



Just one Seal (Hanko) can take your all properties away!

Let's reconsider how to use seal in an appropriate way

The culture of Seal (hanko) in Japan seems very rare throughout the world. Perhaps, many foreigners have experienced to be puzzled with it. Since it brings in conveniences besides risks, let's get to have right knowledge of the seal (hanko) and use it in a safe way.

★ Japan is “Hanko” society.

In beginning of your stay in Japan, have you been confused that the seal (hanko) is used to various documents? Especially in public office, company and bank, the seal (hanko) is always required for documentation. Hanko is used in the same way as a signature. Although signature can conduct handwriting analysis to identify whose handwriting is, Hanko can be misused. For instance, if somebody uses your hanko for document, unconditionally it is regarded that you have approved the document. Let's refrain from keeping it close to the front door or somewhere others can easily find out. We should keep it in safe.

★ Various types of “Hanko”

Do you know “Personal hanko (Mitomein)” and “Registered hanko (Jitsuin)”? A mitomein is used daily; for example, when you receive delivery service etc. On the other hand, a **jitsuin is registered at your local office (Inkan-touroku) and certified that you are the holder of the seal (but it does not mean the jitsuin should be more splendid than the mitomein. Even cheap seal can be registered).** Despite we seldom use it in daily life, important contracts like company establishment or purchase of expensive things including real estate require it.

Seal registration (Inkan-touroku) can be done for one seal for one person. Even your family cannot use your jitsuin. After being registered, the “Seal Registration Card (Inkan Card)” is issued by public office. Then, you are able to obtain “Seal Registration Certificate” by presenting the card. As explained above, the scene of important contracts requires the jitsuin and this certificate which should be submitted. The certificate states an imprint of a seal, your name, address and date of birth. So it can be a substitute for identification. However, there is no obligation to make the jitsuin. The Mitomein is diversely usable in daily life.

Many foreigners do not have much knowledge about hanko, so that they might have bitter experiences. When a foreign woman got married to a Japanese man, it is often heard that the husband claimed her to put seals on both marriage and divorce notifications. Afterwards, the divorce notification was handed in to a local office at his own discretion, even though she did not know anything.

www.ficec.jp/foreign/

● The back numbers of “Information Fujimino” are available at online.

Without understanding contents of a document written in Japanese, just a seal would bring about a serious trouble. Hence, we suggest you to use it with great care.

- **Various types of Hanko**
 - **Jitsuin** . . . Registered at a local government office
 - **Ginkouin(Bank Seal)** . . . Notified at a bank
 - **Mitomein** . . . Seal other than jitsuin
 - **Boin (Thumbprint)** . . . Fingerprint made in ink-pad
 - **Kakihan(Writing Seal)** . . . Signature which is circled



● Celebrating the Boy's Festival in Japanese Language Class

Please be informed FICEC Japanese language Class (10am~ on Thursdays) will hold an event in May. May 5 is the Boys' Festival called "Tango no sekku". Following the Girls' Festival "Hinamatsuri" on March 3, we wish children's healthy growth and celebrate it on that day. For this event, some food will be also prepared. Please come along and enjoy celebrating Japanese traditional event with us!

- ★ Date/Time May 7 (Sat) 11:30~
- ★ Place Fujimino International Cultural Exchange Center

● Are you interested in translation?

Fujimino International Cultural Exchange Center tries to promptly provide the latest information to many foreign residents. But the current number of voluntary translators is not enough. The center is now looking for new people who can translate Japanese to own language. Translation materials are various including "Information Fujimino" or documents submitted to public office. If you are interested in, please contact Ms. Hasegawa at "Fujimino International Cultural Exchange Center".

★Phone **049-256-4290**

Do not forget inoculation against measles

Measles is an infectious disease caused by measles virus. It can lead to other diseases like encephalitis and pneumonia. In the worst case, it can take your life away. A period starting April to June is "Measles Inoculation Month". Measles inoculation can only prevent this disease. There is no charge on it for the below stated ages of children. Please do not forget to take your child(ren) to a local health center.

● **Intended ages for inoculation** **Term 1:** 1 year old (12-24 months of age) **Term 2:** 5~6 years old (1 year prior to entering school) **Term 3:** Turning 13 years old in this fiscal year (corresponding to 1st grade at junior high school) **Term 4:** Turning 18 years old in this fiscal year (corresponding to 3rd grade at high school). For more information, please contact your local health center.

Child-rearing Special Allowance will be provided.

Have you heard Child-rearing Special Allowance will be provided? To reduce burden of child rearing on big families, ¥36,000 will be paid for each from 2nd child. Public office sends out related documents to applicable family. Please fill up the document correctly for application. Since inquiries by phone are not accepted due to preventing any possible troubles, please go to "Child-rearing Support Division" of your local office or contact FICEC for any inquiries. Foreign nationals can apply for this allowance, but must have registered "Foreign Registration" at local office. That is, holders of short-stay visas are not eligible.

www.ficec.jp/living/

- Living Guidance translated in 6 languages is available.