

# K O B E

Kobe City PR Paper English March 2023

## From Vacant Buildings to New Possibilities - Residential & Communal



If you have any questions about ward office procedures, financial support for raising children, etc.

**Call the Kobe International Community Center (KICC)!**

☎ 078-742-8721 (11 languages)



↑ Tap here to visit the website!



## From Vacant Buildings to New Possibilities – Residential & Communal

Kobe City is working hard to address the issue of *akiya*, or vacant buildings. Here we introduce the hidden potential of vacant houses and how Kobe City supports these projects!

**Kodomo Henshu-bu (“Kids Editorial Club”)** (Shioya-cho, Tarumi Ward) This space was formerly a well-known liquor shop in Shioya. The building has a complicated layout and once housed several households, but it has since been renovated into “heso,” a multi-use complex accommodating a general merchandise store, a florist, and a nail salon. In the rental space on the second floor, the Kids Editorial Club produces free newspapers and other publications for children to share information with their peers. The space is also used for editorial meetings, workshops, a candy shop, and other activities that bring children and the local community together.



### **KIKKAKE PLACE** (Shimogion-cho, Hyogo Ward)

In recent years, shuttered stores have become conspicuous in the Hirano shopping district. The kitchen and counters were renovated, and this space has been turned into a place where people who want to open a store or start a business can trial their business. Currently, a variety of stores including a diner and cafes are running shops in this space.

**Job Space Lab** (Komagabayashi-cho, Nagata Ward) The Komagabayashi neighborhood is densely filled with old wooden houses and dotted with vacant houses, but it is also an area where community development efforts using contemporary art is thriving. At the request of an organization that supports art activities and community development, a vacant house was turned into a hub for artists to stay, create, and exhibit their works. A café is attached to the house, where visitors can watch the artists at work while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee.





**Manmaru House (Ogo-cho, Kita Ward)** Although the area is facing a declining birthrate and aging population, it has long been a thriving agricultural area and rich in nature. The couple who

purchased this old house asked an architect to design a space that would allow people from both urban and rural areas to interact with each other, and he tried to create a space that would make the most of the original atmosphere and traditional structure. Although the opening is still some time away, plans are underway to open a café where visitors can experience life in a rural area and enjoy coffee and sweets made from locally grown products. They plan to continue to promote the charm of farming villages. (2D codes link to Japanese pages only)



**Kids  
Editorial  
Club**



**Job Space  
Lab**



**KIKKAKE  
PLACE  
(Instagram)**



**Manmaru  
House  
(Instagram)**

## GO GREEN KOBE

Many environmental problems are occurring on our planet, including global warming, marine debris, and biodiversity crises. To create a more livable and sustainable city together, it is crucial for every one of us to first learn about the current situation and start making environmentally friendly choices.

GO GREEN KOBE, a project to support citizens' environmental activities, shares environmentally friendly activities and the thoughts of those involved on its website and social media. In addition, in cooperation with companies, local communities, and students, we hold cleanup events and other activities that everybody can casually join.



**Events & more  
(JP) ↓**



# COVID-19 Information

## If you have not yet received the Omicron vaccine

Please get vaccinated as soon as possible to protect yourself and your loved ones. The Omicron strain-compatible vaccine is available to persons aged 12 years or older who have completed the first and second vaccinations. At this this time, it is limited to one dose per person.

If you have already received the Omicron vaccine, please note that the Japanese government is currently discussing the timing of future vaccinations and other details. We will make an announcement as soon as it is decided.

**See vaccination information in multiple languages! →**



## Reopening of the Alien Species Institute

Invasive species such as raccoons and red-eared slider turtles not only take away the habitats of native species, but once they take up residence and breed, they can lead to health problems and crop damage.

Last year, the first municipal-level Alien Species Institute was opened to raise awareness of the ecology of invasive species and the problems they pose. The center has a Live Exhibit Wing and a newly opened Exhibition Hall, where visitors can learn about invasive species from listening to explanations by experts, see the actual creatures in person, and engage in fun hands-on activities.

**Dates:** Every Saturday & Sunday  
11:00 am - 5:00 pm (Reservations required)

**Location:** within Karumojima Clean Center  
3-12-28, Karumojima-cho, Nagata-ku

**Admission:** Free



**← Reservation form in Japanese**



# Moving Procedures are Easier with a My Number Card!

## File using the MyNa Portal!

You can use your My Number Card and your smartphone to remotely complete many administrative procedures, including **Moving-Out Notices**.→



**\*Your My Number Card must have a digital certificate.**

**National Pension procedures:** You can file for enrollment, exemptions/postponements, or special payment systems for students. →



## Special Sunday hours for moving procedures:

You can file moving paperwork at your ward or branch office on March 26 & April 2.

# Supporting Working Parents!

## Coworking space with free temporary daycare

To support working women, we have set up a free coworking space in the Gender Equality Promotion Center (A-Step Kobe) where they can bring their children and work. Please use the space for telework, freelance work, preparation for employment, or professional development during childcare leave. Men who bring their children are also welcome to use the center.

**Eligibility:** Women who live or work in Kobe, men accompanied by children

**Hours:** Tuesdays - Saturdays, 9 am - 8 pm

**Cost:** Free

**Use:** Make a reservation via the website

## Temporary daycare service hours:

Tuesdays - Saturdays,  
10 am - 12 pm, 1 pm - 3 pm



**Details & reservations (JP)→**

# Kobe Black Sea Bream

Also called *chinu* in the Kansai region, black sea bream have recently increased in number, to the extent that they might overfeed on the laver farms on the Suma coast. In winter, these fish develop a thick layer of fat that gives their chewy white flesh an exceptional flavor.

You can enjoy it in many different ways, such as in *takikomi gohan* and carpaccio.

Where to buy it  
in Kobe (JP)



## *Ibashi* for Kids:

Another place where they can say, “I’m home!”

There are more than 200 community welfare centers, neighborhood association halls, and other facilities that offer a safe third place (besides home and school) where elementary- and junior high school-aged kids can eat, do homework, and spend time with their friends and members of the community. Neighbors, university students, and other volunteers watch over the kids as they study.



You can easily locate the nearby *ibashi* based on elementary school district, as well as get an idea of which places offer food, study support, etc. (JP)→

