



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 E-mail: miyainfo@mif.or.jp Homepage: <https://www.mif.or.jp>

Open: Tuesday 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 on February 11 (Wednesday).



Disaster Preparedness Seminar for Foreign Residents (Mimata Town)

"Calling women from overseas to take part in our disaster preparedness seminar!"

***Free, Registration Required**



◆ **Dates & Times:** Feb 21 (Sat) 10:00am-12:00pm

◆ **Venue:** Mimata-cho Central Community Center, Meeting Room 1 (Kitamorokata-gun, Mimata, Gohonmatsu 8-1)

◆ **Target:** Women of any nationality living in Mimata-cho

◆ **Contents:** Come and learn useful terms for disaster preparedness in simple Japanese, find out disaster information relating to Mimata-cho, and discuss what disasters and evacuating are like from a woman's perspective, including important things to remember and any worries you may have.

◆ **Spaces Available:** 30 (First-come, first-served)

◆ **Fee:** Free

◆ **To apply:** Apply using the QR code or URL below. Applications by phone, email or in person are also welcome.

<https://forms.gle/fMDV28bxzbxDFe7N6>



◆ **Application Deadline:** Feb 7 (Sat)

◆ **Inquiries:** 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 Mar 6 (Fri).

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:**

Apr 7 (Tue) to Sep 30 (Wed) 2026 *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:** Mar 6 (Fri)

◆ **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:** ① Feb 6 (Fri) 6:00pm - 7:00pm

② Feb 20 (Fri) 3:00pm - 4:00pm



◆ **Registration Deadline:** ① Jan 30 (Fri) ② Feb 13 (Fri)

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

◆ **Date & Time:** Feb 24 (Tue) 4:00pm - 5:00pm



◆ **Registration Deadline:** Feb 17 (Tue)

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

◆ **Date & Time:** Feb 19 (Thu) 6:00pm - 7:00pm



◆ **Registration Deadline:** Feb 12 (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

TEL: 0985-32-8457 E-mail: miyainfo@mif.or.jp

Open: Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10:00am to 7:00pm

Closed: Sundays, Mondays, National Holidays and December 29 to January 3

New Publication



- *PRACTICAL KANJI 500 Basic Kanji Vol. 1*
- (Japanese textbook and workbook for copying) *Gakko seikatsu no nihongo: Yamanobori*
- New: *Waku waku bunpō Listening 100: Learn Japanese with your ears [1]*

Staff's tweet

I went to Ise Shrine recently. When I went to get a *goshuin* to commemorate my visit, the price was given as “up to you”. It's common for shrines to have their *goshuin* designs displayed along with prices, but there are some that set no price, and leave the amount to pay up to the visitor.

The usual price for a *goshuin* is around 500 yen, unless it has some special craftsmanship involved. Therefore, even if the price says “up to you”, it's safe to pay the same amount that you would for a *goshuin* at another shrine. However, leaving the payment up to the customer can also lead to anxiety over whether one is really paying the right price.

At any rate, if you're unsure how much money to give, at some shrines you can ask one of the shrine personnel and they will tell you how much other visitors usually pay. When in doubt, it never hurts to ask.

(Staff: H)



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

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



Confessions of a scaredy - cat

“I didn't have that on my bingo card this year...”

Japanese Language Salon in Shintomi

※Event information

◇Date & Time: Feb 11 (Wed) 10:00am -12:00pm

◇Venue: Shintomi Town General Cultural Exchange Center Kirari

◇Contents: Enjoy making snacks with locals.

Please visit Hinata Nihongo Navi website for more details.

<https://hinatanihongo.mif.or.jp/english/>

◇Inquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation



Hinata Nihongo Navi

“Hinata Nihongo Navi” is a portal site for foreign residents in Miyazaki Prefecture who want to learn Japanese and Japanese residents who want to support their learning. Efforts such as Japanese language courses and learning supporter training courses implemented in each municipality are posted.

Please take advantage of it.

<https://hinatanihongo.mif.or.jp/english/>



◇Inquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation

A Message from the Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents

The Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents welcomes residents from abroad with questions or concerns related to their lives in Miyazaki.

[Open] Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

TEL : 0985-41-5901 Fax : 0985-41-5902

E-mail : support@mif.or.jp



~ February 3rd is setsubun! ~

February 3rd is known as *setsubun* in Japan, where we toss beans while chanting *oni wa soto, fuku wa uchi*, meaning “out with demons, in with good fortune”. The call is a prayer to expel evil while inviting good luck into one's home.



Confessions of a scaredy - cat

“I didn't have that on my bingo card this year...”



Miyazaki Prefecture CIR
Katherine Kessler

How many of us still make new year's resolutions? It seems like they're only ever really brought up to comment on how easily broken they are. Which is not surprising, since the common goals are either drearily self-punishing (lose weight, spend less money) or blandly hopeful (read/travel “more”, “live life to the fullest”). But, although we are already in February, I'd like to offer an alternative that's revitalized the whole concept for me: year bingo cards.

Here's how it works. You draw up a bingo card (five by five grid, middle square is a free space). For each square, you fill in either a goal (“read ten books”) a hoped-for outcome (“see my favourite band live”) or a wildcard event that might just happen to you (“get obsessed with hockey”). Not all squares need to be aspirational. In fact, there should be some adversity thrown in there – a year is made up of ups and downs after all. Plus, if something undesirable does happen, you can at least cross it off your bingo as consolation.

The bingo card works better than conventional NYR in my opinion, for several reasons. First, it takes the pressure off. You only need to complete one line to get a bingo, and with so many squares, you have freedom to vary the difficulty a bit. For instance, my 2025 bingo card had “try natto” in it. Easy win! (Did I actually try natto in the end? Well... It's on my 2026 bingo too.) Secondly, it reframes the year from a checklist of goals and tasks into something more dynamic, open to surprises and the winds of fate. And lastly, it's just fun.

It turns the whole thing into a long-term game, meaning you're less likely to give up halfway through January!

