



PLAZA NEWS



Miyazaki International Foundation

Questions, comments, postings, or for information in Plaza News: Miyazaki International Foundation, B1 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: <https://www.mif.or.jp/>
Open: Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Closed: Sundays, Mondays, National Holidays and December 29 to January 3

◎ Plaza Holiday Closing

The International Plaza will be closed for the end and beginning of year holidays from December 29th (Wed) to January 3th (Mon), 2022. *We will be reopening from January 4th (Tue), 2022.

Events going on now or happening soon

◀ 16th Annual Art Festival "Miyazaki From the Outside Looking in" Art Gallery ▶

◇ Date & Time: November 17th (Wed) to December 4th (Sat)
10:00 am - 7:00 pm

◇ Venue: CARINO Miyazaki B1

◀ Japanese Speech Contest for Foreign Residents ▶

◇ Date & Time: December 5th (Sun) 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

◇ Venue: Kenden Hall
(Miyazaki Prefecture Enterprise Bureau Building 1st floor)

◀ The 16th Miyazaki International Festival ~Friends of the World~ ▶

◇ Date & Time: December 5th (Sun) 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

◇ Venue: Kenden Hall, Gallery

Japanese Practice Sessions

*FREE, No Registration Required

◇ Date & Time: 10:30 am - 11:30 am

[Wed] 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22

[Fri] 12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24

◇ Venue: CARINO Miyazaki B1F

◇ Inquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation



Free distribution of old books and magazines

The International Plaza will be giving away old publications. Copies are limited, so please drop by early and have a look.

◇ Date & Time: December 1st (Wed) to December 28th (Tue)

◇ Venue: CARINO Miyazaki B1F

Miyazaki Prefecture International Plaza

◇ 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.

Talk with the CIRs♪



◇ Date & Time :

★ A chat with Sky from Singapore (Japanese & English)
December 7th (Tue) 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

★ A chat with Yujin from Korea (Japanese & Korean)
December 16th (Thu) 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

★ A chat with Marsh from England (Japanese & English)
December 17th (Fri) 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

*We accept applications by phone or in person.

*Everyone is welcome to come along, but in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, we have to limit the number of participants to about 4 people. Places are first come, first served, but priority will be given to first-time participants.

*Please note that this chat may be subject to change or cancellation depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic.

◇ Inquiries & Application: Miyazaki International Foundation

Disaster Preparedness Seminar for Foreign Residents *FREE, Registration Required

These days many parts of Japan have suffered damage from major earthquakes and torrential rains that are said to occur once every 50 or 100 years.

Through this seminar, you can learn the basics of how to respond to and prepare for disasters.

If you know anyone from overseas who might be interested, please let them know!

◇ Date & Time: January 29th (Sat) 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

◇ Venue: Miyazaki City Fire Department, Miyazaki Higashimorokata Wide Area Disaster Management Centre

◇ Eligibility: 40 Foreigners and international students of

Miyazaki prefecture, and their families.

(Participants may bring Japanese guests)

*Interpretation in English, Chinese and other languages (scheduled) is available.

Those who do not speak Japanese are welcome too!

◇ Lectures containing:

presentation on natural disasters, First-aid course, Mock fire fighting drill, confirming your nearest evacuation shelter, Opportunity to try emergency rations etc.

◇ To Apply: Fill out our application form and return it by fax, post, or E-mail.

◇ Deadline: January 11th (Tue)

◇ Inquiries & Application: Miyazaki International Foundation

Japanese Customs (New Year Holidays)



Do you know how Japanese people celebrate the New Year holidays? Here in this article, we will give you a brief introduction about to Japanese culture surrounding the New Year holidays. If you are living in Japan, we hope it comes in handy!

“New Year’s Eve” and “Toshikoshi soba”

New Year's Eve is the last day of the year. People who have been away from home return to their hometowns to eat New Year's Eve food with their families. An essential part of the traditional New Year's Eve meal is "Toshikoshi soba". Soba has many auspicious meanings, such as long life, bringing wealth, getting rid of bad luck, changing fortune and good health. It is also customary to turn on the television between 7.15pm and 11.45pm to watch the NHK Kohaku Uta Gassen, a music programme that has been broadcast since the 1960s. The reason it ends 15 minutes earlier than the countdown to the new year with the audience is because many people have a more important ritual on New Year's Eve: They go to the temple to hear the bell be rung 108 bells times. The bell is rung 107 times up until just before midnight on 1 January, and the last ring of the bell marks the end of the year, symbolizing the removal of the year's misfortunes and the beginning of a new life.

