



PLAZA NEWS



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

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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 April 29th (Wed) for the public holiday.

Introducing The Miyazaki Prefecture International Plaza

★Location

Carino Miyazaki Basement Floor 1, approximately 10-minute walk from Miyazaki Station into the city centre, next to the Miyazaki Central Post Office

★Opening hours

Open: Tuesdays to Saturdays 10am– 7pm

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

*For those who come by car, please use the Carino parking lot or a paid parking lot nearby.

Please note that we do not issue parking tickets.

★Facilities Guide

◆Information available.

We provide information related to international exchange, etc.

◆Reading and loaning of books, magazines, and newspapers

You can borrow books written in different languages and various resource textbooks for studying Japanese. Anyone can borrow books for up to two weeks (two books per person at any one time) You can also read newspapers written in English.

◆Lending of Costumes, Flags and World Boxes

We have flags, toys, instruments, CDs, books from, and information on, various countries available to lend for free.

◆Support from Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs).

We are also supported by Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs) that can speak English, Chinese, and Korean. Please speak to the staff members at the association for further information.

Days the CIRs are at the association.

- Tuesday (Chinese)
- Thursday (Korean)
- Friday (English)

There are cases when the CIRs are not at the association, so please check beforehand.

◇Inquiries & Application: Miyazaki International Foundation



A Brief Introduction to 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.

Consultations are available in person, by telephone, etc. (email, ZOOM)

【Supported languages】

(We may use phone interpreting services etc. for consultations)
English, Chinese, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Malay, Tagalog, Nepali, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Russian, German, Italian, Burmese, Mongolian, Khmer, Sinhala, Hindi, Bengali, Urdu

*We also respond to enquiries from people who support foreign residents.

【Open】

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

Tel 0985 0985-4141-5901 Fax 0985 0985-4141-5902

E-mail support@mif.or.jp

Please check our Homepage, Facebook and Instagram for more information.



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

Disaster Prevention Pamphlet for Foreign Residents to be published in Indonesian and Myanmar

We have produced new Indonesian and Myanmar versions of the Disaster Prevention Pamphlet. The pamphlet is also available in Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese.

Prepare yourself for the unexpected, and take a look at the Disaster Prevention Pamphlet. They're free to take home!

They're also available to use from the website below.

<https://www.mif.or.jp/disaster-prevention-pamphlet/>



◇Inquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation

Japanese self-learning tools

Online self-learning is available. A website for foreign nationals living in Japan, where you can learn Japanese useful for daily life.

TSUNAHIRO

https://tsunagarujp.mext.go.jp/?lang_id=EN



This website is for foreign nationals living in Japan to learn the Japanese language in order to communicate in Japanese and be able to use it in daily life. Learning contents can be chosen based on your Japanese level, the situation that interests you, and keywords. Study and use Japanese to connect with society and broaden life's possibilities.

IRODORI

Free Online course for learning Japanese essential to daily life!

<https://www.irodori-online.jpf.go.jp/>



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:** Miyazaki International Foundation



We are recruiting patrons!

Annual membership fee

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

If you become our patron...

- We will deliver you the newsletter "Plaza News"
- We will deliver you the publication "South Wind"
- 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



Talk with the CIRs ♪ *Free, Registration Required

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

★ A chat with Katherine from England

◇ **Date & Time:** ① Apr 10 (Fri) 3:00pm - 4:00pm
② Apr 24 (Fri) 6:00pm - 7:00pm

◇ **Registration Deadline:** ① Apr 3 (Fri) ② Apr 17 (Fri)



★ A chat with Yu Ding from Singapore

◇ **Date & Time:** Apr 21 (Tue) 4:00pm - 5:00pm

◇ **Registration Deadline:** Apr 14 (Tue)



★ A chat with Haejeong from South Korea

◇ **Date & Time:** Apr 30 (Thu) 3:00pm - 4:00 pm

◇ **Registration Deadline:** Apr 23 (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

Cycling rules to change

2026 will see some reforms in the Road Traffic Law, with changes regarding cycling rules coming into effect from April. Previously, these offences were subject to a verbal warning, but they will now receive a "blue ticket" carrying a fine. "Blue tickets" will be issued to anyone over sixteen who commits the offence. If they pay the fine within the designated time frame, the process ends there, but forgetting to pay will cause it to be escalated to criminal proceedings.

- Ignoring traffic signals
- Use of mobile phone while riding
- Incorrect traffic lane (e.g. riding on the right side, riding on the sidewalk)
- Infractions against Public Safety Commission compliance guidelines (e.g. opening an umbrella)



The above covers the primary offences, but please check the Miyazaki Prefectural Police Department website for the rest.

[Regarding this newsletter's publication]

As of the new fiscal year in April, the release of this newsletter "Plaza News" will change to once every two months. Thank you for your understanding. We will continue to strive to provide timely updates through our website and social media.

Confessions of a scaredy - cat

"Chotto Motto"



Miyazaki Prefecture CIR
Katherine Kessler

Today I come to you with a horror story.

It was the second year of my Japanese BA. I felt that I was making decent progress with my Japanese, able to join class discussions with reasonable confidence, if not the chatty fluency some of my peers had. And then one day, one of those classmates made an offhand reference to my "chotto motto habit".

I asked her what she meant by this. She clarified it as my tendency to say the words "chotto motto" in most of my Japanese conversations, like a filler phrase. The other students in the room corroborated this observation. "But - chotto motto doesn't mean anything," I said helplessly. Maybe I was trying to say "a little bit more", and just didn't know the expression, or scrambled it with chotto matte? When other classmates and the lecturer entered the room, I desperately asked their opinion on this chotto motto thing, and they all confirmed they'd noticed it and thought it was strange. And that I said it a lot, apparently.

I was deeply perturbed, most of all by the fact that I had no idea I was spouting this nonsensical phrase every other sentence. Later in the lesson, I was struck with mortification mid-sentence to find my lips starting to form the words chotto mo- I caught myself for the first time, painfully aware now that for over a year I had been sitting in class saying nonsense words that everybody else had picked up on and was too polite to bring to my attention. What else was coming out of my mouth without my conscious permission? Even today, chotto motto haunts me; every time I see a Hotto Motto I cringe a bit on the inside. And I wonder what unconscious verbal tics might be slipping out that I won't find out about for another five years.

