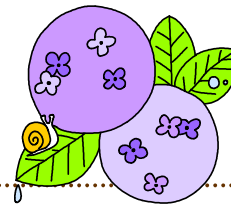


Plaza News



June 2009
No.39

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

● 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.



● “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

● 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.

● 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” (issued monthly in 4 languages) & “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 >

● Japanese Practice Sessions for Foreign Residents – Hosted by Miyazaki City

※Registration Required ※Free to All

For those looking to improve their conversational ability, practice everyday phrases, and level-up their Japanese ability overall, these practice sessions are for you.

- ◇Date & Time: 6/5 (Fri), 6/12 (Fri) 6/19 (Fri) 6/26 (Fri) from 6:30 ~ 7:30 pm
◇Place: Miyazaki Citizens’ Plaza (Chu Meeting Room)
◇Application & Inquiries: Miyazaki City International Association (Myon Jison & Ms.Morita)
Tel: 0985-21-1714, Fax: 0985-22-0200, E-mail: miyazaki-mcia@miyazaki-catv.ne.jp



● Japanese Practice Sessions in Nobeoka ※Free of Charge

- ◇Dates: 6/1 (Mon), 6/8 (Mon), 6/11 (Thu), 6/18 (Thu), 6/22 (Mon), & 6/29 (Mon)
◇Time: 10:30~12:00 ◇Place: Nobeoka City Social Education Center
◇Inquiries: Nobeoka City International Exchange Department, Tel:0982-22-7006

●“Learning About Our World” Series Vol. 8

※Free to All ※No Registration Required

– Hosted by the Miyazaki University Faculty of Education and Culture, Political Science Research Department

Lecture: “Miyazaki and the Global Financial Crisis”

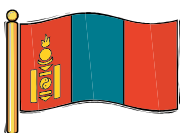
We have invited an expert on international financial institutions to explain in easy-to-understand terms exactly how our lives are connected to the world’s financial system. Furthermore, we will ponder the strategies and perspectives necessary to help survive in modern day society. We welcome all interested parties to attend this lecture.

- ◇Date & Time: June 8 (Mon) from 1:00 ~ 2:30 ◇Lecturer: Kenzo Takahashi (Bank of Japan Miyazaki Office Chief)
- ◇Place: Miyazaki University Education and Culture Department Lecture Hall L202
- ◇Inquiries: (Mr. Iwata) iwatakuo@cc.miyazaki-u.ac.jp

●Lecture “What You Can Do to Make Your Dreams Come True– Tatsu Sakamoto’s Bike Trip Around the World”

We will be holding a lecture led by Mr. Tatsu Sakamoto, who spent 4 years and 3 months biking around the world. ※Free to All

- ◇Date & Time: June 27 (Sat) from 3:00 ~ 4:20 pm ◇Place: Miyazaki Citizens’ Plaza, 4th Floor Gallery
- ◇To Apply: Contact us by e-mail, post, or fax with your name, address, sex, contact information, and brief statement expressing your plan to attend. Please fill in the subject of your e-mail/fax as 【ブロック大会参加希望】 (*Burokku Taikai Sanka Kibou*).
- ◇Application Address: *Hanayamate Higashi 1-26-7-101, Miyazaki City, 880-0930 (Ms. Miki Hidaka)*
E-mail : miyazaki_iyeo@yahoo.co.jp – Fax: 0985-65-0431
- ◇Application Deadline: June 13 (Sat)
- ◇Inquiries: Ms. Chiho Aratake, Vice-Chairman of the Kyushu/Miyazaki Block International Youth Exchange Support Convention Executive Committee Tel: 090-7985-8708 (After 6:00 pm) E-mail: chiho-aratake@r2.dion.ne.jp



●Donations for Bato-chan

Ms. “Bato,” a native of Mongolia, who had been conducting research at the Miyakonojo National College of Technology, is currently battling with cancer. The Miyakonojo-Mongolia Friendship Association is currently reaching out for donations in the hopes that Bato-chan will be able to afford the necessary medical treatment available in Japan. We humbly ask for your assistance and cooperation in the regard.

- ◇Donation Direct Transfers: Post Office Account: 01780-1-63135
- ◇Name on Account: 「都城モンゴル友好協会 バトちゃん募金」
(*Miyakonojou Mongoru Yuukou Kyoukai Batochan Bokin*) (Miyakonojo-Mongolia Friendship Association, Donations for Bato-chan)
- ◇Inquiries: Miyakonojo-Mongolia Friendship Association, Tel: 0986-47-1190

< June Events >

Event	Date & Time	Venue	Contact
15 th Miyazaki Film Festival	6/6 (Sat) ~ 6/12 (Fri)	Miyazaki Cinema (<i>Miyazaki Kinemakan</i>)	Miyazaki Film Festival Executive Committee Tel:0985-60-3911
	6/13(Sat)	Albright Hall (Miyazaki Citizens’ Plaza)	
<i>Tobiuo Sukui</i> (Flying Fish Scooping)	June ~ September ※Reservation Required	Cape Toi, Kushima City	Cape Toi Kanko Hotel Tel:0987-76-1111
Aoshima Devil’s Washboard Aquathlon	6/28 (Sun) Competition begins at 9:00 am	Aoshima Beach, Miyazaki City	Administrative Office Tel:0985-47-0886
<i>Shiino Ajisai</i> (Hydrangea) Road – Peak Season	Late June ~ Mid July	Shiino District, Kitago Ward, Misato Town	Misato Town Hall, Kitago Ward Branch Tel:0982-62-6201

Pat’s Little Rant

That Awkward Situation

Patrick Maher, Miyazaki Prefecture CIR

Strutting through society and mingling with mankind delivers us into innumerable awkward situations. We have all faced the awkward silence in a crowd of new acquaintances, tapping our fingers on the table while pondering, “Was my joke about the man and his horse really *that* inappropriate?” Surely you have all performed the ancient dance of trying to pass an oncoming pedestrian on the left, only to have them move the same direction, so you move to your right, only to have them move the same direction. You flash a shy grin and try to communicate (without words, always without words!) who should go which way – always best to stop and let them decided.

I had the pleasure of participating in the following awkward moment this week. After rounding a corner on my way to Max Valu, I happened to coincidentally match strides with a woman headed the same direction. I kept walking straight; she kept walking straight; we kept walking straight at the same pace. We found ourselves locked in the “side-by-side with a stranger stroll,” complete with no conversation, no eye contact, and ever-rising tension. Neither of us would give in to the awkwardness and change gears in our steps...the walk dragged on into paranoia. “Does she think I’m following her?” I mused, “Or is she following *me*?” As fate (prankster of metaphysical dynamics) would have it, we were both headed to Max Valu. For whatever reason, as we both took a basket to load up with delicious treats, I made the following statement: “Weird, isn’t it?” She responded with eyes of confusion: “What?” she asked. Was she unaware of the awkward situation the entire time? Was she thinking I was going to mug her? Saturated in awkward atmosphere, I took my basket and shuffled quite ungallantly towards the ice cream. *Awwwwwwkwaaaaaard.*