“Hatsumoude” and “Osechi ryōri”

“Hatsumode” refers to a New Year's visit to a shrine or temple. The first visit to a shrine or temple in the New Year is naturally more solemn and symbolic, and some Japanese people wear traditional kimonos and get their fortune (omikuji) told at the temple to symbolize their fortune for the coming year.

And, of course, you have to eat good food in the New Year -Osechi ryōri used to be served to the gods in elaborate boxes, but it became a courtly dish, and only eventually became popular in the Edo period (1603-1868). The dish is generally defined as black beans (symbolizing diligence) and burdock root (a long, and deep root symbolizing the passing on of virtue from generation to generation).

The food is usually served cold, to give the kitchen gods a rest, and to give the family a break.

December Events

Event	Date & Time	Venue	Contact
Kobayashi Winter Festival 2021	11/23(Tue)-1/7(Fri) 5:30 pm-9:00 pm	Around the JR Kobayashi Station	Kobayashi City Hall, Economic Department, Commerce and Tourism Division 0984-23-1174
Project Illumination in Kawaminami 2021	12/15(Wed)-1/10(Mon) 6:00 pm-10:00 pm	Sun A Kawaminami Culture Hall (Toron Toron Dome) Kawaminami Town	Kawaminami-Town Sightseeing Guide 0983-27-1497

An Englishman in Miyazaki

2022 "High~way~ to~ the~ Comfort Zone! ♪"



Miyazaki Prefecture CIR
Marsh Graham

Hi everyone! I hope you're all keeping well. It's hard to believe another year has gone by already! At the same time, though, it also somehow feels like it's been a very long one. I'll have a word with Einstein and see if I can straighten things out by moving further from the sun.

...Wow, I've wandered off-topic already – that must be some kind of a record. I must confess, I didn't intend to write this month's column about Relativity and time dilation (great fun though they are – maybe one of these days I'll see if I can dust off my experimental physicist hat and fit in an explanation of the Twins Paradox!). What I actually wanted to write about this month was the idea of comfort zones - that sphere of actions and habits people have that they're familiar with and feel, as the name implies, comfortable doing. One thing that's amused me no end doing this job for a few years is just how little of the content was actually contained within my comfort zone! Before coming here, for example, I'd never taught children. I'd raised a couple, but never had any professional experience working with kids. Four years in, it's made its way into my comfort zone – alright, I'm still unequivocally terrible at it, but I don't feel that faint sense of terror I used to.

Which, eventually, dear readers, brings us to the point: a person's comfort zone isn't set in stone. By trying new things, you can expand it and get comfortable doing more, and become a more versatile, rounded person, complete with a few more tools in your proverbial mental toolbox from the experience that might well come in handy further on down the line. Sadly though, the reverse is also true – if you get stuck in a rut, your comfort zone gets smaller and even things you felt fine doing before start to get more difficult. The end of the year is a great time to take stock and think about what new things you might want to try going forward - don't ever be afraid to have a go at something new! Even in the absolute worst-case scenario, you'll have an experience to learn from. So, with that in mind, let's bid farewell to 2021 in style, and look forward to a 2022 full of all kinds of new experiences, ups, downs, and everything in between. 良いお年を!

-Staff's Tweet-

December.

Everywhere is decorated with Christmas decorations and lights, and it's an exciting time. Christmas means Santa Claus.

A long time ago, I used to be very happy on Christmas morning when presents would arrive at my bedside.

Nowadays, presents are delivered by "Santa" to the foot of our tree. I will get very busy in the run-up to Christmas again this year. Making someone smile is fun and happy work. Have a wonderful December, everyone!



Announcements from other organization



«Nobeoka City»

German Christmas Market in Nobeoka 2021

Experience a German Christmas near the Sun Road Sakae-machi in Nobeoka

◇Date & Time : December 19th (Sun) 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm

◇Venue: Nobeoka City, Sun Road Sakae-machi (close to Nobeoka Station)

◇Details: A Christmas market with food, drink, music and sundries for sale. In the evening, the market will be illuminated with a gentle glow. Feel free to stop by and check it out!

◇Inquiries: Nobeoka City International Exchange and Promotion Office Tel: 0982-22-7006
Persons in charge: Bublies

