



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 for the New Year's Holiday from December 27, 2009 (Sun) through January 4, 2010 (Mon). We will reopen on January 5 (Wed).

●2010 Miyazaki Art Festival:

"Miyazaki – From the Outside Looking In"
Now Accepting Artworks! Theme:



"Impressions of Miyazaki and Thoughts on Miyazaki"

◇Eligible Artists:

In principle, foreign residents living in Miyazaki

◇Eligible Art: Photos, paintings, drawings, calligraphy, poetry, handcrafts, etc.

※You can submit photos via data file as well

◇Artwork Size: Max size of 50cm x 50cm

◇Submissions of Artworks: ·Submission by Post: Send to the Miyazaki International Foundation

·Submission in Person: Hand in at one of the following institutions:①Miyazaki International Foundation,

②Nobeoka City International Exchange Promotion Office,

③Nichinan City General Affairs Division,

④Miyakonojo International Association

※Please include the following information with your submission: Your name (furigana), nationality, contact information (address, telephone number, e-mail), artwork information (title, medium, short description), and instructions of how to exhibit your art (if necessary)

◇Exhibition Period & Venue:

January 20, 2010 (Wed) ~ January 30, 2010 (Sat)

Carino Miyazaki, 8th Floor, Gaga-8 Free Space

from 10:00 am ~ 8:00 pm ※Final day concludes at 4:00

※Subsequent exhibitions will be held throughout the prefecture upon the conclusion of the exhibition in Miyazaki City

◇Awards: Exhibition visitors will vote for winners in the categories of "Photography," "Painting/Drawing," "Calligraphy," and "Handcrafts/Other." Top artists will awards prizes and certificates. The announcement of top artists and the award's ceremony will take place during the exhibition.

◇Submission Deadline: January 13, 2010 (Wed)

※Please contact us if submitting artwork after the deadline

◆Art Festival Events◆

We will be holding several spectacular events together with the art exhibition on January 23 (Sat) and January 24 (Sun). Be on the lookout for further details in the January edition of the Plaza News.

◇Application & Inquiries:

Contact the Miyazaki International Foundation

●Looking for Foreign Volunteers

①International Chat Session Volunteers

②Volunteer Lecturers for International Understanding Seminars ◇Inquiries: Contact the Miyazaki International Foundation

●Daily Life & Legal Consultations for Foreign Residents

※Registration Necessary; Free to All

If you are struggling with anything related to difficulty in your daily life in Japan, legal problems, or visa issues, why not sign up for a free consultation? Lawyers and Certified Administrative Procedures Specialist will be on hand to help you out. Volunteer interpreters are also available to assist you if necessary.

◇Date & Time: January 24, 2010 (Sun)

from 10:15~12:15 ※30 minutes per person

◇Place: Carino Miyazaki 8th Floor, Gaga-8

◇To Apply: Please make a reservation by phone

※Let us know if you will need an interpreter

◇Application & Inquiries:

Contact the Miyazaki International Foundation.



●Japanese Speech Contest for Foreign Resident Looking for Participants

※First-come, First-served

We are currently accepting applications for our Japanese Speech Contest. We invite all eligible participants to sign up – we look forward to hearing your thoughts on Miyazaki, in Japanese!

Speech Topic: "Thoughts about Miyazaki," "Feelings about Living in Miyazaki," etc. Anything related to Miyazaki is acceptable.

◇Date & Time: January 24, 2010 (Sun)

from 1:00~2:45 Award's Ceremony: 3:50~4:00

◇Venue: Carino Miyazaki 8th Floor, Community Hall

◇Eligible Participants:

Must meet the following criteria:

①A foreigner 18 years or older living in Miyazaki

Prefecture (includes study abroad students)

②Not a native speaker of Japanese

*Winners from past contests cannot participate in the same division or any lower division

◇Speech Divisions and Time Limits:

①Beginner: 3 minutes or less

(language ability equal to or below JLPT level 3)

②Intermediate: 5 minutes or less

(language ability equal to or below JLPT level 2)

③Advanced: 5 minutes or less

(no restrictions on Japanese ability)

◇Prizes: Top presenters in each division will receive a certificate and prize courtesy of the Miyazaki International Foundation. All participants will receive a participation prize as well.

◇Application Deadline: January 12, 2010 (Tue)

◇To Apply: Fill out our application form and return it to us by mail, fax, or e-mail (manager@mif.or.jp)

◇Application & Inquiries:

Contact the Miyazaki International Foundation

●Japanese Practice Sessions for Foreign Residents

※No Registration Required; Free of Charge

- ◇Dates: Every Tuesday and Friday from 10:30 – 11:30
- ◇Place: Carino Miyazaki, 8th Floor, Miyazaki International Plaza
- ◇Inquiries: Contact the Miyazaki International Foundation

※ The final practice session for 2009 will take place on December 22 (Tue). Sessions for the new year will begin on January 5 (Tue).

