



Changes were made to the child allowance system from April. The new “Kodomo Teate”(child allowance) replaced the “Jidou Teate”(student allowance). Parents or guardians will begin receiving a monthly allowance for every child. Income limits have been lifted. Please go through procedure early. The allowance will be provided from June.

● **Schedule for New Child Allowance System** (★the amount per child is shown in the table.)

April, 2010	Child Allowance bill went into effect. (April 1st) Local governments started to accept a new enrollment.
June, 2010	★First payment (26,000 yen, The April and May allowance)
October, 2010	★Second Payment (52,000 yen, The June-September allowance)
February, 2011	★Third Payment (52,000 yen, The October-January allowance)

◆ **Local Governments Inquiries**

Fujimi-city ⇒ Kosodate Shien Ka
(Childcare support section)

☎ 2 5 1 - 2 7 1 1

Fujimino-city ⇒ Kosodate Shien Ka
(Childcare support section)

☎ 2 6 2 - 9 0 3 3

Miyoshi-town ⇒

Kodomo Shien Ka, Jidou Fukushi Gakari
(Child support, child welfare section)

☎ 2 5 8 - 0 0 1 9

★ **The child allowance is given to each child up to the third grade of junior high school.**

In Japan, the number of children continues to decrease. Children are treasure. For healthy development of children, and to share the burden of raising children by society as a whole, the child allowance system changed from “Jidou Teate”(student allowance) to “Kodomo teate”(child allowance).

Starting in April, the new child allowance “kodomo teate” is given to parents per child until they finish junior high school.

Foreign residents are entitled to the allowance.

Parents or guardians will begin receiving this child allowance for every child of junior high school age (up to March 31 of the school year in which they reached fifteen years of age) or younger.

The amount of allowance is 13,000 yen.

★ **Foreign residents are eligible for this allowance, even if their children live overseas.**

An application form for the child allowance was delivered to eligible person from municipal office in the middle of April. Perhaps, you have already got it. Basically, you need to go to a municipal office and go through procedure. Even if your children are in their home countries, you are entitled to the money. Please prepare required documents and apply for the allowance. Under a special measure, if you complete the application procedure by September the allowance will be paid retroactive to April.

★ **Do I need to apply?**

① Those who received “Jidou Teate” as of March 31, and those who have first-year junior high school and younger children (including preschool-age children) have no need to apply. Those who have second and third-year junior high school children need to apply.

② Those who have not received the allowance because of income limitation need to apply.

★ **Documents required for application**

① Applicant's passbook of ordinary deposit

② Health insurance card (if you join employees' pension) ③ Seal

The first payment will be made in June. (see above mentioned table). To receive it on time, you need to apply by mid- May. Please make sure of this system and apply for it as quickly as possible.

www.ficcc.jp/foreign/

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

Public high school tuition-waiver started in April.

Starting in April, students of public high schools shall be exempted from tuition. The bill to waive high school tuition fees stipulates that central government shoulders public high school's annual tuition. (about 120,000 yen per student) So it means that students of public high schools will not be charged tuition. And private schools will be paid roughly between 120,000 yen and 240,000 yen per student per year depending on their household income. So those who are attending private high schools only will have to make up for shortfalls.

National and public high school, private high school, specialized vocational high school and advanced course of special course school are eligible for the aid. Foreigner's schools will also be eligible if they can be recognized as equivalent to Japanese senior high schools through checks with home countries embassy. (so-called "International schools") The education ministry will set up an advisory body made up of experts to formulate rules of aid provision for pro-Pyongyang Korean schools by the end of this summer.

Strange Japanese custom for foreigners

Ayumi Kanda

There might be some people who just adapted to changes of the environment recently because in Japan April is the beginning of "year" such as school year and fiscal year. So this month's topic is "May sick" which is a kind of melancholy. Adapting new environment may be difficult for Japanese people who started new lives with expectation and hope from April, so they feel depressed after Golden Week of May.

Original meaning of "May sick" is inactive students who lost purposes when they entered university after hard examination ordeal, but now we can use this word to express lots of Japanese. The best treatment against this sickness is reducing stress and meeting someone who connected to previous environment like old school friends. I recommend meeting your classmate and visit FICEC. I'm sure you can find something makes your feeling better there!!

Translated by Eri Sawada

"A Guide to Rental Housing in Japan"

For a foreign national, securing rental housing can be a pain in the neck.

"Gaikokuseki kenmin no tame no Chintai Jutaku no karikata・Sumutoki no ru-ru" is a guide to rental housing in Japan published by International Division, Department of Public Services, Saitama Prefectural Government. It contains useful tips for securing rental housing. It has been translated into Chinese, Portuguese, etc. Also, it is an easy-to-read guide book.

The contents are a contract, fees, an overview of rental housing, procedures for moving, etc. FICEC has this guide book in stock. So if you want it, please contact us.

Or please contact International Division, Saitama Prefectural Government.
(☎048-830-2717)



'Eco point' program is extended.

Digital Age is coming soon. Did you prepare for digital terrestrial broadcast reception? The government decided to keep the so-called "eco-point program" in place till December 31 2010, extending the program from its initially scheduled expiry at the end of March. Eco points are given for purchases of energy-efficient digital TV sets, refrigerators and air conditioners. However, previous models are not eligible for eco points.

The application procedure becomes easier. Please take advantage of this system if you are planning to buy energy-efficient appliances.

The required documents are listed below.

- ① Application form (Electrical appliance shop)
- ② Manufacturer's guarantee
- ③ Receipt (Original)
- ④ Home appliance recycling ticket

For more detail, please contact electrical appliance shop.

www.ficec.jp/living/

● Living Guidance translated in 6 languages is available.