



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 Email: miyainfo@mif.or.jp Homepage: <https://www.mif.or.jp/>

Open: Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10:00 am to 7:00 pm Closed: Sundays, Mondays, National Holidays and December 29 to January 3

Hinata Japanese Classes Online Beginner 1-2-3 *Application required

Learn some essential Japanese to help you be more active in your local community! Anyone who is living in Miyazaki Prefecture and able to use Zoom can take part.

<Beginner1>

◇Date & Time: June 12 (Wed) to Sep 27 (Fri)
Every Wednesday and Friday 1:30pm - 3:30pm
30 lessons in total

◇Target: Those learning Japanese for the first time
◇Class Size: 7 people ◇Textbook fee : ¥2,640



<Beginner2>

◇Date & Time: June 11 (Tue) to Sep 26 (Thu)
Every Tuesday and Thursday 10:00am - 12:00noon
30 lessons in total

◇Target: Those who can read Hiragana and Katakana
◇Class Size: 7 people ◇Textbook fee : ¥2,640

<Beginner3>

◇Date & Time: June 12 (Wed) to Sep 27 (Fri)
Every Wednesday and Friday 10:00am - 12:00noon
30 lessons in total

◇Target: Those who can already read and write Hiragana and Katakana, and make simple conversation in Japanese
◇Class Size: 7 people ◇Textbook fee : ¥2,640

★Course Fee: Free

*Participants will need to buy their own textbook

★Application: <https://forms.gle/ZPVoSeEcQpPjrmMt5>

★Inquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation



A Guide to Studying Japanese Online

There are plenty of websites and online platforms designed for you to study Japanese to a schedule that suits you. Here are a few that you can use for free.



○Connect and Enhance Your Life in Japanese

(<https://tsunagarujp.bunka.go.jp/>)

You can learn basic Japanese expressions and words from everyday situations experienced by foreigners living in Japan.

○Irodori Japanese for everyday life

(The Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute, Urawa)

(<https://www.irodori.jpf.go.jp/>)

This is a teaching material for foreigners to acquire basic Japanese communication skills necessary for living and working in Japan.

○Marugoto

(The Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute, Urawa)

(<https://marugoto.jpf.go.jp/>)

You can study the Japanese language and culture using the Japanese teaching material "Marugoto".

Talk with the CIRs ♪ *Free, Registration Required

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

★A chat with Katherine from England (Japanese & English)



◇Date & Time: June 14 (Fri) 3 - 4pm

◇Registration Deadline: June 7 (Fri)

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

◇Date & Time: June 25 (Tue) 3 - 4pm

◇Registration Deadline: June 18 (Tue)



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

◇Date & Time: June 27 (Thu) 3 - 4pm

◇Registration Deadline: June 20 (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

International Understanding Lecture - Austria *Free, Registration Required



"All about Austria: The land of exquisite music and innovation in SDGs."



We are delighted to welcome our next speaker, who has experience living in Austria. She will be speaking about Austrian culture and society, as well as the country's approach to Sustainable Development Goals.

◇Date & Time: July 6 (Sat) 2pm - 4pm

◇Venue: Carino Miyazaki B1 meeting room

◇Lecturer: Ms. Sayaka Kunizaki ◇Fee: Free

Google Form

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

◇To Register: Please let us know your name, email address, phone number, by phone, email or in person. You can apply using Google form.



◇Registration Deadline: June 25 (Tue)

◇Inquiries & Registration: Miyazaki International Foundation

Staff's Tweet

I was getting ready to go to a friend's wedding the other day, when I remembered something I heard while I was living in Taiwan.



