



Plaza News



February 2009

No.35

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: miyaiinfo@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: Plaza Holiday Closing

The Plaza will be closed on February 11 for the holiday.



2009 Miyazaki Art Festival: “Miyazaki – From the Outside Looking In” Exhibition Opening



The time for our art exhibition, “Miyazaki – From the Outside Looking In,” featuring the art works of Miyazaki’s foreign residents, has come at last. 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

● 2009 Art Festival – International Activities

【 January 31 (Sat) 】

◆ Kimono Wearing & Cultural Sharing ※Cost ¥300

[Time] 11 : 00 ~ 12 : 30 (Morning Session),
1 : 30 ~ 3 : 00 (Afternoon Session)

[Participants]

- Foreign Residents 10 per session
- ※First-come first-served, so sign up early
- Try on a kimono, learn basic etiquette, and enjoy a variety of Japanese cultural experiences

◆ Rhapsodize with the Artistic Masterminds & Awards Ceremony

[Time] 1 : 30 ~ 2 : 30

- Visitors can chat about this and that with the exhibition’s artists
- Votes for outstanding art works will be cast, and award winners will be announced

◆ Green Tea for Thee ! ※Cost ¥100

[Time] 11 : 00 ~ 16 : 00

◆ International Booths

[Time] All Day from 10 : 00 ~ 4 : 00

- United States, Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Taiwan, Brazil, and India

◆ Karuta Card Tournament

[Time] All Day from 11 : 00 ~ 4 : 00

◆ JET Theatre : Bilingual Play – 1st Showing ※Ticket Fee will be Charged

[Time] 4 : 00 ~ 5 : 00

- Tickets available from 3 : 45 ~ 4 : 00
- Cost : ¥300

【 February 1 (Sun) 】

◆ Consultation for Daily Life and Legal Matters

※Reservation Necessary ; Free of Charge

[Time] 10 : 15 ~ 12 : 15

- Professionals will be available to consult you regarding legal problems, visa issues, etc.

◆ Chinese Tea Tasting

[Time] 11 : 00 ~ 4 : 00

◆ International Booths

[Time] All Day from 10 : 00 ~ 4 : 00

- United States, Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Taiwan, Brazil, and India

◆ Mini Bonsai Crafting ※Cost ¥500

[Time] 11 : 00 ~ 12 : 00 (Morning Session),
1 : 00 ~ 2 : 00 (Afternoon Session)

[Participants]

- Foreign Residents 10 per session
- ※First-come first-served, so sign up early !
- Learn easy ways to enjoy making use of the plants around you

◆ Japanese Speech Contest

[Time] 1 : 30 ~ 3 : 00

※Awards Ceremony : 3 : 50 ~ 4 : 00

◆ International Fashion Show

[Time] 3 : 00 ~ 3 : 40

◆ JET Theatre : Bilingual Play – 2nd Showing

[Time] 4 : 15 ~ 5 : 15

- Tickets Available from 4 : 00 ~ 4 : 15
- Cost : ¥300

※Please keep in the mind that the above events are subject to change without notice.

~NOTE~ For those coming by car, please use the Carino (paid) parking lot or other paid parking lots in the area. The International Foundation will not be issues parking vouchers. Thank you for your cooperation.

● International Chat Sessions [English] ※Free of Charge ; Limited to Plaza Members Only

How about stopping by for some entertaining English conversation? Those interested in participating should sign up beforehand – see below for details.

◇Date & Time : 2/13 (Fri) ~ 3/13 (Fri) ※Every Friday for a total of 5 sessions 1 : 30 ~ 2 : 30

◇Place : Carino Miyazaki, 8th Floor, Miyazaki International Plaza

◇Participants : 18 people ※If the number of applicants exceed the participant limit, we will select participants by lottery. Only applicants not be selected will be informed.

◇To Apply : Contact us by phone, fax, or e-mail with your ①Name, ②Address, and ③Contact Information

◇Application Deadline: 2/10 (Tue) ◇Application & Inquiries : Contact the Miyazaki International Foundation

● Japanese Language Course for Foreign Residents (For Beginners) ※Registration Required

We are offering a beginner's level Japanese course for foreign residents in Miyazaki. For those of you who speak only minimal Japanese or have few opportunities to study the language, here is your chance!

