



# 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: miyainfo@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 public holiday on February 11th (Fri) and 23rd (Wed).

## ~Information about local Japanese language classes~

Have fun practicing your Japanese with local residents! Anyone can take part. The class is free of charge.

### <Hyuga>

“Prepare and Deal with Natural Disasters”

◇Date & Time: February 20<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

◇Venue: Mimitsu Junior High School Sports hall

◇Space Available: 30

◇Deadline: February 16<sup>th</sup> (Wed)



### <Shintomi>

“Learn some useful Japanese phrases for food and cooking!”

◇Date & Time: February 20<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

◇Venue: Shintomi Town General Cultural Exchange Center Kirari

◇Space Available: 12

◇Deadline: February 16<sup>th</sup> (Wed)



### <Mimata>

“Try some traditional Japanese pastimes!”

◇Date & Time: February 27<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

◇Venue: Mimata Town Central Public Hall

◇Space Available: 10

◇Deadline: February 23<sup>rd</sup> (Wed)

### <Nichinan>

“Let’s try asking people in Japanese! ~Exploring Obi~”

◇Date & Time: February 27<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

◇Venue: Obi Castle Town

◇Space Available: 20

◇Deadline: February 23<sup>rd</sup> (Wed)

\*How to Apply: Please send us your name, phone number, nationality and Japanese language level by fax or email.

\*Inquiries & Application: Miyazaki International Foundation

## Japanese Practice Sessions

\*No Registration Required, Free

◇Dates & Time: 10:30 am - 11:30 am

[Wed] 2/2, 2/9, 2/16

[Fri] 2/4, 2/18, 2/25

◇Location: CARINO Miyazaki B1F

◇Inquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation



## We are recruiting patrons!

Annual membership fee

Individual: 2,000yen Group: 10,000yen



If you become our patron...

- You will receive “International Plaza News,” our monthly newsletter
- You will receive “South Wind,” our semiannual magazine
- You will be given priority registration for our lectures and workshops
- You will be given discounts for our lectures and workshops
- (Only available for Groups) Website will be linked to our homepage

## Talk with the CIRs!

Anyone from overseas is welcome to attend!

◇Date & Time :

★A chat with Yujin from Korea (Japanese & Korean)  
February 17<sup>th</sup> (Thu) 3:00pm - 4:00pm



◇Deadline: February 12<sup>th</sup> (Sat)

★A chat with Sky from Singapore (Japanese & Chinese)  
February 22<sup>nd</sup> (Tue) 3:00pm - 4:00pm



◇Deadline: February 18<sup>th</sup> (Fri)

★A chat with Marsh from England (Japanese & English)  
February 25<sup>th</sup> (Fri) 6:00pm - 7:00pm



◇Deadline: February 22<sup>nd</sup> (Tue)

\*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

## Miyazaki International Plaza Counter Volunteer Recruitment



We are currently looking for volunteers from within Miyazaki Prefecture, 18 years of age or older, to work at the front counter of the Miyazaki International Plaza and assist Plaza staff. To apply, interested parties should submit a completed application form by March 5<sup>th</sup> (Sat).

In the case of multiple applicants, potential volunteers will undergo a screening process.

\*Nationality will not play a role in choosing applicants.

However, volunteers expected to speak some basic Japanese.

◇Volunteer Period:

April 7<sup>th</sup> (Thu) to September 30<sup>th</sup> (Fri) \*Excluding Holidays

◇Volunteer Time:

One day a week from Tue to Sat from;

A. 10:15 am - 12:45 pm B. 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Volunteers will work on the same day and during the same time period from week to week.

◇Tasks: Assisting Plaza visitors, assist in lending out and checking in library materials sending out documents, organizing library materials, arranging and forwarding used stamps, etc.

◇Others: Transportation expenses not covered; no monetary rewards (\*however, volunteer’s insurance will be covered by the International Foundation and parking vouchers will be issued to volunteers making use of the CARINO Miyazaki Parking Lot)

◇Dead Line: March 5<sup>th</sup> (Sat)

◇Inquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation

## You can study Japanese!



The Miyazaki International Foundation holds "Japanese Language Classes", "Japanese Practice Sessions" and can also "Introduce Japanese Volunteers" to foreign residents. Here are a few testimonials from our people who have tried these services.

If you are interested in learning Japanese, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### ● Impressions of the Japanese Language Classes held in University of Miyazaki

• Ms. Tin Tin Cho from Myanmar

"I really enjoy this class because it focuses on daily basics. Interacting with friends from Thailand, Afghanistan, and Myanmar in Japanese is very exciting. Our conversations just started with easy Japanese, and it really improves our speaking skills. Of course, other skills are also not left. The teachers are very kind and energetic. We can also request the topic that we would like to learn. Learning Japanese interjections is so funny when our intonations went upside down. Emergency lessons are the essential parts here. I am so blessed and deeply thankful for this class!"

