



Plaza News

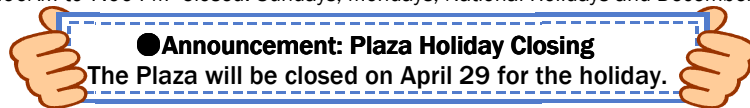


April 2009

No.37

Miyazaki International Foundation

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: Plaza Holiday Closing

The Plaza will be closed on April 29 for the holiday.

● Looking to Register Volunteer Interpreters

Aiming to further promote international exchange within Miyazaki, we are now seeking volunteer interpreters to help out with foreign language-based events, meetings, and visitations. You can visit our homepage for further details.

◇ Application & Inquiries :

Contact the Miyazaki International Foundation

※ You can also apply via our homepage

● 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

● 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 (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 Japanese study experience or a desire to learn basics of reading and writing

◇ Cost : ¥1,000 (Text & Materials)

◇ 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

● Library Back-Issues Free for the Taking

We are currently giving away back-issues of *Newsweek*, *J-SELECT*, the Philippine newspaper *PINOY*, and other publications from the Miyazaki International Plaza's Library Corner for free. Numbers are limited, so come on by and get your hands on some free reading material.

◇ Distribution Period: Starting from April 7 (Tue)

◇ Place: The Miyazaki International Plaza

● 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.



Information about the Miyazaki International Foundation



● Currently Looking for Patron Members

The Miyazaki International Foundation is looking for patron members generously willing to lend their support and assist with the Foundation's international activities.

Yearly Membership Fee: ¥2,000 per person; ¥10,000 per group

♣ Delivery of the "International Plaza News" (monthly) & "South Wind" (3 issues per year)

"International Plaza News": Informational newsletter listing various courses hosted by the International Foundation and other international exchange events taking place throughout Miyazaki.

"South Wind": In-house color magazine with accessible topics and information concerning international exchange and international cooperation.

♣ Priority access to information regarding Foundation hosted courses and events (free or discounted participation, preferential member treatment, etc.)

Use of standard video players from various countries (free for members, ¥500 for non-members)

♣ Delivery Access to Foundation-issued publications

♣ Delivery Links to your organization's homepage from the Foundation's homepage

(special benefit for group members only)

● Foundation Homepage

(Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean)

♣ Life Information (currently available on English homepage only) :

List of information related to the beaches and campsites located throughout Miyazaki.

♣ Event Calendar : Information concerning Foundation-hosted events and various other events and festivals taking place throughout the whole of Miyazaki.

A great deal of other information can be found here as well.



● Foundation Message Boards

Everyone is welcome to post on both the message board located in the Miyazaki International Plaza, as well as the message board available on the Foundation's homepage. Please use these boards as a means of information exchange.

※ You must register before posting on the online message board.

※ Content deemed inappropriate by the Foundation will be removed from the message board.

●Miyazaki International Plaza Library Corner

We have amassed a diverse collection of books, magazines, videos, etc. You can borrow up to 2 library items at a time for a 2 week period, free of charge. Come on by and check out what the Plaza has to offer.

- ♣Newspapers : (The Daily Yomiuri, Pinoy Gazette, Bangkok Times)
- ♣Magazines : (*Nihongo Journal*, *Ryugaku Journal*, *Hiragana Times*, *Newsweek*, etc.)
- ♣Travel guides and maps for numerous countries, as well as books written in foreign languages (English, Chinese, Korean, French, German, etc.)
- ♣Textbooks, videos, CD's, tapes, and other materials for studying Japanese
- ♣Books and resources related to international understanding and cooperation
- ♣Books and tapes designed for individuals interested in teaching Japanese
- ♣Books regarding studying and working abroad
- ♣Workbooks for studying foreign languages (English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, etc.)

●Subsidy System for Events Promoting Internationalization

For groups or organizations within the prefecture planning to host an international event, the Miyazaki International Foundation may offer to subsidize a portion of the fees involved under the following conditions:

- ◇Event Type: Pioneering, effective events contributing to the promotion of local international exchange, which in principal allow for the participation of general citizens and will be believed to have a positive ripple effect within the community.
- ◇Event Budget: Expenses necessary to the implementation of the aforementioned type of event (excluding group's administrative expenses).
- ◇Subsidy Amount: As much as half of the event's expenses (but no more than ¥200,000 in total).

●For Those Visiting the Miyazaki International Plaza by Car

The Foundation does not have a visitor's parking lot; therefore, those coming by car should make use of the Carino paid-parking lot or another nearby paid-parking lot. Please note that the Foundation does not issue parking vouchers. We apologize for any inconvenience that this might cause.

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

<Local Announcements>

Event	Date & Time	Venue	Contact
International Sports Festa ※Please bring your own Lunch、 drinks、 indoor shoes	4/11 (Sat) 10:00~3:00 Open to 3 rd -year elementary school students and above; Max 50 Participants	Otake Gymnasium, Nobeoka City	Nobeoka City International Exchange Promotion Department Tel:0982-22-7006 (Ms. Kai)
Fun Times Cooking Class ※Cost: ¥800 (for ingredients)	4/16 (Thu) 10:00~1:00 Max 25 Participants (First-Come First-Serve)	Nobeoka City Social Education Center	Nobeoka City International Exchange Promotion Department Tel:0982-22-7006 (Ms. Kai)
Lunch and Simple English Conversation ※No Registration Required, Free of Charge	4/21 (Tue) 11:30~1:00 ※Please bring your own lunch	Nobeoka City Social Education Center	Nobeoka City International Exchange Promotion Department Tel:0982-22-7006 (Ms. Kai)

<April Events>

Event	Date & Time	Venue	Contact
Takachiho Shrine Spring Festival	4/16 (Thu) Starting at 9:30	Takachiho Shrine , Takachiho Town	Takachiho Shrine Tel:0982-72-2413
Imayama Daishi Festival 「 <i>Odaishisan</i> 」	4/17 (Fri) ~ 4/19 (Sun)	Yamashita Town, Nobeoka City, Imayama Daishi	Imayama Daishi Temple Tel:0982-32-5290
The 23rd Ebino Kyomachi Onsen Marathon	4/26 (Sun) Starting at 9:30 ※Participant registration period has already ended	Kyomachi Hot Spring Village, Ebino City	Ebino City Tourism Association Tel:0984-35-3838
Iceland Poppies at Ikoma Plateau	Mid-April ~ End of May (Peak Season)	Ikoma Plateau, Kobayashi City	Kobayashi City Tourism Association Tel:0984-22-8684

Pat's Little Rant

Restroom Reform

Patrick Maher, Miyazaki Prefecture CIR

The journey of life runs through many public restrooms: from dingy park facilities housing nightmarish open-air squatters to hotel chambers equipped with artificially intelligent, posterior-pampering thrones. Amazingly, despite humanity's advancement into the 21st century, restroom reform remains far from complete. My fellow citizens, I beg your confidence in elevating yours truly to the position of Lavatory Liaison of the Masses, as I will demand the following restroom revolution for all:

First off, away with industrial brand sandpaper-quality toilet paper – if we can not afford all individuals a cushiony wipe, we prove less civilized than rabid beasts. Secondly, we must produce a line of peacekeeping robots to forcibly remove any individual who finds it necessary to spend multiple minutes hawking loogies with jackhammer-like audibility into the sink – this not only eliminates a nuisance, but stimulates the economy as well. Finally, we need a 2:1 ratio of women's to men's restrooms – waiting in line to do the deed amounts to torture, and the ridiculous processions that women must persevere through stand one of society's greatest sins.