



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

Plaza Holiday Closing

The International Plaza will be closed for the end and beginning of year holidays from December 29th(Fri) to January 3rd(Wed), 2023. *We will be reopening from January 4th(Thu), 2023.

International Chat Sessions Second Term *Registration Required

Let's chat in English, Chinese, and Korean with Prefectural Coordinators for International Relations and foreign volunteers.

<English>

◇**Dates & Times:** 2024 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17
Saturdays 10:30am - 11:30am 6 sessions in total◇**Spaces Available:** 10 (If there are more applicants than spaces, we will give priority to first time applicants.)◇**Target:** Those who can make basic conversation in English.◇**Application Deadline:** December 21st(Thu)

<Chinese>

◇**Dates & Times:** 2024 1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27
Tuesdays 18:00 - 19:00 6 sessions in total◇**Spaces Available:** 5 (If there are more applicants than spaces, we will give priority to supporting members and first time applicants.)◇**Target:** Those interested in Chinese.◇**Application Deadline:** December 26th(Tue)★**Venue:** CARINO Miyazaki B1★**Fee:** patrons and students ¥1,000 (6 sessions)
non-members ¥3,000 (6 sessions)
middle school students and under ¥500 (6 sessions)★**To Apply:** Apply in person, by phone, or by e-mail and provide your name, address, contact number.★**Inquiries & Application:** Miyazaki International Foundation

Japanese Practice Sessions *Free, Registration Required

◇**Dates & Times:**

[Wednesday] 10:30am - 11:30am 12/6, 12/13, 12/20,

[Friday] 10:30am - 11:30am 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22

◇**Venue:** CARINO Miyazaki B1F◇**Inquiries:** Miyazaki International Foundation

Talk with the CIRs ♪ *Free, Registration Required

★A chat with Eilidh from the U.K. (Japanese & English)

◇**Date & Time:** December 8th(Fri) 15:00 - 16:00◇**Application Deadline:** December 5th(Tue)

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

◇**Date & Time:** December 21st(Thu) 15:00 - 16:00◇**Application Deadline:** December 14th(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 & Application:** 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

International Understanding Lecture – U.S.A. In Miyakonojo city *Free, Registration Required



"Discovering the diversity of the Southwest and learning Tang Soo Do (Korean karate)"

Mr. Seth Landis Steele from the United States will speak about the diversity of the American Southwest and Korean martial art of Tang Soon Do, for which he holds an American title. Let's try it and interact together!

◇**Date & Time:** February 3rd (Sat) 14:30 - 16:30◇**Venue:** Miyakonojo City Hall, North Annex
2F Shared conference room◇**Lecturer:** Mr. Seth Landis Steele
(Miyakonojo City, Coordinator of International Relations)◇**Spaces Available:** 15 (First-come, first-served)◇**Fee:** Free◇**To Apply:** Please let us know your name, address, phone number, by phone, fax, email or in person.
You can apply using Google form.<https://forms.gle/8jr8fBkJxoTayhkV9>◇**Application Deadline:** January 20th (Sat)◇**Inquiries & Application:** Miyazaki International Foundation

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

Have fun practicing your Japanese with local residents!

◇**Date & Time:** January 21st (Sun) 10:00am - 12:00 noon◇**Venue:** Shintomi Town General Cultural Exchange Center Kirari◇**Fee:** Free◇**How to Apply:** Please send us your name, phone number, nationality and Japanese language level by email.◇**Inquiries & Application:**

Miyazaki International Foundation





Online International Understanding Lecture -U.S.A. *Free, Registration Required

***Learning about the multi-ethnic nation of America from the perspective of 1.5 generation immigrants ***

Mr. John Lee Addicks O'Toole, a Vietnamese American, will be the lecturer, and will talk about the current situation and challenges of immigrants in the United States, the conflicts he faced as an immigrant, and his own experience connecting with the world through skateboarding and supporting rural communities.
*The talk will be held in English, but a Japanese interpreter will be provided.

