



# Plaza News

January 2007

## Miyazaki Prefecture International Foundation

Questions, comments, postings, or for information in Plaza News: Miyazaki Prefecture International Foundation, 8F Carino Miyazaki, Tachibanadori Higashi 4-8-1, Miyazaki City 880-0805 Tel: 0985-32-8457 Fax: 0985-32-8512 Email: [miyainfo@mif.or.jp](mailto:miyainfo@mif.or.jp) Homepage: <http://www.mif.or.jp>

## Announcements from the Plaza

### ◎Year-end & New-Year Plaza Closure Announcement

The Miyazaki Prefecture International Foundation would be closed from 29 December 2006 (Fri) to 3 January 2007 (Wed). We will reopen on 4 January (Thurs).

### ◎Japanese Language Practice Lessons for Foreigners FREE

Would you like to practice your Japanese conversational skills with Japanese volunteers? No prior registration needed, all are welcome! New lessons begin 9 January 2007!

Date/Time: Every Tuesday & Friday 10:30 to 11:30 am Location: Carino Miyazaki 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Inside Gaga-8

Enquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation

### ◎Japanese Language Volunteer System

Are you looking for someone to guide you along in your study of Japanese, but are unable to come to the Plaza's practice lessons and courses? Worry not! We can recommend Japanese Language Volunteers who are registered with us to you.

On your part, please discuss details such as location, time and fees with the volunteer. We accept personal or group registrations. Interested parties, please call or email us for enquiries, or feel free to drop by the Miyazaki International Plaza.

Enquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation

### ◎Looking for Volunteers!

#### International Contact Chat (Kokusai Fureai Chat) Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers who enjoy talking in English, Mandarin or Korean in our International Contact Chat sessions. If you are willing to help out, please let us know!

#### Looking for International Understanding Talk Speakers

Would you like to introduce your country's cultures and customs to the residents of Miyazaki? The talks would be an hour long.

For more information please enquire at the Miyazaki International Foundation.



Need help from a volunteer, or looking for volunteer opportunities?

### ◎Miyazaki Art Festival 2007 "Miyazaki – From the Outside looking in" – ARTWORKS NEEDED!

The Miyazaki Art Festival will also be held this year! We are now accepting works of art created by foreign residents of Miyazaki. Here is your chance to express your love for Miyazaki through your artistic talents! Wait no longer, step out this weekend with your brush or camera and see your work of art proudly displayed at the Plaza in February!



Theme: Impressions of Miyazaki and content related to Miyazaki

\*\*Please note that inappropriate content may not be displayed at the discretion of the organizers.

Eligible Participants: In principle, foreign residents of Miyazaki Prefecture

Format: Photographs, paintings, drawings, poetry etc.

Size: Max 50 x 50 cm

Submission of artwork(s): Send by post (postage paid) or bring it down to the Miyazaki International Foundation, together with the artist's name, nationality, contact information, as well as the title and a brief explanation of the work.

Return of artwork(s): Pick up at the Plaza by the end of March 2007 after the exhibition has ended or we can send your work(s) to you with payment due on delivery.

**Deadline for submission(s): 13 January 2007 (Sat) \*\*Deadline extended!\*\***

Location & Time of Exhibition: Carino Miyazaki 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Gaga-8 Free Space,  
22 February (Thurs) to 28 February 2007 (Wed)

**\*\*Special events\*\*** On the 24<sup>th</sup> (Sat) and 25<sup>th</sup> (Sun), we are planning to hold events such as *Experiencing Japanese Culture sessions and Interact with the Artists sessions!*

Miyazaki Art Festival Homepage: <http://www.geocities.com/mafno2>

Questions/Submissions: Miyazaki International Foundation



## ◎A Simple Thing You Can Do to Help the International Community

Do you have used stamps, phonecards or unwanted postcards at home? Don't throw them away! At the Miyazaki International Foundation, we help collect used stamps etc and send them to non-government organizations (NGOs), which make use of them to help the international community, such as building schools or providing medical assistance. Please give us your assistance!

Regarding collection of used stamps: Please leave a border of about 5 mm around the stamps when cutting from envelopes, and send them by post or bring them down to the Miyazaki International Plaza.

Enquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation



## Other Announcements



### Mochi-Pounding Festival! (※For Parent and child)



Wouldn't you like to try making your own mochi with mortar and pestle? Of course you get to eat your self-made mochi, and most importantly experience Japanese culture in a fun way, first-hand!

Date & Time: 7 Jan (Sun) 11:00 am~ Venue: Carino Miyazaki 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Gaga-8 (Tentative)

Application/Enquiries: Specified Nonprofit Corporation Drop-in Centre

Tel: 0985-60-7690

### Need Information Online? Use the Computer Corner at Gaga-8!

There is a computer corner set up at Gaga-8 inside Carino Miyazaki 8<sup>th</sup> floor. Once you have completed the first-time user registration you can search and surf the internet for free! \*Please note that you may not be able to access emails and chat on some consoles. If you need information such as events in Miyazaki or public transport schedules, please feel free to make use of the corner!

Opening Hours: 10:30 am to 7:00 pm \*The corner will be closed from 30 Dec 2006 (Sat) to 3 Jan 2007 (Sun). On the 29 Dec 2006 (Fri) the corner will be open till 6:00 pm, and full operations resume on 4 Jan 2007 (Thu).

Enquiries: Carino Miyazaki 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Gaga-8

Tel: 0985-22-8818 \*\*Enquiries will be answered in Japanese



### Snowball II: Las Vegas!



Come and indulge yourself in the glamour and fun of Las Vegas – right here in Miyazaki! A Las Vegas-themed party organized by Miyazaki's very own JET youths, packed with entertaining events such as magic shows, live and not forgetting to mention casino games! **※Participants must be aged 20 and above.**

Date: 19 January (Fri)

Venue: Miyazaki City/ Gazet Miyazaki/ BAR ZIMA

Cost: Eat-all-you-can/Drink-all-you-can/Live Ticket (7:00 pm to 12:00 am): 3,800 yen

Drink-all-you-can Only (9:00 pm to 12:00 am): 3,000 yen

Ticket reservations: <http://miyazakiajet.com/eventsvp.html> (Reserve via website)

### Events in January!

Event	Date	Time	Venue	Other info
Toshikoshi (Year-Crossing) Star-Gazing Night	31 Dec (Sun) to 1 Jan (Mon/Public Holiday)	5:00 pm- 7:30 am	Takasaki Town/Tachibana Observatory	Prior registration needed. Registration/Enquiries: Tel: 0986-62-2211/0986-62-5526
Aoshima Shrine Hadakamairi Festival	8 Jan (Mon/Public Holiday)	11:30 am -	Aoshima Shrine	<u>Things to bring:</u> <b>Men</b> – <i>Hachimaki</i> (headband), <i>fundoshi</i> (loincloth), <i>shiro tabi</i> (Japanese socks) <b>Ladies</b> – <i>Hachimaki</i> (headband), <i>juban</i> (kimono undergarment), <i>sarashi</i> (white cloth for wrapping around the midriff), <i>shiro tabi</i> (Japanese socks), white short pants, <i>obi</i> (belt) <u>Participation fee:</u> 500 yen Enquiries: 0985-65-1262
Ishinoda Usudaiko Dance	21 Jan (Sun)	11:00 am - 1:00 pm -	Saito City/Shimo Sanzai Ishinoda Hiyoke Jizo Hall	
Shiwazu Festival	26 (Fri), 27 (Sat), 28 (Sun) Jan	Whole-day event	Misato Town Nango Area/ Around Mikado Shrine	
Mid-Winter Flower Show 2007	13 Jan (Sat) to 8 Apr (Sun)	Opening hours: 8:30 am-5:00 pm	Miyazaki City/Aoshima Sub-tropical Botanical Garden	Tel: 0985-65-1042

### ☉The Lion's Walkway☉

Neo Su Yu

Akemashite omedetou! It's 2007, marking the beginning of a new year. For people like me belonging to the Year of the Boar, it means that we have completed another 12-year cycle. I am happy to have walked through two cycles, while my mom has already walked through 5. Sometimes I wonder what I will be doing/thinking at her age. For now I think it is important to work hard and experience life so that when I reach my mom's age 36 years later (Year 2043!), I will not be saying to my grandchildren, "Ah, if I only I had done ... when I was younger..." I hope this will be an enjoyable and fruitful year for all of you as well! Peace!