



# 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](mailto:miyainfo@mif.or.jp) Homepage: <https://www.mif.or.jp/>

Open: Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10:00 am to 7:00 pm 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 29<sup>th</sup>(Thu) to January 3<sup>rd</sup>(Tue), 2023.  
\*We will be reopening from January 4<sup>th</sup>(Wed), 2023.

## Local Japanese Language Classes \*Free, Registration Required

Have fun practicing your Japanese with local residents!

### <Hyuga>



◇Theme: How to get closer to your goals

◇Date & Time: December 11<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 1:30pm - 3:30pm

◇Venue: Hyuga City Gender Equality Promotion Room (Sanpia)

◇Space Available: 20

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

◇Application Deadline: December 4<sup>th</sup> (Sun)

◇Inquiries & Application: Hyuga City Regional Community Division  
TEL: 0982-66-1005 FAX 0982-54-8747

E-mail: [kyoudou@hyugacity.jp](mailto:kyoudou@hyugacity.jp)

### <Shintomi>



◇Theme: About how to throw away garbage

◇Date & Time: December 18<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:00am - 12:00pm

◇Venue: Shintomi Town General Cultural Exchange Center *Kirari*

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

◇Inquiries & Application: Miyazaki International Foundation

### <Nichinan>

◇Theme: Have fun practicing your Japanese!

-Want to know about Christmas and New Year in Nichinan!

◇Date & Time: December 18<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 1:30pm - 3:30pm

◇Venue: *Sokyakusojin* Center

◇Space Available: 15

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

◇Application Deadline: December 10<sup>th</sup> (Sat)

◇Inquiries & Application: Miyazaki International Foundation

## Talk with the CIRs ♪ \*Free, Registration Required

★A chat with Haejeong from South Korea (Japanese & Korean)

◇Date & Time: December 15<sup>th</sup> (Thu) 3:00pm - 4:00pm

◇Application Deadline: December 10<sup>th</sup> (Sat)



★A chat with Eilidh from the U.K. (Japanese & English)

◇Date & Time: December 16<sup>th</sup> (Fri) 3:00pm - 4:00pm

◇Application Deadline: December 13<sup>th</sup> (Tue)



★A chat with Yu Ding from Singapore (Japanese & English)

◇Date & Time: December 20<sup>th</sup> (Tue) 3:00pm - 4:00pm

◇Application Deadline: December 15<sup>th</sup> (Thu)



◇Venue: CARINO Miyazaki B1 Miyazaki International Plaza

◇Spaces Available: 4(Priority will be given to people who have participated less frequently)

\*We accept applications by phone, email or in person.

◇Inquiries & Application: Miyazaki International Foundation

## Japanese Practice Sessions \*Free, No Registration Required



◇Dates & Times:

[Wednesday] 10:30am - 11:30am 12/7, 12/14, 12/21

[Friday] 10:30am - 11:30am 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23

[Saturday] 2:30pm - 3:30pm 12/3, 12/17

◇Venue: CARINO Miyazaki B1F

◇Inquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation

## Japanese Speech Contest for Foreign Residents Participant applications open! \*Application Required

◇Date & Time: February 12<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 1:00pm - 3:00pm

◇Topic: "Miyazaki" (Things you have felt while living in Miyazaki, feelings towards your home country, dreams for the future, and so forth)

◇Location: Miyazaki Prefectural Government Office  
Building No.5 Room 521

◇Eligibility: anyone who meets the following criteria

1. Those residing in Miyazaki prefecture, over the age of 16, whose first language is NOT Japanese
2. Have lived in Japan for LESS than 5 years

◇Divisions & Available Spaces:

Student Division - 5 / Open Division - 5

\*If there are a large number of applicants, entries will be screened.

◇Speech Length Limit: 3~5 min

◇Deadline: January 21<sup>st</sup> (Sat)

◇How to Apply: Please hand in your ①Application form (with a photo of yourself attached) and ②Speech script (romaji is also accepted), by one of the following methods; handed directly into the Foundation, by post, or by email.

\*The application form can be downloaded online from the Miyazaki International Foundation homepage.

◇Inquiries & Application: Miyazaki International Foundation

## Disaster Management Seminar for Foreign Residents in Nobeoka \*Free, Registration Required

Japan gets a lot of natural disasters, such as earthquakes and typhoons – attend this seminar to learn how to prepare for a disaster and protect yourself and the people around you!