- ◇**Date & Time:** February 17th (Sat) 10:30am - 12:00 noon
- ◇**Venue:** Online (Zoom)
- ◇**Lecturer:** Mr. John Le Addicks O'Toole
- ◇**Fee:** Free
- ◇**To Apply:** <https://forms.gle/SPeHtWKAjMfGtcqR9>
- ◇**Application Deadline:** February 2nd (Fri)
- ◇**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
- ◇**Inquiries :** Miyazaki International Foundation

Staff's Tweet



I recently returned to Japan for the first time after living in the southern hemisphere for the last 17 years. Many things feel nostalgic, but also fresh. I simultaneously feel that much of my own way of thinking has changed, and yet at the same time, there are some things that remain the same.
I feel this especially as we approach Christmas and the New Year, as in the country I have lived for the past 17 years, it is said that Santa Claus comes riding on a surfboard. In the Southern Hemisphere, Christmas is in the middle of summer and so it is also common to spend New Year's Day having BBQ on the beach. It is a nice custom for housewives to spend this time relaxing in the warmth, but there is something I still like about Christmas in the winter. Something about Santa riding on his sleigh makes it feel like the real thing.
I am looking forward to this winter Christmas in Miyazaki, and although it may be wishful thinking, I hope it snows! (Staff: I)

A Message from the Miyazaki Support Center

Daily Life Consultations for Foreign Residents in Miyakonojo *Free, Reservation Required

Staff will be available for consultations concerning everyday difficulties. You can consult with us in your native language. (We may use machine translation and phone interpreting services for consultations.)



- Consultations are strictly confidential.
- *Reservation required. (Appointments are available on the day.)
- *Online consultations (using Zoom) is available at any time.

- ◇**Date & Time:** December 16th (Sat) 13:00 - 15:00
- ◇**Venue:** Miyakonojo City Mallmall,
Machinaka Exchange Center 1st floor, Meeting room 1
(17-19 Nakamachi, Miyakonojo)
- ◇**How to Apply:** Priority will be given to advance reservations. You can also come in person (up to 30 minutes per appointment). Please send us an email or fax at least one day in advance containing: ①your name, ②contact details (telephone number), ③ what you would like to discuss, and ④what language you would prefer to use for consultation.
- ◇**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

Local Announcements <Kobayashi City>

Local Japanese Class "KIZUNA" *Free, Reservation Required

A class where you can speak, read, and write Japanese. It is a class where you can enjoy speaking with the Japanese language teacher and people of Kobayashi. Children can participate with you. (Childcare is also available)

- ◇**Date & Time / Theme:**
 - December 17th (Sun) 10:00am - 12:00 noon
Making New Year's cards
 - January 7th (Sun) 10:00am - 12:00 noon
New Year's games
- ◇**Venue:** TENAMU building 2F (Kobayashi City Hosono 1897)
- ◇**Target:** Foreign residents interested in taking classes.
- ◇**Fee:** Free
- ◇**Inquiries:** Kobayashi City
Regional Revitalisation Division
TEL:0984-23-1148



A Scot in Miyazaki

" 'Tis the Season! "



**Miyazaki Prefecture CIR
Eilidh Galloway**

"It's TIME" – sang in a high-pitched Mariah Carey whistle note. Finally, it's December, which means it is now an acceptable time to whack on those Christmas tunes and get festive! One interesting and quite recent holiday trend in the UK is the wearing of Christmas jumpers to work or school. When I was in high school, on the last day before the holidays everyone wore Christmas jumpers, from simple patterns of snowflakes and snowmen to ones that read 'Merry Christmas' or 'Tis the Season', to others that had a massive reindeer with a big red nose that actually lit up! Another seasonal favourite of mine is walking down the streets near my house and seeing Christmas trees in the windows of all the houses. I always enjoy seeing how other people decorate their trees, what coloured lights they use, the amount of tinsel or baubles, and of course what they put on the very top of their tree! But most of all the countdown to Christmas for me is marked by the annual purchasing of an advent calendar. With 24 small doors that each hold a little treat, usually chocolate, for you to enjoy each day until Christmas day. If you ever go to a British supermarket in November, you will see the shelves are already lined with all kinds of different chocolate advent calendars in preparation for December!
Christmas in Japan has a slightly different feel to back home, and, unfortunately, I don't own a Christmas tree, but you best believe I will be whipping out that Christmas jumper on December 1st, because after all I only get to wear it once a year! I hope you all have a very merry Christmas!

