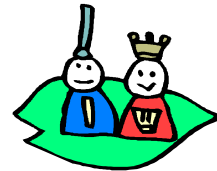




Plaza News



March 2009

No.36

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 March 20 for the holiday.

● Art Festival 2009 “Miyazaki - From the Outside Looking In” Art Exhibition

Coming soon to Miyakonojo City/Tsuno Town/Ebino City

The “Miyazaki—From the Outside Looking In” Art Exhibition held at Carino Miyazaki 8F (Gaga-8) from 28 Jan (Wed) to 7 Feb (Sat) will be coming to Miyakonojo City, Tsuno Town and Ebino City. The exhibition showcases artworks of impressions of foreign residents in Miyazaki. Rediscover Miyazaki from the perspective of others.

Date/Venue/Inquires:

- 2 Mar (Mon) to 6 Mar (Fri) / Miyakonojo City Hall / Miyakonojo City Tel:0986-23-2132
- 14 Mar (Sat) to 18 Mar (Wed) / Tsuno Town library / Tsuno City Tel:0983-25-5710
- 23 Mar (Mon) to 29 Mar (Sun) / Ebino International Exchange Center / Ebino International Exchange Center Tel:0984-35-3211

● Miyazaki International Plaza Counter Volunteer Recruitment

We are currently looking for volunteers to help out our staff by working at the front counter of the Miyazaki International Plaza. Volunteers should reside within the prefecture and be 18 years of age or older. If you are interested, please fill out the necessary application form and return it to us by Saturday, March 14. Volunteers should be able to speak everyday Japanese.

《In the case of multiple applicants, volunteers will be chosen through a screening process》

- ◇ Volunteer Period: April 1, 2009 (Wed) ~ September 30, 2009 (Wed)
- ◇ Work Time: ①10:00~1:00 ②1:00~4:00 ③4:00~7:00 – One day a week between Tues. & Sat.
- ◇ Tasks: ○General Information ○Visitor Response ○Correspondence Assistance ○Arranging Library Materials
○Computer Tasks ○Lending Out Library Items ○Arranging and Forwarding Used Stamps, Prepaid Cards, etc.
- ◇ Transportation expenses not covered; no monetary rewards (however, parking and volunteer insurance will be covered by the International Foundation.)
- ◇ Applications & Questions: Contact the Miyazaki International Foundation

● Japanese Language Course for Foreign Residents (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!

※Course will be held in Japanese

- ◇ Date & Time : April 7 (Tue) ~ July 3 (Tue) ※Excluding Holiday
Every Tuesday & Friday from 10:10~12:00 ; Total of 25 Sessions
- ◇ Place : Carino Miyazaki, 8th Floor, Gaga-8
- ◇ Participants : Those with no Japanese study experience *or* a desire to learn basics of reading and writing
- ◇ Cost : ¥1,000 (Text & Materials) ◇ Application Deadline : March 31 (Tue) ◇ Class Size : Maximum 15
- ◇ 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 ※No Registration Required, Free of Charge

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

Taiwan-born tea expert Sai Peifan will be holding a seminar about the art of tea. Why not join us for a lesson in Taiwanese traditional culture and tea? We welcome your participation.

- ◇ Date & Time: March 7 (Sat) from 1:30 ~ 3:00 ◇ Participants: Max of 30
- ◇ Place: Carino Miyazaki, 8th Floor, Multi-Purpose Room A
- ◇ 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
- ◇ Inquiries: Contact the Miyazaki International Foundation

● Looking for Foreign Volunteers

① International Chat Session Volunteers

We are currently looking for volunteers to help out with our “International Chat Sessions.” If you speak English, Chinese, or Korean, we would appreciate your helping us host an enjoyable chat session.

② Volunteer Lecturers for International Understanding Seminars

Anyone interested in introducing their home country and culture to the people of Miyazaki?

※For further details, please contact the Miyazaki International Foundation.

● “World Box” Availability

The Miyazaki International Foundation offers visitors the opportunity to borrow “World Boxes,” which contain maps, instruments, CDs, clothes, and more from various countries around the world. Currently, we have “World Boxes” available for 13 countries and 3 regions. Feel free to take advantage of these materials in planning international understanding classes, seminars, events, etc.

※“World Box” materials differ by country/region.

◇ Available Countries: South Korea, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam, Canada, England, Sweden, Hungary, Poland, Botswana, Czech Republic, and Slovakia.

