PLAZA NEWS

MAY 2011
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Miyazaki International Foundation 8F Carino Miyazaki,Tachibanadori Higashi 4-8-1, Miyazaki City 880-0805
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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 from May 3rd (Tue) to May 5th (Thur) for the public holidays.

● Japanese Language Course for Foreign Residents *Application 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!

◇**Dates & Times:** From 4/12 (Tue) to 7/15 (Fri) Every Tuesday and Friday 10:10 am to 12:00pm For a total 25 Lessons
*There will be no class on 5/3 (Tue), 5/6 (Fri)

◇**Location:** Carino 8th Floor

◇**Target:** Individuals studying Japanese for the first time, individuals wanting to learn the fundamentals of Japanese reading and writing.

◇**Cost:** ¥1,000 ◇**How to Apply:** Fill out the application form and return it by mail or fax

◇**Applications & Inquiries:** Miyazaki International Foundation

● 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.)

Inquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation

● Japanese Practice Sessions for Foreign Residents

*No appointment is necessary – Attendance is Free

Want to brush up on your Japanese conversation skills/ learn necessary phrases for life in Japan? Our Japanese volunteers are here to help.

◇**Dates & Times:** 5/10 (Tue), 5/17(Tue), 5/24(Tue), 5/31 (Tue) 10:30am to 11:30am
5/13 (Fri), 5/20(Fri), 5/27(Fri), 10:10am to 11:00am
*There will be no class on 5/3 (Tue), 5/6 (Fri)

◇**Location:** (Tuesdays) Carino Miyazaki 8th Floor
Miyazaki International Foundation
Multipurpose Room A
(Fridays) Carino Miyazaki 9th Floor

◇**Inquiries:** Miyazaki International Foundation

● Looking for Supporting Members at the International Foundation

Become a supporting member at the International Foundation and help assist Foundation activities.

Membership Fees (Yearly): Individual ¥ 2,000
Group ¥ 10,000

- Receive "International Plaza News" (Monthly in 4 languages) and "South Wind"
- Receive preferential treatment for courses or events hosted by the Foundation (Free or discounted attendance, members may also be chosen first for some events.
- Receive all printed materials produced by the foundation.

LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

《Miyazaki Junior Chamber》

● Holding Hands! Miyazaki International Festival

Events will include a panel discussion, a flee market, and a food corner.

◇**Date & Time:** May 15th (Sun) 12:00pm to 5:00pm * Will NOT be cancelled for rain

◇**Location:** Yamakataya Experience the Seasons Mall (and other locations)

◇**Inquiries:** Miyazaki Junior Chamber Tel: 0985-28-2522 Fax: 0985-28-2466

The Miyazaki International Foundation will take part in on this event! Come and find our booth!

《Miyazaki City》

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

◇**Dates & Times:** 5/6 , 5/13, 5/20, 5/27
Classes are from 6:30pm to 7:30pm Every Friday
◇**Location:** Miyazaki City Citizen's Plaza 3rd Floor Community Support Center "Meeting Corner"
◇**How to Apply:** Mail, E-mail, or fax your application forms to the Miyazaki City International Association
◇**Applications & Inquiries:**
Miyazaki City International Foundation
Tel: 0985-21-1719
Fax: 0985-21-1733
E-mail: miyazaki-mcia@miyazaki-catv.ne.jp

《Ebino City》

- **Live Concert in Ebino**

A South American Folklore Concert will be held in Ebino. South American Folklore is known for borrowing elements from Classic Andes's Folksongs as well as from Spanish and African Music.
◇**Date & Time:** May 21st (Sat) Opens from 6:30pm
Performances start from 7:00pm
◇**Location:** Ebino International Exchange Center
◇**Tickets:** Advanced Price = ¥1,500 Door Price = ¥2,000
◇**Performer:** Wayno
◇**Applications & Inquiries:**
Ebino International Exchange Center
Tel: 0984-35-3211 Fax: 0984-35-3215

《Nichinan City》

- **World Beer & Trivia Night**

***Must be 20 or over, Application Required**
Take a crack at answering world trivia questions while enjoying beer from around the world.
◇**Date & Time:** May 28th (Sat) 6:00pm to 8:30pm
◇**Location:** Nichinan City
Aburatsu Red Brick Hall (*akarenga-kan*)
◇**Number of Participants:** 60
(Chosen on a first come first serve basis)
◇**Cost:** ¥2,500 Includes two beers and snacks
◇**Application and Inquiries:**
Nichinan General Affairs Department
CIR Lola Sundin
Tel: 0987-31-1113 Fax: 0987-23-1853

《Miyakonojo City》

- **Elementary Japanese Course**

***Free of Charge Application Required**
This course is for anyone that wants to start studying Japanese. Interested parties here is your chance.
◇**Dates& Times:** 4/19 (Tue) to 7/22(Fri) 1:30pm to 3:00pm
4/19 (Tue) to 5/13 (Fri) 1:30pm to 4:30pm
Lessons held every Tuesday and Friday
*There will be no class from 6/3 (Fri) to 6/14 (Tue)
◇**Location:** Miyakonojo Central Community Center
◇**Course Fees:** Free
◇**How to Apply:** Mail, e-mail, or fax your application forms to the Miyakonojo Department of Citizens and Cultural Affairs Division's Internationalization Director
◇**Applications & Inquiries:** Miyakonojo Citizens and Cultural Affairs Division's Internationalization Director
Tel: 0986-23-2295 Fax: 0986-23-3223
E-mail:intl@city.miyakonojo.miyazaki.jp

MAY EVENTS

Event & Content	Date & Time	Locale	Inquiries
Poppy Festival (Café, etc.)	4/16 (Sat) to 5/22 (Sun)	Kobayashi Ikoma Kougen	**Inquiries:** Ikoma Kougen Tel: 0984-27-1919
Miyazaki International Music Festival	4/29 (Fri) to 5/18 (Wed)	Miyazaki Prefectural Theater (and other locations)	**Inquiries**: Miyazaki Prefectural Theater Tel: 0985-28-3208 E-mail: gekijp@miyazaki-ac.jp
Jacaranda Festival *Jacaranda are violet colored flowers from South America	5/28 (Sat) to 6/26 (Sun)	Nichinan "Roadside Station" in Nangou	**Inquiries:** "Roadside Station" in Nangou Tel: 0987-64-3055

Waltzing Around the World

Paul Richards, Miyazaki Prefecture CIR

It is two days before payday and I am left looking at the devastation that farewell parties, money transfers, more farewell parties, golden week hotel reservations, and welcome parties have caused my personal finances. In times like these I am forced to break into my automatic savings: coins. Normally, most of my coins are simply allowed to hang out in a large basket in my back, out of the way bedroom. Desperate times, however, call for… me to put thirty ¥10 coins in the vending machine nearest my house that dispenses Qoo in 1.5 liter bottles. Finding a sparkly silver or gold coin amidst the sea of brown is an instant bump up in quality of life. Currently I have spent over 3 1/2 years in Japan, but I still don't recognize the value of coins. After hearing advertisements for "One coin" (spoiler: it's the one with 500 written on it) drinks and other what not, I am convinced that I am not alone.