

# the japan times

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE IN ASIA

**JAPAN**

## New platform encourages Japan's foreign residents to use tax donation programs



Hokkaido's Kutchan town, a popular ski resort, is offering backcountry snowboard tours as part of Furusato Japan's hometown donation scheme. | Niseko Promotion Board

**BY KAZUAKI NAGATA**

STAFF WRITER

Sep 28, 2022

A new online platform launched Wednesday for non-Japanese taxpayers in the nation with the intention of getting more foreign residents to discover various regional attractions — both food and exclusive tours.

It aims to do this through the tax-deductible donation program known as *furusato nōzei*, which allows taxpayers to offer monetary donations to a prefecture, city, town or village of their choice outside of the one where they currently live. The donor then receives gifts from the recipient local government, often in the form of local products or culinary specialties.

The program is perennially popular among Japanese residents because donors get both gifts and tax deductions. However, very few websites associated with the program are offered in other languages and are generally unfriendly for non-Japanese residents,

Not a Premium subscriber?  
Consider the benefits of unlimited access.

# LIFETIME OFFER

Save on full access to award-winning journalism.

**ENDS MARCH 31**

## Premium

**Unlimited access to all Japan Times content**

- Audio versions of stories
- Ability to comment on stories
- Premium content
- No display ads
- Digital replica of the daily newspaper ([ePaper Edition](#))

[Learn more](#)

**MONTHLY**  
47% off  
~~US\$30~~ **US\$16** / MONTH

---

**DISCOUNT CODE**  
**JTSPRINGSALE2024**  
Enter this code when you apply

**SUBSCRIBE**

Pay in USD | [Pay in JPY](#)  
(Credit card only)

### The fine print

This offer is invalid unless the discount code **JTSPRINGSALE2024** is applied.

This discount may only be used once. It cannot be combined with any other special offer, and only applies to our **monthly Premium plan**.

**thejapan times** **LIFETIME OFFER**  
Save on full access to award-winning journalism  
~~US\$30~~ **US\$16/mo**

ENDS MARCH 31

**SUBSCRIBE NOW**