◇ Available Regions: Africa, Latin America, and South America. ◇ Inquiries: Contact the Miyazaki International Foundation

< Local Announcements >

Event	Date & Time	Venue	Contact
Japanese Practice Sessions for Foreign Residents in Nobeoka	3/2, 3/23, 3/30 (Mon) 10:30~12:00	Nobeoka City Social Education Center	Nobeoka City International Exchange Promotion Department Tel: 0982-22-7006(Ms. Kai)
World Festa in Miyakonojo	3/7 (Sat) 12:00 ~ 4:00 Stage: 2:00 ~ 3:30	Miyakonojo Wellness Plaza	Miyakonojo International Association Tel:0986-23-2295
Panel Exhibition ~A Story from the Southwest~	3/9(Mon)~3/19(Thu)	•Togo Town Local Autonomy Center 3/9(Mon)~3/13(Fri) •Hyuga City Hall 3/16(Mon)~3/19(Thu)	Hyuga City Hall Citizens Collaboration Division Tel:0982-52-2111 (David Pinto-Carpenter)
Learning Korea “PART IV – Getting to Know Korea!”	3 sessions on 3/11, 3/18 & 3/25 (Wed) 10 : 00~11:30 Participants: Max 20 ※¥500 fee for 3/25 cooking class; bring apron and container	3/11 & 3/18 : Miyazaki Citizens’ Plaza 3/25 : Miyazaki City Public Health and Welfare Center	Miyazaki City International Association Tel:0985-21-1714(Ms. Myon)
Learning Germany 「Journey of Germany」 ※Free Admission	3/17 (Tue), 3/18 (Wed),3/19 (Thu) & 3/24 (Tue) 7:00 ~ 8:30 Max 30 Participants	3/17 : Tano Cultural Hall Noson Kankyo Kaizen Center 3/18 : Sadowara Culture Center 3/19 : Takaoka Noson Kankyo Center 3/24 : Miyazaki Citizens’ Plaza	Miyazaki City International Association Tel:0985-21-1714 (Peter Fuhl)
Lunch and Simple English Conversation ※No Registration Required, Free of Charge	3/25 (Wed) 11:30~13:00 ※Please bring along your own lunch	Nobeoka City Social Education Center	Nobeoka City International Exchange Promotion Department Tel: 0982-22-7006

< March Events >

Event	Date & Time	Venue	Contact
Miyazaki Flower Festa 2009	3/14 (Sat) ~ 5/10 (Sun) ※Times differ depending on venue	Main Venue: Kodomo no Kuni in Aoshima, Miyazaki City (10 venues in total)	Miyazaki Convention and Visitors Bureau Tel:0985-26-6100
Udo Shrine Spring Festival	3/28 (Sat) Starts at 10:30	Udo Shrine	Udo Shrine Tel:0987-29-1001
59 th Miyakonojo Mochio Cherry Blossom Festival	3/27 (Fri) ~ 4/5 (Sun) ※Events will be held on 3/28, 3/29, 4/4 & 4/5	Mochio Park in Miyakonojo City	Miyakonojo City Tourist Association Tel:0986-23-2460

Pat’s Little Rant

Get Out of the Booth

Patrick Maher, Miyazaki Prefecture

With my ascension into college, my tongue and taste buds stopped bickering about disliking certain members of dietary society. As a result, I began accepting all culinary creations and collaborations as delicious nutritious benefactors. Then I enjoyed my first stint abroad in Japan, which led to my falling in love with sushi, from salient slabs of tuna to the misunderstood yet rapturously tasty sea urchin. Nowadays, I frequent *Sushi Tora* as often as monetarily possible. *Sushi Tora* proves an immensely popular eatery, and you can guarantee yourself a wait if you mosey on by after 7:00. I particularly enjoy journeying to *Sushi Tora* with a posse of compadres, which means we wait our turn for a booth. With booths limited in number compared to counter seats, the wait can prove much longer, indeed. So when I see you, party of 2, occupying a booth for an unknown yet without-a-doubt unworthy reason, I start contemplating forcefully removing you from the premises. Your conversation and service will not be compromised by sitting at the counter, and you know this, but you choose enhanced posterior cushioning to social propriety, and you thus provoke my patients. If you are less than 3 and out for sushi, do us all a favor: get out of the booth and sit at the counter!