Sendai-shi, Miyagi-ken". The closest station is Kotodai-koen Station on the subway Namboku Line. Google Maps: https://maps.app.goo.gl/Jkq5RQ8G14W9oZ6C7?g_st=im



Q: Will the opening hours be affected?

A: The opening hours will remain unchanged: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Q: Will the phone numbers and e-mail address change?

A: They will not change. You can contact us exactly as before.

Q: Why is the center moving?

A: The International Center Conference Building where the Multicultural Center has been located will undergo large-scale renovations starting in April 2025 and become unusable.

Q: Will anything change after the center has moved?

A: There will be an information desk and a consultation room where you can talk with us in confidence, so you can continue to come in person to the center for consultations. In addition, the Sendai Entrepreneurship Support Center (ASSISTA) has been added to the organizations available for specialist consultation sessions, so you can consult with them if you are a foreigner thinking of starting a business. For more detailed information on our specialist consultations, please refer to the back page.



Continued on next page →

Publications in Six Languages

In addition to English, we also have publications in Japanese / にほんご, Chinese / 中文, Korean / 한국어, Vietnamese / Tiếng Việt, and Nepali / नेपाली. They can also be viewed on our website, or found at the Sendai Multicultural Center.



The history of Sendai Multicultural Center

-Sendai International Center Koryu Corner becomes Sendai Multicultural Center-



Entrance to the Koryu Corner



Entrance to the Multicultural Center

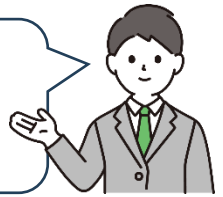
Sendai International Center was opened in September 1991. "Koryu Corner", the predecessor to Sendai Multicultural Center, was located on the first floor of the International Center. The opening hours at the time were 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



So what you're saying is, though the name and opening hours changed, you have been on the first floor of the International Center for 33 years!?



That's right. For 33 years we have taken many kinds of consultations from people from all over the world. Up until now, we have taken consultations in person, over the phone, through e-mail, fax, and even video calls and post at times.



During the Great East Japan Earthquake on 11th March 2011, the Koryu Corner became the "Sendai Disaster Multilingual Support Center" and supported foreign residents and tourists affected by the disaster.



Oh I see, so the Multicultural Center becomes the Multilingual Support Center during large-scale disasters.



Sendai Disaster Multilingual Support Center <https://int.senia-sendai.jp/saigai/>

Over the last 33 years, many people have come back to give their thanks for help they received when they were studying abroad in Sendai, or to say they participated in our events when they were a student. We have also had people come back to tell us they used to work at the center.

In June 2019, the Koryu Corner became the Sendai Multicultural Center, and changed its opening hours to 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sendai has become home for more foreigners, and we now offer assistance to make sure that people from a multitude of cultures can make a life for themselves together in Sendai.

From 17th Feb 2025, we will be making a new start at a new location. We hope we can continue to offer a variety of assistance to assure that multiculturalism continues to flourish in Sendai.

What kind of place is the new location?

We will be close to Sendai City Hall, Aoba Ward Office, and Kotodai Park, so if you are ever in the area to run errands, you can easily drop by the Multicultural Center. We hope to see you there!



Notice : Some services that will continue to be available after the relocation of the Multicultural Center

【Community interpretation supporters】

Have you ever experienced difficulties in communicating with teachers at your child's school or staff at government offices?

If you need help with in-person communication, please apply to use the community interpretation support dispatch service.

This service can be used at government offices within Sendai City, childcare facilities, and schools, and both staff of those offices and foreign residents can apply to use the service.

For more details,
please visit the following website

https://int.sentia-sendai.jp/com_support/en/



【Distribution of useful information】

At the Multicultural Center, multilingual publications are provided to those who need them.

Examples of publications available can be found below.

Please drop by and grab a copy if you see anything that interests you!

- Life in Sendai <https://int.sentia-sendai.jp/foreigner/e/>

Booklet compiling useful information for foreigners living in Sendai. Ukrainian and Russian versions are only available online.



