

Plaza News



February 2011

No.59

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: miyaiinfo@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

Notice that the Miyazaki International Plaza will be closed

The International Plaza will be closed for the public holiday on February 11th, 2011 (Fri).

International Cooperation for Everyone

In order to assist the activities of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that are working in various regions around the world to eliminate poverty, eradicate disease, and protect the world from environmental disaster, the Miyazaki International Foundation is collecting the following items. We ask that you either bring or mail the following to the Miyazaki International Foundation.

Note for sending in stamps: Please leave a 5 millimeter area of paper/envelope around the stamp when you cut it out. We will not be able to make use of stamps that are scratched or torn.

- 1) Used Postcards
- 2) Used Postal Stamps
- 3) Meter Stamps (that have been posted on used envelopes etc.)
- 4) Used Prepaid Cards (Stored Value Cards)



Inquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation

5th Annual "Miyazaki - From the Outside Looking In" Art Festival - Traveling Exhibit

The "Miyazaki - From the Outside Looking In" gallery which was held at the Miyazaki Art Center, in December of 2010, will be going on tour. The traveling exhibit will be held in Nichinan City, Miyakonojo City, Miyazaki University, and Shintomi Town. Please come and check it out.

The Miyazaki International Foundation is Looking for Counter Volunteers

The Miyazaki International Foundation is looking for prefectural residents that are over the age of 18 to help assist with the activities of the International Foundation. Interested parties should fill out the required information on the application form and send it in by 3/5 (Sat) (We will be screening applicants in the event of multiple applications) *Only those capable of providing service in Japanese should apply

◇Work Period:

From 4/1/2011(Fri) to 9/30/2011(Fri)

*Excluding Holidays

◇Dates & Times: One day per week in a Tuesday through Saturday work week.

*Volunteers will work on the same day during the same time period every week.

① 10:15 to 12:45 ② 1:00 to 3:30

◇Content: Assist with visitors, assist with the rental and return of books and videos, assist with the shipping of documents, organize library books and materials,
◇Other: Neither Travel fees nor "Thank You Money" will be provided.

*The Foundation will bear the cost of your Volunteer Insurance and provide parking vouchers for the use of the parking lot at Carino.

◇Applications & Inquiries:

Miyazaki International Foundation



Location	Date & Time	Inquiries
Nichinan City International Coordination Center Lobby of the Komura-Memorial Hall	1/28 (Fri) to 2/7(Mon) 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	Nichinan City Administration Division Tel: 0987-31-1113
Miyakonojo City Hall First Floor "Citizen Salon"	2/9 (Wed) to 2/21 (Mon) 8:30 A.M. to 5:15 P.M.	Miyakonojo Department of Citizens and Cultural Affairs Tel: 0986-23-2295
1 st Floor Lobby of the Miyazaki University Library	2/23 (Wed) to 3/3 (Thu) 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	Library (Main Building) Tel: 0985-58-7147
Gallery Shintomi	3/8(Tue) to 3/13(Sun) 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	Shintomi Town General Policy Plan- ning Division Tel: 0983-33-6012

Japanese Practice Sessions for Foreign Residents *No appointment is necessary - Attendance is Free

For those of you that would like to practice conversation in Japanese or using phrases that come up in daily life with our Japanese volunteers please feel free to attend.

◇Dates & Times: 2/1 (Tue), 2/8(Tue), 2/15(Tue), 2/22 (Tue) 10:30 to 11:30

2/4 (Fri), 2/18(Fri), 2/25 (Fri) 10:10 to 11:00 *There will be no practice on 2/11 (Tue)

◇Location: (Tuesdays) Carino Miyazaki 8th Floor

Miyazaki International Foundation, Multipurpose Room A

(Fridays) Carino Miyazaki 9th Floor

◇Inquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation



●Introduction to the World Box

The Miyazaki International Foundation has “World Boxes” that can be rented out. Currently we have boxes which contain maps, musical instruments, CDs, traditional clothing, etc. for 14 different countries and 3 territories.

*The contents of each box varies depending on the country.

Countries and Regions: Republic of Korea, Singapore, The United States of America, Australia, New Zealand, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Canada, England, Kingdom of Sweden, Republic of Hungary, Republic of Poland, Republic of Botswana, The Czech Republic, The Slovakian Republic, Africa, Central America, South America

◇Inquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation



《Ebino City》

Ebino City Elementary/Middle School Speech Contest

Students from elementary and middle schools in Ebino City will be expressing their ideas at an English speech contest.

