



## Miyazaki International Foundation

Questions, comments, postings, or for information in Plaza News: Miyazaki International Foundation, B1Carino Miyazaki, Tachibanadori Higashi 4-8-1, Miyazaki City 880-0805 Tel: 0985-32-8457 Fax: 0985-32-8512 Email: miyainfo@mif.or.jp Homepage: <http://www.mif.or.jp/>  
 Open: Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Closed: Sundays, Mondays, National Holidays and December 29 to January 3

## Beginner level Online Japanese Language Course using Zoom (Central Miyazaki) \*Registration Required



### Try learning Japanese online!

This course is for people who want to start studying Japanese, and those who want to learn Hiragana and Katakana.

\* Zoom is an application that allows online meetings, which you would have to download before starting the course.

◇**Date&Time:** June.16<sup>th</sup>(Tue) to Sept.18<sup>th</sup>(Fri)  
 Every Tuesday and Friday  
 10:00am-11:40am

There will be an initial 1-hour orientation session, then 25 lessons.

### ◇Participants should be:

- ① Residents of Miyazaki City, Kunitomi, Aya, Nishimera, Saito, Shintomi, Takanabe, Kawaminami, Tsuno or Kijo, that are able to use Zoom
- ② Over 20 years of age but not in full-time education
- ③ Able to participate in the 1-hour orientation session and all 25 lessons

### ◇Spaces Available: 8

If more people apply than we have spaces available, participants will be selected at random.  
 (□ People who are not currently employed and that live outside of Miyazaki City will be given priority.)

### ◇Course Fee:

**Free** \* participants will have to buy their own text book.

Textbook to be used: 『いっぽ にほんご さんぽ 初級1』

\*For more information and an application form, please email the Miyazaki International Foundation.

### ◇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 priority registration for our lectures and workshops
- You will be given discounts for our lectures and workshops
- (Only available for Groups) Website will be linked to our homepage

## [Re-Opening of Miyazaki International Plaza]

The Miyazaki International Plaza is once again open, following our temporary closure to prevent further spread of COVID-19.

\* The Library and communal space at the International Plaza and Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents are available for use as of Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>.

\* The following courses have restarted:

Japanese Language Course- Beginner (Restarts June 2<sup>nd</sup>)

Japanese Practice Sessions (Restarts May 27<sup>th</sup>)

Chat Sessions:

English - Beginner (Restarts May 30<sup>th</sup>)

English - Intermediate & Advanced (Restarts June 6<sup>th</sup>)

Chinese (Restarts May 26<sup>th</sup>)

Korean (Restarts May 28<sup>th</sup>)

We are looking forward to seeing you!

Please wear a face mask and practice the proper etiquette if you are coughing or sneezing.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



## (New Edition) Disaster Prevention Pamphlet for Foreign Residents

As the rainy season approaches, we need to be careful about heavy rain and flooding. Heavy rains and flooding tend to cause damage all over the prefecture, and people often need to evacuate and take shelter. What would we do if that happened on top of the current COVID-19 situation? It's very important to consider the possibility and make every preparation in case disaster strikes. Please have a look at the new edition of the Disaster Prevention Pamphlet for Foreign Residents, available for free at the Miyazaki International Plaza and Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents!



Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents

Tel: 0985-41-5901 Fax: 0985-41-5902

Email: [support@mif.or.jp](mailto:support@mif.or.jp)

Homepage: <https://support.mif.or.jp/>

Open: Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Closed: Sundays, Mondays, National Holidays

and December 29 to January 3



HP



Facebook

## In order to overcome COVID-19

Ms. Siobhan Hall, who had lived in Miyazaki before, reported on the effects of the COVID-19 in New Zealand.(as of May 15th)

### A Report from New Zealand



On 24th March 2020, NZ went into full lockdown (Level 4) for a period of 4 weeks. This meant that only essential services were open. The only shops that were open were supermarkets, pharmacies and petrol stations. All other business were closed and everyone was asked to remain at home and work from home if possible. The only people that we can have contact with are the people who live in the same house, so for Phil, my husband, and I, that means just the 2 of us. We cannot see our children, our grandchildren, our parents or any of our friends. However, the number of those people infected with the virus is decreasing, so it is worth the sacrifice. On 28th April, we only had 3 people in NZ reported to have the virus. We are allowed to go walking or jogging, but only in our own neighbourhood and only with the people who live in our house. People aged 70 years old and over are recommended not to leave their houses at all, not even to do their supermarket shopping. They need to get a family member to do it for them or get it delivered to their homes. On the same day, the Prime Minister lifted the Covid-19 level to Level 3. This means that some business can open and restaurants and cafes can open for take aways only, and we have to order on line and then wait outside the shop for the coffee or meal to be brought to us outside. We are now allowed to see a few family members but this is limited to only 1 or 2. We will remain in Level 3 for 2 or 3 more weeks and then, hopefully, we can move to Level 2, which means that most people can return to work, but we will still have to be very careful about coming too close to other people. Our borders remain closed. Economically it is a very hard time for NZ as well as for the rest of the world.