- ◇ Date & Time : April 7 (Tue) ~ July 3 (Fri) ※Excluding Holidays
Every Tuesday & Friday from 10 :10~12 :00 ; Total of 25 Sessions
- ◇ Place : Carino Miyazaki, 8th Floor, Gaga-8
- ◇ Participants : Those with no experience studying Japanese or a desire to learn basics of reading and writing
- ◇ Cost : ¥1,000(Texts & Materials) ◇ Application Deadline : March 31 (Tue)
- ◇ To Apply : Fill out our application form and return it by mail or fax
- ◇ Application & Inquiries : Contact the Miyazaki International Plaza

● 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

● International Understanding Seminar #4: Feel the World by your Side ~Taiwan~ ※Free of Charge

We are happy to welcome Ms.Sai Peifan, a tea-artist from Taiwan, who will be holding a seminar on the art of tea. Why not take this opportunity to learn about traditional Taiwanese culture and the art of tea. All are welcome!

- ◇ Date & Time: March 7 (Sat) from 1:30 ~ 3:00 ◇ Place: Carino Miyazaki 8th Floor, Gaga-8 Free Space
- ◇ To Apply: Contact us by phone, fax, or e-mail with your name, address, contact information, and what you would like to learn about Taiwan
- ◇ Participants : 30people ◇ Inquiries: Contact the Miyazaki International Foundation

< Local Announcements >

Event	Date & Time	Venue	Contact
Lunch and Simple English Conversation ※No Registration Required, Free of Charge	2/24 (Tue) 11 : 30 ~ 1 : 00	Nobeoka City Social Education Center	Nobeoka City International Exchange Promotion Department Tel: 0982-22-7006(Ms. Kai)
Fun Times Cooking Class ※Cost: ¥800(for ingredients)	2/26 (Thu) 10 : 00 ~ 1 : 00	Nobeoka City Social Education Center	Nobeoka City International Exchange Promotion Department Tel: 0982-22-7006(Ms. Kai)
Japanese Practice Sessions for Foreign Residents in Nobeoka	2/2 (Mon)、2/9 (Mon) 2/23 (Mon) 10 : 30 ~ 12 : 30	Nobeoka City Social Education Center	Nobeoka City International Exchange Promotion Department Tel: 0982-22-7006(Ms. Kai)

< February Events >

Event	Date & Time	Venue	Contact
Nobeoka Touka-Ebisu Festival	2/10 (Tue) 9:00 a.m. ~ 10:00 p.m. 2/11 (Wed) 9:00 a.m. ~ 9:00 p.m	Imayama Hachiman Shrine in Nobeoka City	Imayama Ebisu Shrine Office Tel: 0982-21-4525
Nawashiroda Festival (Bebugahaho)	2/18 (Wed) Starts at 11:00 a.m.	Sano Shrine	Sano Shrine Tel: 0984-42-1007
Aya Hinayama Festival	2/21 (Mon) ~ 3/3 (Tue) 10:00 a.m. ~ 5:00 p.m. ※Time may differ by venue	Main Shopping District in Aya Town	Aya Town Society of Commerce and Industry Tel: 0985-77-0017

Pat's Little Rant

Taking Home a Taste of Miyazaki

Patrick Maher, Miyazaki Prefecture CIR

Happy New Year – yes, you're reading this in February, but Happy New Year anyway! Quelling my ranting for this month...I spent the holidays in my hometown of Wadsworth, Ohio – my first time home since my arrival in Miyazaki. I knew my family and friends would be expecting something “Japanese” to adorn their shelves, appease their appetite, or quench their thirst. In the past, this has involved dabbling in sake (not well received), handing out daruma (loved by all and still referred to as “that egg boy”), and offering up pickled plums (refused by many). This year, shochu was the obvious candidate for introduction. All my friends except one (what was his problem?) happily welcomed the wave of thirst-quenching happiness down the gullet – although in U.S. fashion, most insisted on repeating shots of shochu. Even my Mom (who doesn't drink much), spiced up her New Year's Eve, describing the taste as, “It burns...delicious!” The best review, however, came from a good friend enjoying (too much?) Miyazaki shochu one night, who remarked, “This tastes like you living in Japan.” I still have no idea what he meant.