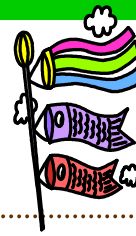


Plaza News



May 2009
No.38

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: Plaza Holiday Closing

The Plaza will be close on May 5 (Tue) and May 6 (Wed) 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.

※ You can also apply via our homepage



● New Service for Foundation Patron Members

As a new perk for patron members of the International Foundation, beginning this month we will send said members the "International Plaza News" (issued at the end of every month) in all four issued languages. Please share these publications with nearby foreign residents, as well as make use of their potential as language study aids.

● 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!

◇ 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)

◇ 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

● 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?

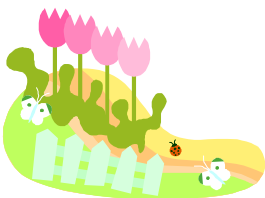
※ For further details, please contact the Miyazaki International Foundation.

● 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)
- 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)
- Access to Foundation-issued publications



< Local Announcements >

Organizer/Contact	Event Information
Miyazaki City International Association Tel:0985-21-1714 Fax:0985-22-0200 E-mail:miyazaki-mcia@miyazaki-catv.ne.jp	● Learning China Part I ※First-Come, First-Served 5/13 (Wed) ~ 6/17 (Wed), 10:00~11:30 a.m. (6 times) Miyazaki Citizens' Plaza, 4 th Floor Cost: General = ¥1,000; Association Members = ¥500 App. Deadline: 5/8 (Fri), Tel:0985-21-1719, Fax:0985-21-1733
	● Japanese Practice Sessions ※Registration Required ※Free 5/8 (Fri), 5/15 (Fri), 5/22 (Fri), 5/29 (Fri), 6:30~7:30 p.m. Miyazaki Citizens' Plaza (Chu Meeting Room) Tel:0985-21-1714, Fax:0985-22-0200 (Myon Jison & Ms. Morita)
Nobeoka City International Exchange Department Tel:0982-22-7006	● Japanese Practice Sessions 5/7 (Thu), 5/11 (Mon), 5/14 (Thu) 5/25 (Mon), 5/28 (Thu) 10:30 a.m. ~ 12:00 p.m. Nobeoka City Social Education Center, Training Room #2
Miyakonojo International Association (MIA) Tel:0986-23-2295 Fax:0986-23-3223 Email:mia@city.miyakonojo.miyazaki.jp	● 「Marugoto Mongolia」 Date: 5/22 (Fri) ~ 5/24 (Sun), Venue: Kirishima Factory Garden <u>○5/22 (Fri), 9:30 ~ 2:00 p.m. – Ladies Day</u> Mongolian cooking class, Introduction to Mongolia, Have you photo taken wearing Mongolian traditional clothing Participants: Max 15 (registration necessary), Cost: ¥1,000 <u>○5/23 (Sat), 6:00 ~ 9:00 p.m. – Guys Day</u> Lecture: “The Beginnings of Mongolia-Miyakonojo Exchange born from Wind Power Generations”, “Business Exchange with Mongolia” Mongolian food and alcohol, Matoqin mini-concert, Have your photo taken wearing Mongolian traditional clothing Participants: Max 25 (registration necessary), Cost: ¥1,500 <u>○5/24 (Sun), 9:00 ~ 4:00 p.m – Everyone’s Day</u> ※Free to All ※No Registration Necessary Mongolian traditional fortune telling, Mongolian language mini-lesson, Mongolian food tasting, Introduction to Mongolia, Matoqin mini-concert, Have your photo taken wearing Mongolian traditional clothing

< May Events >

Event	Date & Time	Venue	Contact
Sawayaka Festa 2009 in Green Park Ebino	5/5 (Tue Holiday) & 5/6 (Wed Holiday) 10:00 ~ 4:00	Ebino City Green Park Ebino	Green Park Ebino Administrative Office Tel:0984-25-4255
Miyazaki Flower Festa	Until 5/10 (Sun)	Miyazaki City Kodomo no Kuni & other locations	Miyazaki Flora and Greenery Promotion Council Tel:0985-25-4746
Otaue Festival	5/16 (Sat)	Sano Shrine	Sano Shrine Tel:0984-42-1007
14 th Miyazaki International Music Festival	5/5 (Tue) ~ 5/23 (Sat)	Medikit Arts Center & other locations	Miyazaki International Music Festival Office Tel:0985-28-3210



Pat's Little Rant

Fruits and Vegetables and War

Patrick Maher, Miyazaki Prefecture

As much as the idealist inside of me dreams of a world without warfare, an era when humanity will travel the cosmos, and the creation of free taco-dispensing vending machines, I fear these wishes will never come true. Perhaps you think me too pessimistic, but think about this: millions of years of human evolution and we still can't reach an agreement on what to call a tomato. Botanists proclaim it a fruit, children's books label it a vegetable, and some uppity fellow online protests it's a "monstrous berry of unique characteristics, neither fruit nor vegetable." (Sigh) People, what is the point of all this? You know, it's not just the tomato either – there are arguments decreeing that "a pineapple is a berry," "a banana is an herb," and "a watermelon is a *fregetable*." Really, a *fregetable*? Some people devote their lives to wiping out poverty and seeking a cure for cancer, and others, well, they coin the word *fregetable*. A watermelon is a delicious summer treat, not a blasphemous *fregetable*. A banana is a fruit that you can actually freeze to the point that it becomes hard enough to hammer a nail into the wall (fact), not an herb. Grapes explode in the microwave (go ahead, try it, you know you want to...I did). Dear society, can we please move on from these debates? Let's just call a tomato a vegetable, let's chop up said tomatoes and make some delicious tacos, and finally, let's find Mr. or Mrs. I-Coined-the-Word *fregetable* and...actually, let's just let him/her go, because chances are I'll be happily content again after the tacos. Hooray for Mexican food, once again bringing peace to the world!