●2nd International Understanding Seminar:
“Experience the World around You!” –Ireland-
※Registration Required; first-come first-served

- Join us for an Irish cooking class led by Ireland native Richard Kirwin. Learn about Ireland through the international language of food. Please bring along an apron and a container to take home any leftovers. ※This course will be led in Japanese
- ◇Date & Time: December 12 (Sat) from 10:30~14:00
(Registration begins at 10:00)
 - ◇Place: Miyazaki-Nishi Regional Exchange Center
(Miyazaki-shi, Gion1-49)
 - ◇Participation Fee:(General) 500yen,
(International Foundation Members) 300yen
 - ◇Instructor: Richard Kirwin ◇Participants: Max of 20
 - ◇To Apply: Contact us by phone, fax, or e-mail with your name and phone number
 - ◇Application & Inquiries: Contact the Miyazaki International Foundation

<Local Announcements>

●Cooking Adventure – Mexico “Taco Night”

- Miyakonojo City CIR (Coordinator for International Relations) Quill Anderson will be introducing the deliciousness of Mexican food. Please bring an apron and writing utensils along with you.
- ◇Date & Time: December 5 (Sat) from 5:00~9:30
 - ◇Place: Miyakonojo Community Center – Kitchen
 - ◇Participation Fee: Miyakonojo International Association Members = ¥500, General = ¥800
 - ◇Participants: Max of 20 (First-come first-served; Members have priority)
 - ◇To Apply: Contact the Miyakonojo International Association by phone, fax, or e-mail
 - ◇Application & Inquiries: Contact the Miyakonojo International Association
Tel: 0986-23-2295, Fax: 0986-23-3223
E-mail: mia@city.miyakonojo.miyazaki.jp

<December Events>



Event	Date & Time	Venue	Contact
Nyutabaru Air Base Festival	12/6 (Sun) 8:30-3:00pm	Shintomi Town, Japan Air Self-Defense Force Nyutabaru Air Base	Nyutabaru Air Base Tel: 0983-35-1121
Musical Show: 「THE GOLDFISH」	12/10 (Thu) Doors open at 8:00pm Begins at 8:30pm	Miyazaki City, Miyazaki Citizens' Plaza, Albright Hall	BLUE JAY Tel: 0985-73-8013 ※Tickets = ¥1500
Illumination Flower Garden ~ Hikari no Hanazono ~	12/10 (Thu) ~ 1/11 (Mon Holiday) 1:00-9:30pm ※Closed 12/31 (Thu) & 1/1 (Fri)	Miyazaki City, Florante Miyazaki	Florante Miyazaki Tel: 0985-23-1510 ※Entrance: Adult = ¥300, Children = ¥150, Preschool-Age Kids = Free
Opening of Ebino Plateau Ice Skating Rink	11/22 (Sun) ~ Beginning of March (Open every day) 9:00am~5:00pm	Ebino City, Ebino Plateau Ice Skating Rink	Ebino Plateau Onsen Hotel Tel: 0984-33-0161 ※Entrance: Adult = ¥1,000, Middle School Age = ¥800, Elementary School Age = ¥600



Pat’s Little Rant

Vanilla

Patrick Maher, Miyazaki Prefecture CIR

Sometimes the level of misguided judgment permeating popular thought demands my Nobel Prize winning ranting take aim at fostering resolution. I pray you won't suffer great trauma from the following: some still believe chocolate superior to vanilla. While I shouldn't even bother wasting words in (flawlessly) arguing chocolate as next-in-line to vanilla, I will nonetheless take this opportunity to make all doubters look foolish. “Vanilla is obviously superior to chocolate” – that’s a quote from Gandhi; yeah, that Gandhi. Chocolate was perhaps king in the past, but it spread its empire far too thin. Chocolate wasn't satisfied being just a preferred dessert flavor; now chocolate has infiltrated breakfast, it demands to be sprayed from fountains, and even festivals are held in chocolate's honor (surely rampant with bizarre pagan wizardry). This is just like the Roman Empire - have we learned nothing from history's failures?

However, it's the spelling and sound of the words that tell the whole story. Vanilla not only sports a spelling to affirm how its spoken (sound it out, I dare you!), but the word starts with a “V,” the lovely vixen of a letter that starts all words of awesome power, like “Valiant,” “Vortex,” and “Vigdis Finnbogadottir” – and she was only THE FIRST WOMAN TO BE APPOINTED HEAD OF STATE BY THE PEOPLE. Chocolate, on the other hand, is hiding something. Why so many silent vowels, chocolate (or should I say *chokled*)? And chocolate starts with a “C,” the letter that flip-flops to spite phonology. Who needs the letter “C”? I don't – I didn't use it anywhere in this rant outside of the word “Chocolate” (finished verifying?)
Vanilla, what a tasty winner!