



PLAZA NEWS



Miyazaki International Foundation B1 Carino Miyazaki, 4-8-1Tachibanadori Higashi, Miyazaki City 880-0805

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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 29th(Sun) to January 3rd(Fri), 2025. *We will be reopening from January 4th(Sat), 2025.



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



◇Date & Time: February 2nd (Sun) 2:00pm - 4:00pm

◇Topic: "Miyazaki"

(Things you have felt while living in Miyazaki etc.)

◇Location: Kenden Hall

(Miyazaki Prefecture Enterprise Bureau Building 1st floor)

◇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 - around 5 / Open Division - around 5

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

◇Speech Length Limit: up to 5 minutes

◇Deadline: January 9th (Thu)

◇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

Traditional Japanese Culture Workshop "The world of incense: Kodo experience and scent-bag making" *Registration Required, FREE

We invite you to experience one of Japan's traditional arts in kodo: the art of burning incense and appreciating aromas. You'll also get to choose your favourite scents and create your own nioi-bukuro, scent-bags!

◇Date and Time : January 25th (Sat) 2:00pm - 4:00pm

◇Venue: Miyazaki City Youth Plaza (1-2-27 Jingu-Higashi)

◇Lecturer: Mr. Hiroyuki Tada / Mrs. Harumi Tada
(FOUATONS Aroma & Herb/Incense School)

◇Capacity: 12 (first come, first served)

◇Target: Foreign Residents of Miyazaki

◇Cost: Free

◇How to apply: Please apply through the URL or the 2-dimensional barcode below.

<https://forms.gle/NnSzC4PXPCENiaN88>

◇Application due: January 16 (Thu)

◇Inquiries & Application: Miyazaki international Foundation



19th Annual Art Festival - Traveling Exhibition - Prefectural Government edition - "Miyazaki - From the Outside Looking in" *Free viewing

There are 80 art works on display submitted by the foreign residents who live in Miyazaki on the theme 'Miyazaki'. Please take the time to appreciate how our foreign residents see Miyazaki.

◇Display Period: January 20th(Mon) to January 30th(Thu)
8:30am-6:00pm *Closed on weekends

◇Venue: Miyazaki Prefectural Government Hall,
Disaster Prevention Hall Ground Floor

◇Works on display: photos, paintings/drawings,
Japanese-calligraphy, and handmade crafts

◇Inquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation



International Understanding Lecture – England "The Swinging Sixties: A Cultural Revolution and The Beatles." *Free, Registration Required



The 1960s saw a youth-led cultural revolution in Britain, from music to fashion to art. Of the many icons of the period, The Beatles were among the most influential, not just in Britain but all over the world. On this occasion, we invite CIR Katherine Kessler to speak about British culture of the 1960s and The Beatles. There'll also be a singalong afterwards with songs by the Fab Four!

★If you play a guitar, bring it along and join Katherine on the piano for some Beatles tunes!

◇Date & Time: February 1st (Sat) 2:00pm – 4:00pm

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

◇Lecturer: Ms. Katherine Kessler (Miyazaki prefecture, CIR)

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

◇Fee: Free

◇To Apply: Please apply through the URL or the 2-dimensional barcode below. Applications are also accepted by phone or email.

<https://forms.gle/8JtA2JV3Hsfo2vuQ9>

◇Application Deadline: January 23rd (Thu)

◇Inquiries & Application: 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 discounts for our lectures and workshops
- (Only available for Groups) Website will be linked to our homepage

◇Inquiries : Miyazaki International Foundation

Kirari - Japanese Language Salon in Shintomi *Free, Registration Required

Have fun practicing your Japanese with local residents!



◆**Theme:** Disaster management

◆**Date & Time:** January 19th (Sun) 10:00am - 12:00pm

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

◆**How to Apply:** Please apply through the URL or the 2-dimensional barcode below.

<https://baa7fba2.form.kintoneapp.com/public/japanese-salon-shintomi>

◆**Application Deadline:** January 9th (Thu)

◆**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 6th (Thu).

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 8th (Tue) to September 30th 2025 (Tue) *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.)

◆**Application dead Line:** March 6th (Thu)

◆**Inquiries:** Miyazaki International Foundation

Talk with the CIRs ♪ *Free, Registration Required

How about having a chat with the Coordinators for International Relations from the Prefectural Government?

★A chat with Katherine from England (Japanese & English)

◆**Date & Time:** ①January 17th (Fri) 3 - 4 pm

②January 31st (Fri) 3 - 4 pm



◆**Registration Deadline:**

①January 10th (Fri) ②January 24th (Fri)

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

◆**Date & Time:** January 28th (Tue) 4 - 5 pm

◆**Registration Deadline:** January 21st (Tue)



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

◆**Date & Time:** January 16th (Thu) 3 - 4pm

◆**Registration Deadline:** January 9th (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/Registration:** Miyazaki International Foundation

A Message from the Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents

Consultations available online *Free, Reservation Required



The Miyazaki Support Centre for Foreign Residents provides a 'Zoom consultation' service for those who are unable to come to the centre. (*You will need to download zoom beforehand.)

◆**How to apply**

Please email us your enquiry including the words "Online Consultation" in the subject, and the following information in the body of the email.

1. Name, 2. Email address, 3. The date and time you would like to have a Consultation, 4. What you would like to discuss (ex. Raising children, school/education, medical problems, Japanese learning, Visa status of residence etc.)

◆**Discussion reception desk opening hours:**

Tuesday – Saturday 10:30am-12:00noon, 2:00pm-5:00pm

*Closed on Sundays, Mondays and National holidays

◆**Inquiries & Application:**

Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents
(Carino Miyazaki B1)

TEL : 0985-41-5901 FAX : 0985-41-5902 E-mail : support@mif.or.jp

Confessions of a scaredy-cat

"The Mid-Twenties"



Miyazaki Prefecture CIR
Katherine Kessler

Five years ago, I watched the first sunrise of the decade from my dormitory balcony in Kobe. It felt meaningful to start the new year in Japan rather than my home country, knowing I'd be there till August. 2020 was a landmark, a fresh start. I had a lot of resolutions for that year, most of them to do with living life to the fullest in Japan: get a part time job, make friends, travel, become fluent in Japanese.

2020 ended up being something of a let-down, to put it mildly. I didn't achieve what I set out to do, and while I'd like to be able to fully blame the pandemic, the truth is I can't say for sure how I'd have done things differently without it. I tend to hole away in my room with distractions even at the best of times. And while I left Japan later that year with plenty of good memories, I also had many regrets, and a feeling of unfinished business.

2025 marks the halfway point of the decade, and my twenties. Once again, I'm beginning a momentous-feeling year in Japan, and looking to spend several more years here this time. And it still feels like I haven't done enough. I still struggle with Japanese, I haven't been creating as much as I'd like, and I still stay at home wasting time. But it's better than it was before. I'm trying to make it better. I could make a big list of resolutions, swear to make 2025 my year. But why procrastinate with grandiose promises? 2025 could bring another pandemic for all we know. All I can promise is I'm going to keep on trying new things, and doing my best with what I've got. And I hope you'll all try along with me!

