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 **Spring Edition 2014(英語)**

**OIC**

This newsletter is distributed four times a year by the Okaya International Center,

with the aim of providing local foreign residents with information necessary for daily life, as well as insight into aspects of Japanese culture.　Please feel free to contact us with your feedback or any questions you may have.





1. Tax

2. The Hague Convention

3. Japanese Classes

**Sales tax has gone up from 5% to 8%**

★How does the Japanese tax system work?★

Foreign nationals who have lived in Japan for a year or longer and have a certain amount of income must pay Japanese taxes.

★Kinds of Taxes★

Japanese taxes are divided into two major categories: national taxes imposed by the central government, and local taxes imposed by local governments. Both national and local taxes are divided into direct taxes and indirect taxes.

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Direct Taxes | Indirect Taxes |
| National Taxes | Income tax, corporate tax, inheritance tax, gift tax, etc,. | Sales tax, liquor tax, tobacco tax, customs, stamp tax, etc,. |
| Local Taxes | Prefectural Taxes | Prefectural resident tax, business tax, vehicle tax, etc,. | Local sales tax, prefectural tobacco tax, golf facility tax, etc,. |
| Municipal Taxes | Municipal resident tax, fixed asset tax, light vehicle tax, etc,. | Municipal tobacco tax, bath tax, etc,. |

**★**Description of Major Taxes**★**

**☆Income Tax**

This is a tax imposed on all of your income from January 1 to December 31. You must file your final tax return (Kakutei Shinkoku) between February 16 and March 15 of the following year. a final tax return is filed by self-employed workers or business owners at the tax office after calculating their income, necessary expenses and tax amounts. Workers employed by a company do not need to file a final tax return. Your taxes are automatically deducted from your salary and paid by your company each month. This is called Withholding Income Tax at the Source (Gensen Choshu).

**☆Sales Tax and Local Sales Tax**

These are taxes imposed on all merchandise and services and include items purchased at the supermarket. The tax rate was raised to 8% at the beginning of April.

**☆Resident Taxes (Prefectural and Municipal)**

These taxes are like a membership fee for you as a resident in your community, and there are two ways to pay them.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Special Collection | Collection by withholding (Gensen Choshu). The employer collects the employee's taxes by deducting them from their monthly salaries. The employer then pays each month's taxes by the 10th of the following month. |
| Ordinary Collection | Business owners, farmers, self employed workers, etc. pay their taxes four times a year at their nearest bank or post office using the municipal tax notices sent in June. They can also use bank or post office transfer. |



The Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction is a multilateral treaty, which seeks to protect children from the harmful effects of abduction and retention across international boundaries by providing a procedure to bring about their prompt return. Japan joined the treaty on April 1, 2014, becoming the 91st country to do so.

Having to adjust to a new environment, culture, language, and the sudden cutting of ties with one parent and friends are just some of the potentially harmful effects of abduction for children.

This treaty aims to protect children from these effects and as a general rule facilitates the prompt return of children to the country from where they were abducted. The treaty applies to children under the age of 16 that have been taken from one member country of the treaty to another such country.



Applications can be made through the Central Authority of your country of residence if the child concerned is under 16 years of age and has been taken from one member country to another such country.

The Central Authority will look for the abducted child and missing parent, as well as helping mediate and arrange visitation. Should mediation through the Central Authority fail, a case can be brought to court for a ruling to be made concerning the return of the child. Should a court rule in a favor of a child's return, the Central Authority will provide assistance in safely bringing the child back to his / her original country of residence.



**Country A**

Country B

③Notification of abduction

Central Authority

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, etc.

Central Authority

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, etc.

⑤ Ruling favoring return

④Location of child

② Application

Father

1. Leave country without notification

Mother & Child

Mother & Child

⑥ Return of child



**Under the following circumstances the court may as an exception not order the return of the abducted child:**

1. If a case is filed in court more than one year after the abduction and the child has settled in his / her new environment.

2. If the parent taking the child had consent or tacit approval of the other parent.

3. If the child's physical and mental well-being is at risk.

4. If the child is of an appropriate age to carefully consider his / her options and requests not to be returned.

E.g. If there was sufficient evidence that a child had been subject to abuse at the hands of the parent filing the application, No. 3 above would apply, but as a general rule courts tend to rule in favor of the return of a child, and this is the Hague Convention.



The Okaya International Center (OIC) holds free Japanese classes for foreign residents wishing to study Japanese. Anyone can join so why not give the classes a try?!

Monday Class 19:30-20:30 @ Ilf Plaza Culture Center 3F

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | 4/7 | 4/14 | 4/21 | 5/12 | 5/19 | 5/26 | 6/2 | 6/9 | 6/16 | 6/23 |
| **Place** | Dai 3 Kenshu Shitsu | Dai 3 Kenshu Shitsu | Dai 3 Kenshu Shitsu | Dai 3 Kenshu Shitsu | Dai 3 Kenshu Shitsu | Dai 3 Kenshu Shitsu | Dai 3 Kenshu Shitsu | Dai 3 Kenshu Shitsu | Dai 3 Kenshu Shitsu | Dai 3 Kenshu Shitsu |

 Wednesday Classes 9:30-11:00 @ Okaya City Hall

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | 4/9 | 4/16 | 4/23 | 5/14 | 5/21 | 5/28 | 6/4 | 6/11 | 6/18 | 6/25 |
| **Place** | ６０２ | ６０２ | ３０２ | ６０２ | ６０２ | ６０２ | ６０２ | ６０２ | ６０２ | ６０２ |

The Okaya International Center aims to provide support and assistance to all foreign nationals helping them overcome difficulties they may face in their lives in Okaya. Throughout the year, we offer a consultation service, translation service, run Japanese classes, and plan activities and events. Please take a look at our homepage for more information, or come into the City Hall to see us.

www.oiea.jp