- ◇Date & Time: 2/19 (Sat) from 10:00A.M
- ◇Location: Ebino City International Exchange Center
- ◇Inquiries: Ebino City International Exchange Center
Tel: 0984-35-3211 Fax: 0984-35-3215

【Local Announcements】

《Miyazaki City》

◎Japanese Practice Sessions For Foreign Residents *Free of Charge, Application Required

- ◇Date & Time: 2/4, 2/18, 2/25 6:30 to 7:30 P.M.
Every Friday
- ※There will be no practice on 2/11 (Fri)
- ◇Location: Miyazaki City Citizens Plaza 3rd Floor
Community Support Center
- ◇How to Apply: Mail, E-mail, or fax your application forms to the Miyazaki City International Association
- ◇Applications & Inquiries:
Miyazaki City International Association
Tel: 0985-21-1719 Fax: 0985-21-1733
E-mail: miyazaki-mcia@miyazaki-catv.ne.jp



《Nobeoka City》

◎Afternoon Tea & English Conversation * Free of Charge, Application not required

Come out and enjoy English conversation and lunch with Nobeoka's Coordinator for International Relations Tiffany.
*Please bring your own lunch.

- ◇Date & Time: 2/10 (Thu) 11:30 to 1:00 P.M.
- ◇Location: Nobeoka City Social Education Center
- ◇Inquiries: Nobeoka City International Exchange
Promotion Department Tel:0982-22-7006



◎Elementary Chinese Course

Chinese grammar explanations will be given in Japanese only.

- ◇Date & Time: 2/2 (Wed) – 3/23(Wed)
Every Wednesday for a total of 8 times
7:30 to 9:00 P.M.
- ◇Location: Miyazaki Citizen Plaza 4th Floor
“sho” Meeting Room (2/2, 2/9, 2/16)



- “chu” Meeting Room (2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23)
- ◇Instructor: Sakura Kei (from Dalian China)
- ◇Course Fee: 4,000 yen (Includes material costs)
- ◇Application & Inquiries:
Miyazaki City Sino-Japanese Friendship Foundation
Youth Committee Tel: 090-1161-7508 (Kai-san)

<February Events>

Event	Date & Time	Venue	Inquiries
Higashimera Urakutsu-baki Festival	2/6(Sun) From 10:00A.M.	Saito City Higashimera District Ohaechoho-kan Urakutsubaki-no-sato	*Will not be canceled for rain Inquiries: Higashimera Office for Regional Development Tel:0983-49-3031
26 th Annual Mythical “Founding of Japan” Festival	2/11 (Fri [Public Holiday])	Takachiho Town Central Shopping Area	Inquiries: Mythical “Founding of Japan” Festival Planning Committee Offices Tel:0982-73-1207
11 th Annual Miyazaki Tamayura Hot Spring Kagura Festival	2/25(Fri) to 3/26(Sat) From 8:00 to 9:30PM in the respective hotel lobby Miyazaki Kanko Hotel: 2/25,2/26,3/25,3/26 Hotel Kanezumi: 3/4,3/5 Hotel Hamaso: 3/11,3/12 Hotel Plaza Miyazaki: 3/18,3/19		Inquiries: 11 th Annual Miyazaki Tamayura Hot Spring Kagura Festival Planning Committee Tel:0985-61-9605

Waltzing Around the World

Paul Richards, Miyazaki Prefecture CIR

Living and working in Japan, I have come to appreciate a good pun (as well as bad puns). While at any given nomi-kai you may find me dropping Japanese style puns like “*ame (ga) furu to, ame-futo* (When it rains [nothing beats] American Football), I still retain an American/Western style sense of sarcasm/irony that doesn't go over quite as well with my colleagues. I think many of us have tried to overcome the awkward situation of being asked if we can use chopsticks by asking the same person if they can use a fork to no success. How is it possible that humor can be so different? I have no answer, but a recent video I saw on joke theory was rather interesting. Think of the first joke you learn as a child, “Why did the chicken cross the road?” Of course we all know that the answer to this is “To get to the other side.” This is an anti-joke. One of the first (if not the first) jokes western children learn is a joke that makes fun of the concept of making jokes. Isn't that ironic.