



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 February 11, 2010 (Thu) for the holiday.

●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 Foundation



●Looking for Foreign Volunteers

①International Chat Session Volunteers

We are 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?

◇Inquiries: 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.

◇Inquiries: 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 & Regions:

South Korea, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam, Canada, England, Sweden, Hungary, Poland, Botswana, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Africa, Latin America, and South America.

◇Inquiries: Contact the Miyazaki International Foundation



●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).

◇Inquiries: 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" (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】

●World Festa in Miyakonojo

※Free to All

Numerous events are planned, including trying on traditional clothing, Mongolian and Thai dancing performances, experiencing Tai Chi, and more.

◇Date & Time: February 13 (Sat)
from 12:00~4:00 pm



◇Venue: Wellness *Kouryu* Plaza

◇Inquiries:

Miyakonojo International Association Administrative Office
Tel: 0986-23-2295, Fax: 0986-23-3223,
E-mail: mia@city.miyakonojo.miyazaki.jp

●Japanese Practice Sessions for Foreign Residents

※Free to All; Registration Required

◇Date & Time: 2/5, 2/12, 2/19 and 2/26
from 6:30~7:30 pm ※Every Friday

◇Venue: Miyazaki Citizens' Plaza (*Chu* Meeting Room)

◇To Apply: Fill out our application form and return to the Miyazaki City International Association by post, e-mail, or fax.

◇Inquiries: Contact the Miyazaki City International Association

〒880-8505 Miyazaki City International Association
Administrative Office, Tachibana-dori Nishi 1-1-1,
Miyazaki City Tel: 0985-21-1719, Fax: 0985-21-1733,
E-mail: miyazaki-mcia@miyazaki-catv.ne.jp

●Learning Germany ※Registration Required

Take this opportunity to enjoy learning about German history and culture. Each session will also include a simple German language lesson.

◇Dates & Times:



2/6 (Sat) 10:30~12:00 German History through Goods & Merchandise
2/20 (Sat) 10:30~12:00 The Many Cities of Germany - An Introduction to Dresden
3/14 (Sun) 10:30~12:00 Traveling Germany
3/27 (Sat) 10:00~12:00 German Cooking Class



◇Venue: Lectures – Miyazaki Citizens' Plaza, 4th Floor (*Chu* Meeting Room)

Cooking Class – (3/27 only) Miyazaki City Public Health and Welfare Center, Kitchen (Next to Municipal Culture Hall)

◇Lecturer: Sascha Klinger (Miyazaki City CIR from Dresden, Germany)

◇Participants: Max of 40 people for each class; 3/27 (Sat) cooking class max of 30 people. ※First-come First-served

◇Participation Fee: ¥500 (only for cooking class)

◇To Apply: Fill out the necessary application form and return it to the Miyazaki City International Association by post, e-mail, or fax.

◇Inquiries: Contact Sascha Klinger at the Miyazaki City International Association

〒880-8505 (Miyazaki City Planning and Publicity Section) Tachibana-dori Nishi 1-1-1
Tel: 0985-21-1714, Fax: 0985-22-0200, E-mail: miyazaki-mcia@miyazaki-catv.ne.jp

< February Events >

Event	Date & Time	Venue	Contact
Yasui Sokken Plum Festival	2/11(Thu: Holiday)	Kiyotake Town, Yasui Sokken Kyutaku, Kiyotake History Museum & Tea House	Kiyotake Town Tourism Association Tel: 0985-85-6556
Urakutsubaki Festival	2/14 (Sun)	Saito City, Chohokan (Saito City, Yae Farm)	Saito City Hall, Industry and Tourism Division Tel: 0983-43-3222
Bouldering Festa in Kawabaru	2/28 (Sun)	Kijo Town, Kawabaru Park ※Participation Fee: ¥1,500 ※Apply by: 2/21 (Sun)	Kawabaru Park Tel: 0983-32-4122



Pat's Little Rant

Cowards

Patrick Maher, Miyazaki Prefecture CIR

A world full of varying beliefs, where the purveyors of these varying beliefs civilly engage one another, is a world that will continue to grow. A world stagnant with conformity and blind acceptance teeters towards danger. While I hold my own personal beliefs – some assuredly strong and some fragile with curiosity – I nonetheless expect and accept that not everyone will agree with my conclusions. Such diversity can be a healthy thing...unless the purveyors of belief mask their attachment to their belief. I'm talking about you, cowards in the black bus. You putt along the center of town in that giant black eyesore seemingly everyday, spewing noise into otherwise happy afternoons. My gripe with you isn't that you fight for different beliefs than mine – I welcome that, in fact. My gripe with you isn't that you feel the need to disseminate your beliefs (albeit in a very, very, very annoying and loud fashion) to the public – that's you're right. No, my gripe with you is that you make sure you pull the curtains on your bus windows tight, so no one can see your faces while you make your way through the city. Just like the KKK masking their identities in the U.S., you are cowards, ashamed to be attached to your own beliefs – you are pathetic.