



PLAZA NEWS



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

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: ①March 14 (Fri) 3 - 4 pm

②March 28 (Fri) 3 - 4 pm

◇Registration Deadline:

①March 7 (Fri) ②March 21 (Fri)



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

◇Date & Time: March 11 (Tue) 3 - 4 pm

◇Registration Deadline: March 7 (Fri)



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

◇Date & Time: March 13 (Thu) 3 - 4 pm

◇Registration Deadline: March 6 (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

Miyazaki International Plaza Introducing the library corner



At the Miyazaki International Plaza located in the basement of Carino, there is a library corner where you are able to borrow two books for up to two weeks for free.

You can choose from multi-cultural books to books written in languages including English, Korean, and Chinese, and textbooks for the Japanese language proficiency exam. Also, you can use the multi-purpose space next to the International Plaza to read newspapers written in English or study. Please feel free to utilise these resources.



[Miyazaki International Plaza]

Carino Miyazaki B1F

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List of books in our collection found here:

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Introduction of Japanese language volunteers

*Free, Registration Required



Foreigners or Japanese returnees in Miyazaki who wish to study Japanese language will be introduced to registered Japanese language volunteers upon request. Study location, hours, and contents will be decided by the learner and the tutor themselves.

◇Target: Foreign residents of Miyazaki Prefecture

◇Inquiries & Application: Miyazaki International Foundation



Plaza Holiday Closing



The International Plaza will be closed on March 20th (Thu) for the public holiday.

~Developing Multicultural Coexistence Together~

There are currently around ten thousand people from overseas living in Miyazaki Prefecture. (As of June 2024)

We want to establish a community where everyone can live in harmony and enjoy a rich, full and active life by learning about each other's cultures.



What is Multicultural Coexistence?



"People of different nationalities and races who live together as members of communities with respect for cultural differences and who make efforts to establish fair relationships."

From the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications:

"Research Seminar on the Promotion of Multicultural Coexistence"

The Miyazaki International Foundation is holding some classes and events to help the residents of Miyazaki to learn about foreign languages and cultures as a way of starting to think of multicultural coexistence, as well as Japanese classes and Disaster Management seminars etc. For this month's edition of Plaza News, we'd like to share with you some comments from our foreign residents. The concept of multicultural coexistence may seem difficult, so perhaps we should start out by learning how the foreigners living in Miyazaki feel.

- 1 What do you like most about living in Miyazaki?
- 2 Have you experienced any culture shocks in Japan?
- 3 How do you think Miyazaki could be improved as a place to live?

Y. S. from Bangladesh, Japanese class participant living in Miyazaki for 5 months



1. People in Miyazaki are so warm and kind-hearted. Also, the food is fresh and safe, which makes me feel at ease.
2. It's not exactly culture shock, but I do think it's strange that in Japan, while lost wallets and mobile phones can be found, bicycle theft is common. (Even stranger that stolen bicycles are often found if you look around the neighborhood!) Also, there are a lot of rules about separating rubbish, which I understand is a good thing, though quite a hassle.
3. I'd like it if there were more English-speaking job opportunities. Also, getting a driving license is tough. English-language driving schools are expensive, and since the affordable ones only use Japanese, I've been having trouble getting my license. I mostly travel by bike, and I think the public transport options could be a bit better.



S.T. from Indonesia, Foreign technical intern trainee
living in Miyazaki for 2 years



1. It's an easy place to live because the differences in temperature are not extreme, the air is clean, and it is good for one's health. I feel valued as a foreign resident, as I can participate in many festivals and events.
2. In Indonesia, people keep their entrance lights on all night, so I could not get used to how dark it was at night. I was also surprised to see that there are very few rubbish bins in public areas and that people have to take their rubbish home with them, elderly people are driving cars, and that there are many abandoned and vacant houses. Also, arriving at work to start before the working day begins seems like a Japanese cultural thing.
3. Miyazaki is already a great place to live, and there are good initiatives for foreign nationals. However, it's hard to find how to access sightseeing spots and look up times for trains and buses.