### ● Impressions of Japanese Practice Sessions

• Mr. Maxwell from Ireland

"Hobbies? For me, my main hobby is studying kanji. I was lucky to find out about the MIF practice sessions back in 2013. Since then, volunteer teachers, both past and present, have enlightened me with their priceless knowledge not found in any textbooks. As a result, over the years, I have successfully passed the first 8 levels of the kanji proficiency test (levels 10 to 3 inclusive), and I am currently studying for the pre-level 2 test. Many thanks, as always."

### ● Impressions of introduced Japanese language volunteers

• Ms. Christine from Singapore

"The volunteer teacher has been very patient and very kind during his lessons. I had many questions about Japan's life, culture and traditions and it was enlightening to hear it from his perspective. He also explained the grammar points clearly so that it was easier for me to understand the differences. The lessons gave me an opportunity each week to converse in Japanese language and to learn the usage of certain words."

• Mr. Shahinur from Bangladesh

"I am glad to have this wonderful opportunity and feel lucky to meet a super helpful teacher."

• Ms. Josefine from Sweden

"I think it works great with one and one lesson because we review everything I need extra help with."

## <Information from the Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents>

### Daily Life Consultations for Foreign Residents in Nobeoka

Staff will be available for consultations concerning everyday difficulties. You can consult with us in your native language. (We may use machine translation and phone interpreting services for consultations.) Consultations are strictly confidential.

※Consultation may be subject to cancellation due to COVID-19.

Online consultations (using Zoom) are also available.

◇Date & Time : February 19<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 13:00 - 15:30

◇Venue: Nobeoka City Hall, Citizen's Space (Shimin-Supe-su) 1F

◇How to Apply: Priority will be given to advance reservations. You can also come in person (up to 30 minutes per appointment). Please send us an email or fax at least one day in advance containing: (1) your name, (2) contact details (telephone number), (3) what you would like to discuss, and (4) what language you would prefer to use for consultation.

◇Inquiries: Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents

TEL: 0985-41-5901 FAX: 0985-41-5902

E-mail: support@mif.or.jp



### Daily Life Consultations for Foreign Residents in Miyakonojo

Staff will be available for consultations concerning everyday difficulties. You can consult with us in your native language. (We may use machine translation and phone interpreting services for consultations.) Consultations are strictly confidential.

※Consultation may be subject to cancellation due to COVID-19

Online consultations (using Zoom) are also available.

◇Date & Time : March 3<sup>rd</sup> (Thu) 13:00 - 15:30

March 19<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 13:00 - 15:30

◇Venue: Mirai Sōzō Station Mallmall 2F

◇How to Apply: Priority will be given to advance reservations. You can also come in person (up to 30 minutes per appointment). Please send us an email or fax at least one day in advance containing: (1) your name, (2) contact details (telephone number), (3) what you would like to discuss, and (4) what language you would prefer to use for consultation.

◇Inquiries: Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents

TEL: 0985-41-5901 FAX: 0985-41-5902

E-mail: support@mif.or.jp

## An Englishman in Miyazaki



"Only 99 more to go..."



Miyazaki Prefecture CIR  
Marsh Graham

Hi everyone! I hope you're all keeping well and staying out of the cold!

Looking back over previous columns, I've spoken before about the differences in how we celebrate February 14<sup>th</sup> in the UK versus here in Japan, but as it approaches, I remembered something amusing that happened to me last year on Valentine's Day that might be worth sharing - I got given some posh chocolates with shochu inside (we all know what they say about the way to a man's heart being through the stomach via the liver), which was a lovely sentiment, plus the place that made them was closing down, so the gesture felt all the more special because it could never be repeated, but the shochu used for the filling was none other than 百年の孤独 - *Hyakunen no kodoku*...

On the one hand, that's a great thing, because it's a rare, aged shochu with a wonderful flavour that pairs fantastically well with dark chocolate. But on the other hand, the name literally translates to "one hundred years of loneliness." The juxtaposition of a nicely thought-out Valentine's gesture with the implication of being alone for the rest of my life really tickled me! That idea of two wildly contrasting reference points over the same thing is one of the most fundamental aspects of humour - it's where the fantastic ぼけ・突っ込み (*boke/tsukkomi* - comic/straight man) format you see all over the world (although especially frequently in Japan's myriad お笑いコンビ) comes from. But let's not get bogged down analysing comedy - nothing's ever funny after examining it to within an inch of its life. Besides which, thinking back, all this happened shortly after I'd written a column here about superstition and jinxes. I *knew* I should have written about something more auspicious...!

In any case, here's hoping you all have an 縁起の良い (*engi no yoi* - good-omened) Valentine's Day, or at least less than a hundred years of loneliness!

**As Peter Falk was delightfully fond of saying: "Just one more thing..."**

I'll be performing at the K-Pop Festival at Medikit Hall in Miyazaki City on the 12th (COVID-19 restrictions permitting), so make sure to come along and say hello if you're around and fancy seeing someone with no Korean proficiency (or, unfortunately, musical aptitude) whatsoever try and thrash out a number!