- Guide for Sorting Recyclables and Waste,
and How to Put Them Out for Collection
<https://www.city.sendai.jp/haiki-shido/kurashi/machi/genryo/gomi/wakekata/documents/english.pdf>

Publication compiling the basic rules of discarding household-generated waste. For example, you can find out how to properly discard of broken plates and spray cans by reading this booklet



- Japanese Elementary Schools/Junior High Schools
<https://int.sentia-sendai.jp/e/life/child.html>

These publications introduce Japanese school life to guardians whose children are entering Japanese elementary or junior high schools after moving to Sendai from overseas.



Advisor Corner "Thoughts from working at the Sendai Multicultural Center"

Thoughts and experiences from advisors on this issue's theme

Little secret, but among staff, the center has another name – "Tabusen". This is a shortened version of "Tabunka-kyosei Center" – the center's Japanese name. Apparently the love of shortening everything extends beyond Japanese high schoolers...

Next time you are talking to staff, I recommend dropping a discrete "Tabusen" into the conversation.

When it comes to foreigners living in Japan, coming across these kinds of mysterious new words is a daily occurrence. Working at the center, I'm constantly reminded that most of the troubles foreigners encounter can be traced back to this barrier in language.

One of the center's most important roles is to be a "ladder" to help you climb over this barrier.

Though my job may be to help others over that barrier, when I first arrived, I myself hadn't a notion about the systems, terminology, or even the polite language necessary to work in Japan. As you can imagine, being a "ladder" in such circumstances becomes a whole lot more difficult.

Particularly difficult were our "specialist consultations". During these consultations, I act as the interpreter between foreigners and specialists from various organizations. We offer several types of

consultations with different organizations, but of course, myself not being a tax accountant or lawyer or anything of the sort, prepping by studying the system and the terminology for the consultations in advance is key.

At the beginning, I just about managed by weaving newly-remembered terminology awkwardly into what I was saying, but every time the session ended, I would mull over every little mistake and think about how I could do better. What saved me in these moments was hearing the words "Thank you!" from the person who came for their consultation.

Even now, my day-to-day still feels like crashing repeatedly full force into the language barrier, but I feel a great sense of worth knowing I can help other foreigners in a similar position. To keep that up, I'm going to do my best to become an even sturdier "ladder".

See you at "Tabusen"!

(Advisor E)

Each advisor writes in the "Advisor Corner" each issue in all language versions. The Japanese translation for each is on our blog. Please have a look.

Sendai Multicultural Center

せんだいたぶんかきょうせい

仙台多文化共生センター



Address	Until February 9, 2025	Sendai International Center Conference Bldg. 1F, Aobayama, Aoba-ku, Sendai-shi, 980-0856
	Starting from February 17, 2025	1F Sendai Park Bldg., 3-6-1 Kokubuncho, Aoba-ku, Sendai-shi, 980-0803

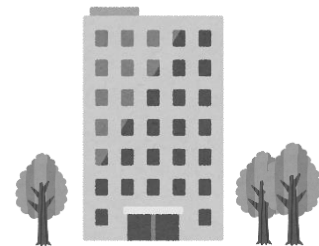
Opening Hours Daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Closed during the New Year's holidays and 1 to 2 days per month for maintenance)

TEL (022) 265 - 2471

FAX (022) 265 - 2472

Email tabunka@sentia-sendai.jp

URL <https://int.sentia-sendai.jp/e/exchange/>



■ Advice in foreign languages

We are able to give advice in many languages about daily-life troubles or problems. Please call the Interpretation Support Hotline on (022) 224-1919.

Languages available: English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Nepali, Tagalog, Thai, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, Indonesian, Italian, French, German, Malay, Khmer, Burmese, Mongolian, Sinhala, Hindi, Bengali, and Urdu

Specialist Consultations for Foreign Residents

We periodically hold specialist consultations with lawyers, administrative scriveners and so on. If there are matters that are affecting your life in Sendai, please feel free to have a consultation. Consultations are confidential and are limited to 30 minutes per person. Consultations are held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

You can check the consultation dates on our website.

<https://int.sentia-sendai.jp/e/exchange/consultation.html>



Administrative
Scrivener



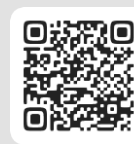
Lawyer



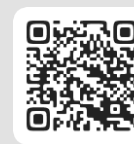
Labour
Bureau



Immigration
Bureau



Tax
Accountant



Sendai City
Entrepreneurship Support Center
ASSISTA



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