E.T. from Colombia, Spanish teacher / interpreter
living in Miyazaki for 33 years



1. Miyazaki is safe, so I can live here with my family without worry, and my children can focus on their studies.
2. I was initially a bit disappointed when I came to Japan and found it very different from the image of ninjas, samurai and kimono-clad ladies I'd gotten from movies. I was also thrown off by greeting people at a distance, no hugging and kissing. When I first got here, I panicked at being told off for not taking my shoes off when I entered a home. This was 33 years ago, but I used to get laughed at just for being foreign, which was quite tough.
3. I think some English signs and explanations at the sightseeing spots would make them more enjoyable for foreigners. I'd also like to see some English maps at the airport and stations.



B.T. from U.S.A., English chat volunteer / retired
living in Miyazaki for 8 years



1. The people are kind, and it's a safe and secure place to live. I also love living near to nature, and the sea.
2. I feel that taxes (resident tax and social insurance premiums) are a heavy burden. I was also surprised at all the crows I've seen rummaging through rubbish bags, and at the motorcycle gangs making noise at night. It's odd that nobody complains to put a stop to them.
3. I'd like it if the streets were more cyclist-friendly, with more dedicated bike lanes, safer streets etc. I've also noticed several faded road signs, and I think they should be repainted to be easier to see.



Staff's Tweet

We heard about some of the culture shocks experienced by foreigners from their interviews in this edition of Plaza News, and in the latest "South Wind", but Japanese people can experience quite a bit of culture shock in their own country. I was 18 when I first left Miyazaki to live in Osaka, and got my first culture shock at the sheer number of people, the dialect, and just how friendly everyone was! Also, while I had classmates at university from all over Kyushu, even they had totally different cultures and ways of speaking to me. Leaving the small community of my family and school in Miyazaki that I'd always taken for granted as "normal", I discovered the fascination of being exposed to the differences between the various regions and people of Japan. I think that was when I really started to think deeply about what is "obvious" or "normal" in the world at all. (Staff: O)



(March Events)



Event	Date & Time	Venue	Contact / Information
The 11th Miyazaki Festival	March 8 th (Sat) 10:00am - 6:00pm	From Takachiho Street to Amu Plaza Miyazaki Miyazaki City	Miyazaki Festival Executive Committee・MRT 0985-27-5532 https://mrt.jp/special/matsuri/
The 75th Miyakonojo Mochio Sakura Matsuri	Late March – Early April Main event will be held on March 29 th - 30 th (Sat/Sun)	Mochio-koen Miyakonojo	Miyakonojo Tourist Association 0986-23-2460 https://miyakonojo.tv/archives/21989

Confessions of a scaredy-cat



"Okay, time for my ohako!"



**Miyazaki Prefecture CIR
Katherine Kessler**

I was recently introduced to the term "ohako", or "juhachiban", meaning "the performance or skill one is best at". While it can be used in a variety of situations, its primary connotation is karaoke, what we might call our "go-to" karaoke song. I was happy to hear there's a Japanese-specific expression for this, because as a karaoke enjoyer, it's a concept to which I've given a lot of thought.

When it comes to Japanese songs, there are two I'd call my "ohako". Both play a role in my karaoke party strategy, especially when I'm singing with people I don't know so well. Timing is crucial here. First, I enter Miki Matsubara's "Stay With Me". This is a well-known mid-tempo city pop song, but not so popular that it gets the whole room singing along, making it perfect for the first act of a karaoke outing, when the atmosphere is still loosening up.

My other ohako is the karaoke staple "A Cruel Angel's Thesis". As a Japanese song for a foreigner to pick, some might think this one's a bit too obvious. I used to feel that a foreigner's ohako should be the chance to demonstrate not just singing, but Japanese ability, and knowledge of Japanese music. But really, the energy of the room comes first. And this song is guaranteed to get people on their feet. I enter it after an hour or two, when everyone's feeling good and I'm tipsy enough to really go for it and sing my heart out. Everyone joins in for the chorus, and I get to show off a little bit with the long notes. I feel proud of my performances of both these songs, but more importantly it feels good to contribute to the atmosphere with some rousing crowd-pleasers.

So, who's up next?