◇Date & Time: January 29<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:00am - 12:00pm

◇Venue: *Nobeoka-shi Chūshō Kigyō Shinkō Sentā (Scheduled)*

◇Target: Foreigners living in Miyazaki prefecture

◇Lectures containing: Planning out your escape route, how to give first aid

◇Spaces Available: 20

◇Fee: Free

◇To Apply: <https://forms.gle/squsX23bYwF11Q9u9>

◇Application Deadline: January 20<sup>th</sup> (Fri)

◇Inquiries & Application: Miyazaki International Foundation



## International Understanding Lecture-Uzbekistan "Uzbekistan, the unknown Japanese ally" \*Free, Registration Required

Komiljon Ganiev, from Uzbekistan, will give a talk about his native country's culture, daily life and much more!  
(The talk will be given in Japanese.)

◇Date & Time: January 21<sup>st</sup> (Sat) 10:00am - 12:00pm

◇Venue: Online (Zoom)

◇Lecturer: Mr. Komiljon Ganiev

◇Spaces Available: 40 (First-come, first-served)

◇Fee: Free

◇To Apply: <https://forms.gle/dpvt2VRHTgThUZAC9>

◇Application Deadline: January 11<sup>th</sup> (Wed)

◇Inquiries & Application: Miyazaki International Foundation



## [A Message from the Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents](#)

### Daily Life Consultations for Foreign Residents in Miyakonojo \*Free, Reservation Required

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.

\*Reservation required. (Appointments are available on the day.)

\*Online consultations (using Zoom) will be available.

◇Date & Time: December 9<sup>th</sup> (Fri) 1:00pm - 3:30pm

◇Venue: Japanese-style room 3,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Miyakonojo Community Center

◇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 & Application: Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents (Carino Miyazaki B1F) TEL: 0985-41-5901  
FAX: 0985-41-5902 E-mail: support@mif.or.jp



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> (Thu) to December 27<sup>th</sup> (Tue)  
10:00am - 7:00pm

◇Venue: CARINO Miyazaki B1F

Miyazaki Prefecture International Plaza

◇Inquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation



## Staff's Tweet

I'm sure that people these days mostly use their phones to listen to music and watch videos, but I still listen to the radio. On my days off, I like to put on the radio whilst I do cleaning, and sometimes when I hear something unexpected, I am stopped in my tracks. Indeed, it's not just music I listen to, but also to programmes about foreign languages among other things. When I have a bath, I bring in a shower radio and listen to high school lectures. I find that Japanese literature, both classic and modern, as well as Chinese poetry are soothing to the ear when read aloud. It's like I am re-learning what I was taught in high school, and I am continually drawn in. If you have the time, try and give the radio a listen. You may just find a show that you like... (Staff:K)



## Local Announcements



### <Nobeoka>

### German Christmas Market in Nobeoka 2022 \*No registration required, admission free, goods for sale



Experience German-style Christmas at the Nobeoka Station area.

◇Dates & Times: December 17<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm

◇Venue: Nobeoka City Station Complex Enclose

◇Content: Enjoy shopping for food and presents, live music, workshops and so on at this Christmas market. At night, the area will also be lit up by Christmas lights. Make sure to stop by!

◇Inquiries: Nobeoka International Exchange Promotion Office

Tel: 0982-22-7006

Persons in charge: Ms. Seggert Joelle

## A Scot in Miyazaki

### "Hogmanay"



Miyazaki Prefecture CIR  
Eilidh Galloway

As I'm sure everyone knows, or maybe will find out soon, the biggest celebration in winter in Japan is お正月 'oshougatsu', aka New Year's. In Japan, New Year is that time when people go home to see their families, whereas for many of us that might usually be Christmas. Yet, in Scotland, New Year also has a special significance.

Did you know that in Scotland we have a different name for New Year's celebrations? I mean, of course, we call the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 'New Year's Eve', but we Scots also call it 'Hogmanay'. Hogmanay is Scots for the last day of the old year and is synonymous with the celebration of the New Year in the Scottish manner. Normally followed by further celebration on the morning of New Year's Day, Hogmanay marks the arrival of the new year.

The origins of Hogmanay, however, remain unclear, but it is thought to be derived from Norse and Gaelic observances of the winter solstice. Social customs vary throughout households in Scotland, but usually include gift-giving, visiting the homes of friends and neighbours, and just generally spending time with your loved ones. Scotland's Hogmanay celebrations guarantee a warm, if not slightly rowdy, welcoming of the new year and at midnight, we set off fireworks and sing 'Auld Lang Syne'.

For those spending their first New Year's in Japan, I hope you will be able to indulge in the Japanese traditions and culture. Although I am excited to spend this year in Japan, I may still have to sing 'Auld Lang Syne' at the stroke of midnight!

