



Plaza News



January 2009

No.34

Miyazaki Prefecture International Plaza

Questions, comments, postings, or for information in Plaza News: Miyazaki 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/>
Open: Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10:00AM to 7:00 PM Closed: Sundays, Mondays, National Holidays and December 29 to January 3

● Announcement: Closings During the Holiday Season

We will be closed during the holiday season from December 28, 2008 (Sun) ~ January 5, 2009 (Mon). We will re-open on January 6 (Tue) for the start of a new year!

● 2009 Miyazaki Art Festival: "Miyazaki – From the Outside Looking In" Exhibition Opening

Next month will see the opening of our art exhibition, "Miyazaki – From the Outside Looking In," featuring the art works of Miyazaki's foreign residents. We have collected a variety of artistic pieces including photos, calligraphy, drawings, etc., expressing our foreign artists' thoughts and impressions of living in Miyazaki. Come on by and check it out!

◇ Exhibition Period: January 28 (Wed) ~ February 7 (Sat) from 10:00 ~ 8:00 ※The final day will conclude at 4:00

◇ Venue: Carino Miyazaki 8th Floor, Gaga-8 Free Space

※ We have extended the deadline for artwork submissions through January 17 (Sat). For details, please visit our homepage. We await your works of art!

● 2009 Art Festival – International Activities

❀ ❀ ❀ January 31 (Sat) ❀ ❀ ❀

- Kimono Wearing & Cultural Sharing
- JET Theatre : Bilingual Play
- Art Exhibition & Awards Ceremony
- International Booths
- Karuta Card Tournament

❀ ❀ ❀ February 1 (Sun) ❀ ❀ ❀

- International Fashion Show
- International Booths
- "Bonsai Tree" Crafting
- Japanese Speech Contest
- JET Theatre : Bilingual Play
- Chinese Tea Tasting
- Daily Life & Legal Consultations

※Please note that the International Activities are subject to change.

● Kimono Wearing & Culture Sharing and Mini Bonsai Tree Crafting – Looking for Participants ! ※Registration Necessary

【Kimono Wearing】

◇ Date & Time : January 31 (Sat)

* Morning Session : 11 :00 ~ 12 :00 * Afternoon Session : 1 :30 ~ 3 :00

◇ Activities : Try on a kimono, learn basic etiquette (how to take off sandals, how to sit, etc.), and enjoy a variety of Japanese cultural experiences.

◇ Place : Carino Miyazaki 8th Floor, Gaga-8

◇ Participants : Foreign Residents ◇ Cost : ¥300

【Mini Bonsai Crafting】

◇ Date & Time : February 1 (Sun)

* Morning Session : 11 : 00 ~ 12 : 00 * Afternoon Session : 1 : 00 ~ 2 : 00

◇ Activities : Learn easy ways to enjoy making use of the plants around you

◇ Place : Carino Miyazaki 8th Floor, in front of the Miyazaki International Plaza

◇ Participants : Foreign Residents ◇ Cost : ¥500

◇ Registration Period : January 6 (Tue) ~ January 20 (Tue)

◇ Participants : Maximum 10 people for each session

※In the event we receive more applications than we have spots available, participants will be chosen via lottery. You will be informed as to whether you are chosen by January 24(Sat).

◇ To Apply : Contact us by post, fax, or e-mail with the following information

- 1) Desired Event & Session, 2) Name, 3) Address, 4) Phone Number, Fax, or E-mail

◇ Application & Questions : Contact the Miyazaki International Foundation



● Daily Life & Legal Consultations for Foreign Residents ※Registration Necessary • Free of Charge

If you are struggling with anything from difficulty in your daily life in Japan, legal problems, or visa issues, why not sign up for a free consultation? Lawyers and administrative procedures will be on hand to help out with your problems. Volunteer interpreters are also available to assist you if necessary.

◇ Date & Time : February 1 (Sun) from 10 :15 ~ 12 :15 ※30 minutes per person

◇ Place : Carino Miyazaki 8th Floor, Multi-Purpose Rooms A & B

◇ To Apply : Please make a reservation by phone ※If you will need an interpreter, let us know when you call

◇ Application Deadline : January 27 (Tue) ◇ Application & Questions : Contact the Miyazaki International Foundation

● Japanese Speech Contest – Looking for Participants

We are currently looking for foreign participants for the Japanese Speech Contest. Why not take this opportunity to present your thoughts regarding life in Miyazaki?

◇ Date & Time : February 1 (Sun) from 1 :30 ~ 3 :00 ※Awards ceremony 3:50 ~ 4:00 ◇ Place : Carino Miyazaki, 8th Floor, Community Hall

◇ Speech Theme : "Thoughts on Miyazaki," "Feelings about Living in Miyazaki," etc. Anything related to Miyazaki will do.

◇ Eligible Participants : Foreigners residing in Miyazaki Prefecture (including study abroad students). ※However, participants must meet specified conditions. ①Can not be a native Japanese speaker ②Can not have had Japanese education in primary or middle school

◇ Ability Level & Speech Time : ①Beginner : speech of 3 minutes or less (language ability equal to or below JLPT level 3)

②Intermediate Plus : speech of 5 minutes or less (no restrictions on Japanese ability)

◇ Prizes : The top three presenters will receive a certificate and award courtesy of the Miyazaki International Foundation.

