

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 April 29, 2010 (Thu) for the holiday.



●Chile Earthquake Relief Fund Donation Box

Extensive damage has resulted from the February 27, 2010 earthquake in Chile and the tsunamis which followed the quake. Working to support assistance measures being taken to help those areas affected by the earthquake and tsunamis, the Miyazaki International Foundation has set up a relief fund donation box – see details about the box below. We ask all of you for your generous cooperation with this effort.

※The Foundation will not supply parking vouchers, so please use a nearby paid parking lot.

◇Donation Box: Located in the Miyazaki International Plaza (Carino Miyazaki 8th Floor, Tachibana-dori Higashi 4-8-1, Miyazaki City)

◇Box Availability: Through April 28, 2010

※From 10:00 – 7:00,

excluding Sundays, Mondays, and Holidays

◇All donations will be relayed to those affected by the disaster via the Miyazaki Prefectural Branch of the Japan Red Cross

◇Inquiries: Contact the Miyazaki International Foundation

●Miyazaki International Plaza Library Corner

We have amassed the following diverse collection of books, magazines, videos, etc. All prefectural residents can borrow items from our library, so come on by and check out what the Plaza has to offer.

- Newspapers: THE DAILY YOMIURI, PINOY GAZETTE, BANGKOK TIMES
- Magazines: *Nihongo* Journal, *Ryugaku* Journal, Hiranaga Times, Newsweek, etc.
- Travel guides and maps for numerous countries
- Foreign languages books (English, Chinese, Korean, French, German, etc.)
- Textbooks, videos, CDs, and tapes for studying Japanese
- Books and resources related to international understanding and cooperation
 - Books regarding studying and working abroad
 - Workbooks for studying foreign languages (English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, etc.)

●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

●Japanese Language Course for Foreign Residents *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 23 (Fri) ~ July 20 (Tue)

Every Tuesday & Friday

10:10~12:00, Total of 25 Sessions

※NO CLASS on 5/4(Tue)

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

◇Participants : Those with no Japanese study experience and/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

◇Date & Time: 4/2(Fri), 4/6(Tue), 4/9(Fri),

4/13(Tue), 4/20(Tue), 4/27(Tue)

10:30~11:30

◇Place: Carino Miyazaki 8th Floor,

◇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



●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

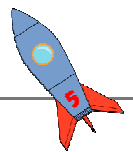
- Delivery of the "International Plaza News" (issued monthly in 4 languages) & "South Wind" (3 issues per year)
- Priority access to information regarding Foundation-hosted courses and events (free or discounted participation, preferential member treatment, etc.)
- Use of standard video players from various countries (free for members, ¥500 for non-members)
- Access to Foundation-issued publications

●Japanese Practice Sessions for Foreign Residents ※Free to All; Registration Required

- ◇Date & Time: 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, and 4/23
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

<April Events>

| Event | Date & Time | Venue | Contact |
|---|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Miyazaki Flower Festa 2010 | 3/20 (Sat) ~ 5/9 (Sun) From 9:00~5:00 | Main Venue: "Kodomo no Kuni" | Miyazaki Convention and Visitors Bureau Tel: 0985-26-6100 ※Entrance Fee: Adults (high school & above) ¥800 Kids (Age 4 – middle school) ¥400 |
| Taiwanese Opera and Traveling the Cherry Blossom Front from North to South through Song | 4/25 (Sun) Doors open at 9:30 | Miyazaki Citizens' Plaza | Japan Folk Song Association Miyazaki Hamayu Branch Tel: 0985-60-0676 ※Entrance Fee: ¥2,000 |
| Ikoma Highlands Iceland Poppy | Mid April –Late May | Kobayashi City, Ikoma Highlands | Ikoma Highlands |



●(Beginner Level) Japanese Language Course for Foreign Residents in Miyakonojo

※First-come, First-served Registration

We are offering a beginner's level Japanese course for Miyazaki's foreign residents, which will be held in Miyakonojo City. All are welcome to apply.

- ◇Date & Time: 5/7 (Fri) ~ 7/30 (Fri) from 1:30~3:30
Every Tuesday & Friday for 23 Sessions in Total
※NO CLASS on 6/15 (Tue) & 6/18 (Fri)
- ◇Place: Miyakonojo City Central Community Hall
- ◇Cost: ¥1,000 (Text & Materials)
- ◇Participants: Max of 15
- ◇Inquiries: Contact the Miyakonojo International Foundation (City Seikatsu Bunka Division)
Tel: 0986-23-2295, Fax: 0986-23-3223,
E-mail: mia@city.miyakonojo.miyazaki.jp

[Local Announcements]

●Japanese Salon

※Free to All ※Registration Required

- Why not take this chance to enjoy studying Japanese with Japanese volunteer tutors?
- ◇Date & Time: 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30
from 10:30~12:00 – Every Friday
 - ※There will be no Japanese Salon in May, June, or July
 - ◇Place: Miyakonojo City Community Center
 - ◇Inquiries: Contact the Miyakonojo International Foundation (City Seikatsu Bunka Division)
Tel: 0986-23-2295, Fax: 0986-23-3223,
E-mail: mia@city.miyakonojo.miyazaki.jp

Pat's Little Rant

My Logic Doth Fail Me

Patrick Maher, Miyazaki Prefecture CIR

As an avid people-watcher, I enjoy sitting outside on a lazy Sunday afternoon and watching what happens in my immediate environment. It is fun finding themes in people's behavior; at least, it is fun until you have furiously tried, yet frustratingly failed, to find a reason for these behaviors. Below I offer 2 particular behaviors that have driven me to silent stupor, and I beg your assistance in explaining to me, "Why?"

1. Why...do so many old men stand around smacking their lips? It's worse than the half-asleep lip smacking that many are prone to do – it's an unconscious gunshot of saliva suction that never fails to euthanize my appetite. It's worse when they do this while staring at you, because you begin to fear that they find you delicious...
2. Why...do I see so many women (I rarely see men doing this) randomly start running in public? As hard as I try, I can not find a pattern to these sudden five second dashes. I see women begin running towards me only to slow down and walk again before passing me. I see women walk patiently up to a crosswalk, run across after the light turns green, and begin walking again on the other side. I see women run past me, walk, run farther ahead, walk, run again...I would imagine that if someone was in a hurry they would keep a quick pace until reaching their destination, but apparently my logic does not dictate the behavior around me. Nonetheless, why are you running so randomly?!