



Plaza News

May 2007



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) in Miyakonojo!!

Japanese Language Course for beginners are finally coming to Miyakonojo! If you live in the city itself or nearby, please do not miss this chance!

Period: 28 May (Mon) to 29 Aug (wed) 23 sessions in total Every Monday & Wednesday

(※except for 16 Jul, 23 Jul~1 Aug)

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Target: Beginners in Japanese

Venue: Miyakonojo Wellness Exchange Plaza

Costs: Textbook fee ¥2,835

Participant limit: 15

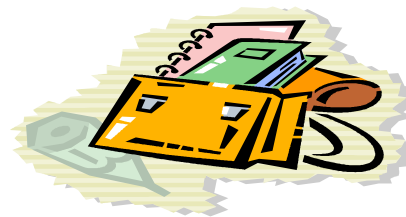
How to apply: Fill in the designated application form

**Good news for those living in Nobeoka City!

A similar course will be held in Nobeoka. Once the date has been confirmed, it will be announced on the Miyazaki



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 10:30am 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.



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

(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.

◎ Announcement from the Miyazaki International Foundation

Coordinators of International Relations (CIRs) from Singapore, South Korea and the United States are stationed at the Plaza on various days. If you need assistance, please feel free to drop by the Plaza.



Tuesdays:	Neo Su Yu (from Singapore)	11:00am to 4:30pm
Thursdays:	Park Young-ju (from South Korea)	11:00am to 4:30pm
Fridays:	Henry Adams (from the United States)	11:00am to 4:30pm

◎ Newspapers/magazines back issues giveaway!

The Plaza is giving away back issues of Newsweek, Filipino newspaper "Pinoy", Korean magazine "Sukkara" etc from the library corner. Limited copies available!

Distribution starts: 10 May (Thurs) ~

Venue: Miyazaki International Plaza



◎ World Box

The Miyazaki International Foundation has "World Boxes" which include maps, musical instruments, CDs, costumes etc from 12 countries and 3 different regions. Please feel free to make use of them for your International Understanding classes, seminars and events. ※ Content of boxes might differ according to countries.

Countries: Republic of Korea, Social Democratic Republic of Vietnam, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, England, Kingdom of Sweden, Republic of Hungary, Republic of Poland, Republic of Boswana, Republic of Czechoslovakia, Republic of Slovakia

Regions: Africa, Central South America, South America



Other Announcements

World Beer and Trivia Night (participants must be aged 20 and above)

Here's an opportunity for you to enjoy beer from different countries, and at the same time take a quiz about different countries in the world!



Date/Time: 25 May (Fri) Doors open 7:00pm
 Venue: Nichinan City Akarenga-kan
 Participant limit: 50 (participation limit for quizzes is 30)
 Participation fee: 2,000yen



※Ticket sales managed by the Nichinan City Commerce and Tourism Division.

Ticket reservation by phone is accepted.

Application/Enquiries: Nichinan City Commerce and Tourism Division

Nichinan City CIR Liz Southwell Tel: 0987-31-1134 Fax: 0987-23-3100

Indonesian Cooking Seminar

The instructor is from Java, Indonesia and will be giving a fabulous Indonesian cooking seminar! Come on down and pick up Indonesian culture through Indonesian cuisine and coffee! (The seminar will be held in Japanese).

※Please bring your own aprons and food containers.

Date: 2 June (Sat) 10:30am to 2:00pm

Venue: Miyazaki City Central Citizens' Hall (*Chuō Kōminkan*) 2nd Floor Cooking Room

Participation fee: Textbook/Ingredients – 1,000yen

Participant limit: 35 (first-come-first-served, application ends once participant limit is reached)

How to apply: Send in a postcard with your address, name and contact number to:

Miyazaki Prefecture Indonesia Association
 880-2112 Miyazaki-shi Komatsu 1216-27
 Tel: 0985-47-6600



Events in May

Event	Date	Time	Venue
The 8 th Karikoboza Sansai (wild vegetables) Festival	3 May (Thu/Public Holiday)	9:00am~	Nishimera Village/Around Ogawa Jōshi Park
The 14 th Hayamizu Ayame Festival	3 May (Thu/Public Holiday)	9:30am~4:00pm (will be postponed if weather is poor)	Miyakonojo City/Hayamizu Park
Takachiho Kagura and Taiko Festival	3 May (Thu/Public Holiday)~6 May (Sun)	10:00am	Takachiho Town/Tunnel-no-eki
Ide-no-yama Hotaru Koi-Matsuri (Fireflies Festival of Love)	19 (Sat), 20 (Sun), 26 (Sat), 27 May (Sun), 2 Jun (Sat), 3 Jun (Sun)	7:00pm to 9:00pm	Kobayashi City/Ide-no-yama Park
Hanashōbu Festival	27 May (Sun)~3 Jun (Sun)		Miyazaki City/Shimin-no-Mori Hanashōbu-en

The Lion's Walkway

Wow! I have a lot of space this month. Whoopee! The much-awaited golden week is coming (or might be over by the time you are reading this). Have you decided how you are going to spend the few days? To other parts of the world? Travelling within Japan, or within Miyazaki itself?

Koi-nobori 鯉のぼり

Neo Su Yu



Ok, back to the topic. You might have seen carp banners (koi-nobori) flying across rivers or on rooftops. Actually that is to celebrate Children's Day on the May 5th. It is well-known that carps are associated with boys because of the strength, bravery and liveliness they display swimming upstream. This could be influenced by the Chinese mythological story of a lady who turned into a carp, jumped into the stomach of an evil dragon and killed him, in order to save her village which was devastated by the dragon. According to Wikipedia, among the many fish which tried to jump through the dragon gate in the Yellow River, only carp made it past the strong currents and turned into a dragon, and was thus seen as a symbol of courage and strength. No matter what, it is a colourful, auspicious display that is interesting to watch. ^_^ Enjoy the break!