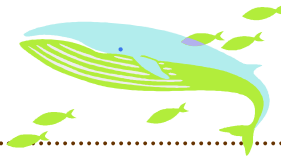


Plaza News



July 2009
No.40

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

①International 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.

②Volunteer 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.

●International Cooperation for One and for All

Striving to support the activities of NGOs involved in projects aimed at eliminating poverty and stopping the spread of infectious diseases in countries across the world, along with protecting our planet’s environment from destruction, we here at the Miyazaki International Foundation are collecting the following items, which we ask for your cooperation in bringing in or sending to the International Plaza:

- 1) Postcards with errors, etc. which you no longer need
- 2) Used Stamps
- 3) Used Prepaid Cards

※Note on Sending Stamps: Please leave about 5 mm of space around stamps when cutting them off of envelopes. Also, we cannot accept torn or damaged stamps.



●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: 7/10 (Fri), 7/17 (Fri) 7/24 (Fri) 7/31 (Fri) from 6:30 ~ 7:30 pm
- ◇Place: Miyazaki Citizens’ Plaza (Chu Meeting Room & Sho Meeting Room)
- ◇Application & Inquiries: Miyazaki City International Association (Myon Jison)
- ◇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: Every Monday & Thursday (excluding the 3rd Monday) for 2 sessions a week
- ◇Time: 10:30~12:00
- ◇Place: Nobeoka City Social Education Center
- ◇Inquiries: Nobeoka City International Exchange Department, Tel:0982-22-7006

●Lunch & Simple English Conversation ※Free of Charge, No Registration Required

Why not come on by and join Nobeoka CIR Mel for some easy-going English conversation to complement your lunch? For those attending, please bring your own lunch.

- ◇Date & Time: July 21 (Tue) from 11:30 ~ 1:00
- ◇Place: Nobeoka City Social Education Center
- ◇Contact: Nobeoka City International Exchange Promotion Department, Tel: 0982-22-7006



●Bangladesh Study Tour 2009

The Asia Arsenic Network NGO, whose headquarters is located here in Miyazaki, will be holding a study tour where participants can visit the areas where said NGO is currently active. We invite you to join us and together contemplate the role of international cooperation and NGOs, while further thinking about what each and everyone of us can do for our world.

- ◇Period: 10 day period from 8/18 (Tue) – 8/27 (Thu), Depart from/Return to Fukuoka Airport
- ◇Tour Cost: ¥219,000
- ◇Application Deadline: July 13 (Mon)
- ※This tour is intended for Asia Arsenic Network members; therefore, if you are not a member, you will need to register with us when applying for the tour.
- ◇Application & Inquiries: My Ticket Corporation, Tel: 06-4869-3444
- ◇Inquiries Concerning Activities: Asia Arsenic Network NPO
Tel: 0985-20-2201, URL: www.asia-arsenic.jp/

<June Events>

Event	Date & Time	Venue	Contact
<i>Ondasai</i> Festival	7/4 (Sat) & 7/5 (Sun)	Misato Town, Saigo Ward Tashiro, <i>Toshi no Kami</i> Shrine, <i>Ondasai</i> Festival Square	Misato Town Hall, Saigo Ward Branch, Community Affairs Division Tel:0982-66-3609
<i>Matsuri Oyodo 21</i> Festival	7/11 (Sat) ※Will be held rain or shine	Miyazaki City, <i>Hokosha Tengoku</i> on <i>Oyodo-dori</i> in front of <i>Minami</i> Station	<i>Matsuri Oyodo 21</i> Festival Executive Committee, Administrative Bureau TEL&FAX: 0985-53-1065
<i>Finland Hevoskenka</i> Theatrical Performance “ <i>Obake no Party</i> ”	7/18 (Sat) ~7/23 (Thu) *No performance on 7/21 (Tue)	Kijo Town • <i>Kijo Ehon no Sato</i>	<i>Kijo Ehon no Sato</i> Tel: 0983-39-1141
The 32 nd Kobayashi City <i>Suki</i> <i>Noryou</i> Fireworks Festival	7/19 (Sun) ※Will be moved to 7/25 (Sat) if weather is bad	Kobayashi City, <i>Suki Oaza Nakahara</i>	<i>Suki</i> Commerce and Industry Association Tel:0984-48-2459
~Come See, Come Play~ <i>Mimitsu Yuyu Tamatebako</i>	7/25 (Sat) & 7/26 (Sun)	Mimitsu Street Preserved District (Hyuga City & Mimitsu Town)	<i>Mimitsu Yuyu Tamatebako</i> TEL&FAX: 0982-58-0425
Aburatsu Port Fireworks Festival	7/25 (Sat)	Nichinan City Aburatsu Port	Nichinan City Tourism Division Tel: 0987-31-1134



Pat's Little Rant

My Beauty Curse

Patrick Maher, Miyazaki Prefecture CIR

The construction and inner-workers of my physical shell prove as high-quality and beneficial as an unmotivated middle school student's shop project. I have the musculature of a beach ball and a torso shaped like a raindrop; ingrown nails cackle at my fragility in varying pitches of pain; a natural embargo on facial hair in some areas of my face makes my trying to grow a beard look like I shave in the dark...wearing a blindfold...while jumping around. Nonetheless, dear readers, I can assure you of one thing: I have the eyelashes of a Greek God. If I dared bat these beauties in your direction, you would soon fall into rapturous enchantment, spellbound by the power surging through each magical lash. I would wager that half of the compliments I have received throughout my life have taken the form of, “Wow, your eyelashes are amazing.” Yes, hypothetical giver of compliments, they are amazing...and I hate them. Everyday, lashes detach and dive into the eyes. Everyday, I pick and pry lashes from my eyes time and time again, giving birth to pain, frustration, tears, fatigue, and filthy, filthy language. Once, when I was but a young Pat, all of my eyelashes got lodged under my bottom eyelid, and legend has it that my fury caused irreparable damage to the surrounding ecosystem. If you listen closely, you can still hear the screams...those poor, poor bunny rabbits... Oh how I would love to cut these little demons off, yet as I suffer from RASP (Ridiculously Accelerated Sweating Problem), I need the eye defense – life can be so cruel. Curse my abnormally radiant, glorious, charming, beautiful eyelashes!