



Plaza News

May 2008



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: miyaiinfo@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

◎ Announcement Regarding Plaza Holidays

We will be closed from May 3rd (Sat) – 6th (Tue) for Golden Week.



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

◎ Japanese Language Course for Foreign Residents (For Beginners: Now in Session)

We are currently holding a Japanese language course for foreign residents in Miyazaki. We welcome those who cannot speak above a rudimentary level and those who have limited chances to study.

Dates: April 8th – July 8th; Every Tuesday & Friday for 25 sessions total (excluding holidays)

Time: 10:10 am - 12:00 pm

Place: Carino Miyazaki 8th Floor, Gaga-8 Miyazaki International Plaza

Target: Beginners in Japanese

Fees: ¥1,000 (Text & Materials)

To Apply: Fill out the application form available at the International Plaza (mail/fax OK)

Enquiries: Contact the Miyazaki International Plaza



◎ Japanese Practice Sessions for Foreign Residents ✖Free of Charge, No Registration Required

Japanese practice sessions led by local volunteers are currently underway. If you are looking to pick up useful everyday phrases or just want to practice your Japanese, by all means join us!

Date & Time: Every Tuesday and Friday from 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Place: Carino Miyazaki 8th Floor, Miyazaki International Plaza

Enquiries: Contact the Miyazaki International Plaza



◎ Japanese Practice Sessions for Foreign Residents in Nobeoka ✖Free of Charge

Tentative Schedule: May 8th (Thu), 12th (Mon), 22nd (Thu), and 26th (Mon)

Time: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Place: Nobeoka City Social Education Center

Enquiries: Nobeoka City Internationalization Promotion Office, TEL: 0982-22-7006

◎ Looking for Foreign Volunteers



① International Chat Volunteers

We are looking for people to help out with our English, Mandarin, and Korean International Chat Sessions.

② International Understanding Seminar Speakers

Interested in introducing the culture and customs of your country to the people of Miyazaki? Talks will last approximately an hour, so if you're interested, please contact us.

◎ 100 Year Anniversary of Japanese Immigrants in Brazil – Photo Exhibition

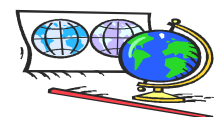
This year marks the passing of 100 years since the first Japanese immigrants crossed over to Brazil.

To commemorate this 100th anniversary, we will be holding a photo exhibition. Having collected precious photos from Japanese-related organizations throughout Brazil - most notably the Japanese Overseas Migration Museum in Sao Paulo - we will introduce the 100 year history of Japanese immigration to Brazil. Photos featuring Miyazaki-born immigrants will also be featured.

Date & Time: June 18th (Wed) – 24th (Tue) from 10:00 am – 7:00 pm

Place: Carino Miyazaki 8th Floor, Miyazaki International Plaza

Enquiries: Contact the Miyazaki International Plaza



◎ **Announcements from the Plaza**

Prefectural employees (coordinators for international relations) from Singapore, Korea, and the U.S. await your appearance at the Plaza.

- Tuesdays: Neo Suyu (Singapore)
- Thursdays: Kim Minjin (Korea)
- Fridays: Patrick Maher (USA)
- Available from 11:00 am – 4:30 pm

※Occasionally absent due to scheduling conflicts



Other Announcements

◎ **Fun Time Cooking Class in Nobeoka City ※First Come, First Served**

Come out and mingle for an afternoon of Chinese cooking. Please bring along your own apron, cloth, and take-home container.

Date & Time: May 13th (Tue) from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Place: Nobeoka City Social Education Center Cookroom

Participants: Maximum of 25

Participation Fee: ¥ 8 00 (for ingredients)

To Apply/Enquiries:Nobeoka City Internationalization Promotion Office, TEL: 0982-22-7006



◎ **Lunch & Simple English Conversation in Nobeoka**

Would you like to have lunch and practice *eikaiwa* with Nobeoka CIR Melissa Lawler? Please bring along your own lunch.

Date & Time: May 28th (Wed) from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Place: Nobeoka City Social Education Center

Free of charge; no registration required

To Apply/Enquiries:Nobeoka City Internationalization Promotion Office, TEL: 0982-22-7006

◎ **Cooking Class for Foreign Residents**

Foreign residents of Miyazaki; how about joining us for a lesson in Japanese home cooking?

We will be making chirashi zushi, teriyaki chicken, pickled dishes, and soup.

Date & Time: May 25th (Sun) from 10:00 am – 1:30 pm (Registration from 9:30 am– 10:00am)

Place: Miyazaki City General Health and Welfare Center, 2nd Floor Cooking Room

Instructor: Tokuko Ishizawa

Fees: Free!

To Apply:Fill in the designated application form and send in by mail, fax or email.

Participants: Foreign residents and study abroad students

Enquiries: Miyazaki City International Association

TEL: 0985- 21-1714 FAX : 0985- 22-0200 Email : miyazaki-mcia@miyazaki-catv.ne.jp



E v e n t s i n M a y

The 13th International Music Festival 2008

Renowned artists from Japan and abroad will be on hand for top caliber performances.

Date & Time: May 5th (Mon) – 24th (Sat) with varying performance times

Place: Medikit Arts Center

Entrance Fee: Varies by performance and seating

Enquiries: Medikit Arts Center, TEL: 0985-28-3210

Flower Festa (Currently Underway)

Enjoy a paradise of flowers and greenery enveloped in the blues of Miyazaki's ocean and sky.

Date & Time: March 15th (Sat) – May 11th (Sun) from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

(Golden Week Nighttime Special: May 3rd (Sat) – 5th (Mon) from 9:00 am – 7:00 pm)

Place: "Kodomo no Kuni" in Aoshima, Miyazaki City

Entrance Fee: Adults = ¥800 (¥600 w/ advance ticket), Children = ¥400 (¥300 w/ advance ticket)

Enquiries: Kodomo no Kuni, TEL: 0985-65-1111

Spring Floral Festival (Now Underway)

Enjoy spring to the fullest by visiting the numerous venues home to flowers in full bloom.

Date & Time: March 15th (Sat) – May 25th (Sun) from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Place: Florante Miyazaki

Enquiries: Florante Miyazaki, TEL: 0985-23-1510



Pat's Little Rant

Many have labeled me an *ameotoko* – a rain man. In other words, wherever I go, the rain is sure to follow. The title was first bestowed upon me during my first study abroad in Japan, as my attendance at beach parties and picnics brought precipitation. During my second stay in Japan, teachers would bring umbrellas along on field trips – even on sunny days. Now in Miyazaki, I inevitably summon bad weather during bike trips and *hanami* outings. Being an *ameotoko* is a heavy burden to bear; we don't want the festivities soggy and damp! I have thus begun research aimed at finding a cure for the rain man disease. I ask all other *ameotoko* and *ameonna* to join me in my quest for our salvation!

The Rain Man Curse

Patrick Maher, Miyazaki Prefecture CIR