During Covid-19 it has been very important to stay healthy in body and mind, so I have been doing physical exercise every day. I go jogging which is very good for me as I get out of the house into the fresh air and, at the same time, I am doing something healthy for my body. I have also been doing yoga and pilates classes on line which has also been good for my body and mind. Every Saturday night we join our friends on line for a drink. We talk and laugh and keep up to date with everyone's lives. It is a fun time for all of us. My husband and I have been working in the garden on the weekends which keeps us busy. Although 'lockdown' has been difficult for us as we have not been able to see our family, we have tried to keep ourselves positive and healthy. I am looking forward to going to a restaurant, shopping and visiting my family and friends!! I am very tired of my house! It has been a tough time, but hopefully the end is not too far away!

To all my friends in Miyazaki, I hope you are keeping healthy and positive. Sometimes it is difficult, but ganbarimasu! Together we can do this!



Mr. Steven Bazzell, who had lived in Miyazaki before, reported on the effects of the COVID-19 in Hawaii.(as of May15th)

### Covid-19 Visits Hawaii



What a difference a few months makes! Hawaii usually has an average of 28,000 visitors a day, 4-5 thousand being Japanese who are the largest nationality to visit from outside the U.S. All of that changed dramatically around March when the Covid-19 scare resulted in most businesses being closed and a 14-day quarantine was imposed on anyone arriving in Hawaii.

Beaches and parks were also closed to the public although we can now walk and exercise in those places but are still prohibited from sitting in a chair, sitting on the sand, or having a picnic. In fact, the local government made it a crime to do these things and the police are issuing citations where people have to pay a fine, and sometimes they arrest them and take them to jail. Many of those arrested are visitors from the U.S. mainland who are attracted by the cheap airfares and hotels but who later sneak out of their rooms to go to the beach and other places. Who wants to sit in their room while they're on vacation?

So far, only about 620 people have been infected in the whole state, and of those, about 540 have fully recovered and only 16 have died. It is very sunny here with fresh breezes blowing in from the ocean, and maybe that's why so few have gotten seriously ill compared to other places in the U.S.

I feel satisfied doing simple things like watching the birds in our backyard who chatter and hop around. I try to imagine what they are talking about and wonder if they feel happy or sad and what sorts of things they are concerned about. I also enjoy emailing and texting acquaintances and friends everywhere to stay in touch and share feelings, thoughts, and experiences. During this pandemic, it's especially important for everyone to avoid feeling isolated and depressed. My wife Tokiko and I also walk about 3 km most evenings to try to stay physically fit.

Hope to meet you soon either here in Honolulu or in Miyazaki City!

### Announcement from the Miyazaki International Plaza Library Corner

"TRANSIT" – A Magazine Recommendation for Travel Fans

"TRANSIT" is a travel and culture magazine that showcases not only the world's scenery, local food and people's lives but also history, literature, movies and all kinds of things. through the personal travel experiences of the writers and editors. It's packed with amazing photos, well worth reading and perfect for those who find it hard to travel but want to learn about various cultures all over the world. I particularly recommend vol.46, with a special feature on 4000 years of food history in China. How about taking a luxurious gastro-tour of vibrant China while staying here in Miyazaki?

### An Englishman in Miyazaki

### "A Rumi With a View"



Miyazaki Prefecture CIR  
Marsh Graham

Hi everyone! I hope you're all keeping well. The whole current situation reminded me of an old story that I thought was particularly relevant right now, as told by a 13<sup>th</sup> Century poet from Persia (modern Iran), named Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī ("Rumi" to his friends, and those writing a column with a word limit). Rumi's story concerns a Sultan, who had been deceived by someone he trusted, and so asked a wise man to fashion for him a magic item of jewelry that would make him feel happy when he was sad, and remind him of the fickle and transient nature of the human condition. What the

wise man produced for the Sultan was a ring bearing the inscription "این نیز بگذرد", which loosely translates to "and this, too, shall pass away." It worked brilliantly, although it also had the negative effect of being able to make the Sultan feel sad when he was happy, since the same logic works both ways. Either way, it's a great reminder to think about the big picture now and then, and to not take things too seriously.