All participants will receive a prize for participation.

◇ To Apply : Fill out our application form and send it to us by mail, fax, or e-mail.

◇ Application Deadline : January 23, 2009 (Fri) ※First-come first-served basis

◇ Application & Questions : Contact the Miyazaki International Foundation



●Japanese Practice Sessions for Foreign Residents ※Free of Charge, No Registration Required

If you are looking to pick up useful everyday phrases or just want to work on your Japanese, by all means join our Japanese volunteers for a practice session !

- ◇ Dates: Every Tuesday and Friday from 10:30 ~ 11:30
- ◇ Place: Carino Miyazaki, 8th Floor, Miyazaki International Plaza
- ◇ Inquiries: Contact the Miyazaki International Plaza
- ※ Note : The Plaza will be closed for the New Year until January 6th

●Messages from Asia – Photo Exhibition ※Free of Charge • No Registration Necessary

The Miyazaki International Cooperation Network – active overseas in many fields from the environment and education to peace and poverty – will be hosting a photo exhibition and film screening, displaying images captured during their activities abroad. In addition, there will be other attractions such as quizzes and chances to try on traditional dress. We look forward to your attendance.

- ◇Date & Time: January 24 & 25 (Sat & Sun) from 10:00 ~ 5:00
- ◇Place: Aeon Mall Miyazaki, 1st Floor
- ◇Hosted By: The Miyazaki International Cooperation Network & JICA Kyushu
- ◇Inquiries: Contact the JICA Desk at the Miyazaki International Foundation (Ms. Sato)



<Local Announcements>

Event	Date & Time	Venue	Contact
Japanese Practice Sessions for Foreign Residents in Nobeoka ※Free of Charge	1/5 (Mon), 1/26 (Mon) 10:30 ~ 12:00	Nobeoka City Social Education Center	Nobeoka City International Exchange Promotion Department Tel: 0982-22-7006(Ms. Kai)
Japanese Language Course for Foreign Residents in Nobeoka ※Free of Charge	1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29 ※Every Thursday • Introductory 10:00 ~ 11:00 • Beginners 11:00~ 12:00	Nobeoka City Social Education Center	Nobeoka City International Exchange Promotion Department Tel: 0982-22-7006(Ms. Kai)
Learning Korea PART 3 – Learn the Charms of Kimchi from Dr. Kimchi ※Registration Necessary • Free of Charge	1/10 (Sat) 11:00 ~ 4:00	Miyazaki Citizens' Plaza 4 th Floor, Gallery 2	Miyazaki City International Association Planning & Publicity Section Tel: 0985-21-1719(Ms. Myon)



< January Events >

Event	Date & Time	Venue	Contact
Naked Winter Visit to Aoshima Shrine	1/12 (Mon) 11:35 ~ • Apply the day of at the Aoshima Kanko Hotel, 1 st Floor Lobby (10:00 ~ 11:00) Cost: ¥500 for elementary students and above Clothing: <u>Men:</u> White Tabi (japanese socks), Fundoshi (loincloth), White Hachimaki (headband) <u>Women:</u> White Tabi, Short Pants (white), White T-Shirt, Undershirt, White Hachimaki	Miyazaki City, Aoshima Shrine	Aoshima Shrine Tel: 0985-65-1262
Shiwase Festival	1/23 (Fri) from 4:00 1/24 (Sat) from 3:00 1/25 (Sun) from 11:00	Kijo Town (Hiki Shrine), Misato Town, Nango Ward (Godo Shrine)	Misato Town Tourism Association (within the Misato Town Hall Information Planning Division) Tel: 0982-66-3603



Pat's Little Rant

Armrest Etiquette

Patrick Maher, Miyazaki Prefecture CIR

My job involves some trips to Tokyo throughout the year, which means flying the friendly skies now and then. Some aspects of flying I enjoy – takeoff sends my imagination soaring (bad pun, sorry), turbulence rocks (worse pun, apologies), and watching attendants demonstrate the mechanics of a seat belt makes me buckle over with laughter (I couldn't resist!). However, boarding a plane basically means preparing to awkwardly sit with strangers in a cramped space. Some people make this time worse: smelly guy, for example, takes away the nasal-breathing option as you spend the trip wondering if he's aware of the aroma he generates. Everyone fears flying with disgruntled baby, and nobody likes sitting next to Mr. Hyperactive Bladder. Personally, though, it's passengers with bad armrest etiquette that test my sanity. Aisle and window seats guarantee you an armrest; thus, we should show compassion to those stuck in the middle. But no, not you greasy-haired businessman, you showed no compassion. You just had to have both armrests. You couldn't even share an armrest. Your greed made my flight uncomfortable and tightly-squeezed. Greasy-haired businessman, I wish you a life of beanbag-like furniture for the rest of your days. Everyone, let's show the world of airline passengers we have better etiquette than the likes of this crabby fellow.