



Plaza News

April 2007

It's Easter! 

Miyazaki Prefecture International Plaza

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 Homepage: <http://www.mif.or.jp>

Announcements from the Plaza

Please direct all applications/enquiries regarding plaza announcements to the Miyazaki International Foundation



◎ Japanese Language Course for Foreign Residents (Beginners)

The Miyazaki International Foundation will be holding a Japanese Language Course for foreign residents. If you are a complete beginner, or have few opportunities to practice, this course is for you!

Period: 17 Apr (Tue) to 10 Jul (Tue) 25 sessions in total Every Tuesday & Friday

(※except for public holidays)

Time: 10:10 am to 12:00 pm

Target: Beginners in Japanese

Location: Carino Miyazaki 8th Floor Gaga-8

Costs: Textbook fee ¥2,835

Application deadline: 7 Apr (Sat)

How to apply: Fill in the designated application form

Good news for those living in Miyakonojo City or Nobeoka City!

A similar course will be held in Miyakonojo and Nobeoka. Once the date has been confirmed, it will be announced on the Miyazaki International Foundation website (<http://www.mif.or.jp>) and on the PR magazines of both cities.



Want to improve your Japanese? Here's your chance!

◎ Japanese Practice Sessions for Foreign Residents (※Free ※No prior registration needed)

Japanese volunteers are holding Japanese practice sessions. Join us!

Date: Every Tuesday/Friday 10:30 am to 11:30am

Location: Carino Miyazaki 8th Floor Gaga-8

◎ Looking For Volunteers!

(1) International Chat Volunteers

We are looking for people who can help out when "International Chat" sessions in English/Mandarin/Korean are being held.

(2) International Understanding Talk Speakers

Interested in introducing your country's culture and customs to the residents of Miyazaki? Then this is for you! Talks will be an hour long.

For more details, please enquire at the Miyazaki International Foundation.

◎ Announcement from the Miyazaki International Foundation

1 Looking for supporting members

In order to better promote our purpose and encourage as many people as possible to participate in our activities, we are seeking generous assistance from supporting members.

Membership fees (annual):

Individual - 2,000 yen/Organization - 10,000 yen

Members' privileges:

- Receiving the "Plaza News" (monthly) and "South wind" (3 times a year)
- ◇ "Plaza News": A newsletter packed with information regarding various seminars held by the Foundation and international exchange events to be held in the prefecture.
- ◇ "South Wind": A journal published by the Foundation with information and topics regarding international exchange and international cooperation
- Advanced notification of language courses and events organized by the Foundation (enjoy free participation, special rates or be given special priority)
- Receiving publications by the Plaza

- Usage of multi-regional video appliances (free-of-charge for members)

2 Please make use of the Miyazaki International Foundation website

- The Plaza's website offers information regarding beaches and campsites in Miyazaki under the "Life Information" section (currently only English version is available). Good reference for you outdoor lovers!
- Information regarding various activities held by the Foundation and other events and festivals held in other parts of the prefecture can be found under the "event calendar".



3 Regarding the use of the Miyazaki International Foundation's message board

There are message boards at both the International Plaza and at the Miyazaki International Foundation

Announcements from the Plaza (cont)

website. It is open for use to all, so please feel free to use it as a free space for information exchange (First-time user registration is required to use the website's message board).

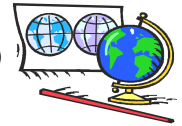
※ The Foundation reserves the right to remove messages with inappropriate content.

4 Miyazaki International Foundation Library

There are books, magazines and videos available at the library inside the Miyazaki International Foundation. You can borrow them for up to two weeks at a time. Please feel free to drop by.

- Newspapers (The Daily Yomiuri, Pinoy Gazette, Bangkok Times, Nikkey Shimbun)
- Books and data related to International Understanding and International Cooperation
- Magazines (Nihongo Journal, Study Abroad Journal, Hiragana Times, Newsweek etc)

- Travel guides and maps of various countries and foreign books (English, Mandarin, Korean, French and German etc)
- Japanese language textbooks, videos, CDs and tapes for learners
- Japanese language teaching resources such as books and tapes for aspiring teachers
- Workbooks and books for language learners (English, Mandarin, Spanish etc)
- Books regarding studying abroad
- DVDs introducing world heritages



5 For visitors who come by car

The Foundation does not have reserved parking space for visitors. Please make use of the Carino Miyazaki carpark or toll carparks nearby. We apologize for the inconveniences and seek your kind understanding in this matter.

Other Announcements



○Picture panel exhibition regarding the abduction of Japanese nationals by North Korea ※Free admission

An exhibition of 24 picture panel, with an overview of the abduction issue, families of abductees and rescue campaigns.

Date/Time: 8 Apr (Sun) to 22 Apr (Sun) 9:00am to 5:00pm (Last day: 9:00am to 4:00pm)

Venue: Kiyotake town Culture Hall Foyer Tel: 0985-84-0181

○British Easter Fair

This event is a day for people of all ages and nationalities to come together and celebrate spring, experience the games and activities which take place during Easter in Britain! Treasure hunt, tug-of-war and easter egg painting are just a few of the many fun-filled family activities that will be held on the big day itself!

Date/Time: 15 Apr (Sun) 12:00pm to 3:00pm (rain or shine!)

Venue: Miyazaki Municipal Central Park (Chūō Kōen)

**Entrance fees will be charged as this event is for charity. Please enquire for more details.

Enquiries: Mr. Hidaka 090-6894-4855, Ms. Barrie: 080-3954-6721, Mr. Leaming: 090-5482-5794



Events in April

Event	Date	Time	Venue
Miyazaki Futsukaichi (Two-day Market)	7 Apr (Sat), 8 Apr (Sun)		Miyazaki City Takachiho Dōri Symbol Road Pavement
Miyazaki Shrine Yabusame (Horseback archery)	3 Apr (Tue)	1:00pm	Miyazaki City Miyazaki Shrine
The 57 th Miyakonojo Mochio Cherry Blossom Festival	Beginning of Apr		Miyakonojo City Mochio Park
Ikoma Highland Iceland Poppy Viewing Season	Mid Apr to End May	8:45am to 4:45pm	Kobayashi City Ikoma Highlands
Imayama Daishi Festival	13 Apr (Fri)	1:00pm	Nobeoka City
	14/15 Apr (Sat/Sun)	10:00am to 6:00pm	

The Lion's Walkway

Neo Su Yu

Last month I used sakura as a theme for the Plaza News. Apparently I was too excited and the sakura has yet to bloom. Sorry about that, my dear readers. Easter falls on the 8th this year. Why not take part in the British Easter Fair, learn the British way of celebrating Easter and do some good for charity? I am very much looking forward to it as I did not really take part in Easter celebrations back in Singapore.

However, April 13th this year falls on a Friday. Friday the 13th! In Chinese we call it a "Black Friday". According to a Wikipedia article, more than 17 million people are affected by a fear of this day. There is also a movie series of the same title that has traumatized many viewers around the world. Well, as for me, the only fear is the that of turning another year old. Yes fortunately or unfortunately I happen to be born on that day.

Presents, anyone?