When you give goshugi (gift money) at a wedding, while the actual sum of money will depend on how close you are to the couple, in Japan you'll almost always make it an odd number. This is because even numbers can be divided in two – and nobody wants to think about "dividing in two" at a wedding. But in Chinese speaking cultures, it's always an even number. This comes down to the traditional Chinese saying that all good things come in pairs. Even numbers are thought of as lucky, as they symbolize balance and harmony. People often use the number 2, meaning a "couple", as well as numbers that sound like other words associated with good fortune. 6, for instance, means "things will go well no matter what", while 8 is supposed to bring about wealth and prosperity. When my Taiwanese friend found out why even numbers are looked at negatively in Japan, she laughed. "At a wedding, you've got two people, the bride and the groom," she pointed out. "Won't they find it easier to get along with a number that divides evenly?" (Staff: Y)

A Message from the Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents

Daily Life Consultations for Foreign Residents (Indonesia) *Free, Reservation Required

Consultations are available in Indonesian about any problems in your life. Consultations are strictly confidential.

*Reservation required. (Appointments are available on the day.)

◇Date & Time: June 29(Sat) 2:00pm - 4:00pm

◇Venue: Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents
(Online Consultations (using Zoom) are also available.)

◇Spaces Available: 4

◇Inquiries & Application:

Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents
(Carino Miyazaki B1F)
TEL : 0985-41-5901 FAX : 0985-41-5902
E-mail : support@mif.or.jp



Local Announcements

< Miyazaki City >

Kosodate Café *Free, Registration required

This is an international exchange specifically aimed at parents and expecting mothers who come from abroad, are in international marriages, or who otherwise have roots overseas. There will be a public health nurse on hand for consultations about childcare. For this meet-up, we'll be preparing some easy-to-make Japanese homecooked meals.

◇Date & Time: June 7 (Fri) 10:00am - 13:00

◇Venue: The Miyazaki Center for Gender Equality ("Palette")
(near the Aobacho intersection)

◇Fee: Free

◇Registration: Text "kosodate" to the official LINE account on the right. We will respond promptly with further information.



We're dispatching Japanese teachers to companies with foreign employees!



The Miyazaki City International Association is sending Japanese teachers to companies with foreign employees within the city (including Kiyotake, Tano and Sadowara). For more information, please contact us below:

◇Inquiries: Miyazaki City International Association

TEL: 0985-44-1770 FAX: 0985-44-1775

Email: miyazaki-mcia@miyazaki-catv.ne.jp

< Kobayashi City >

Local Japanese Class "KIZUNA"

*Free, Registration 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. (A daycare teacher will look after your children.)

◇Date & Time / Theme:

• July 14 (Sun) 10:00am - 12:00pm / Talking about yourself

• July 28 (Sun) 10:00am - 12:00pm / Going shopping

◇Venue: TENAMU building (Kobayashi City Hosono 1897)

◇Target: Foreign residents who want to speak Japanese

◇Fee: Free

◇Registration & Inquiries: Kobayashi City Regional Revitalisation Division TEL : 0984-23-1148



< Ebino City >

Japanese language learning courses

*Free, Registration required



We are holding beginner level Japanese courses to support our foreign residents.

◇Date & Time / Theme:

Every Saturday starting from May 18(Sat) 10am - 12noon

◇Venue: Ebino City International Exchange Center

◇Target: We accept foreign nationals who have lived in Japan for less than two years, and others who are interested, depending on their Japanese level.

◇Fee: Free

◇Lecturer: Japanese language teacher
(experience teaching Japanese in Thailand)

◇Registration : Sign up at any time

Ebino City International Exchange Center

TEL : 0984-35-3211 Email : ebino-kokusai@chic.ocn.ne.jp

< Kawaminami >

Kawaminami Online Japanese Class

*Free, Registration Required



Study the Japanese you need for daily life online on ZOOM, with the help of a Japanese teacher.

◇Target: Foreign residents in Kawaminami who are able to use ZOOM on their laptop or smartphone

◇Fee: Free

◇Registration: Please send a message to:

Kawaminami Japanese Language Class

Email : kawaminamijapan@gmail.com TEL : 080-3711-4326

Confessions of a scaredy-cat

"Greetings!"



Miyazaki Prefecture CIR
Katherine Kessler

Hello everyone! I'm Katherine, the new Coordinator of International Relations at the Miyazaki Prefectural Government office. I come from London, and I moved to Miyazaki one month ago. Starting now, I'll be translating this newsletter for you, and writing a new monthly column, which I'm calling "Confessions of a scaredy-cat!"

Why this title, you may ask? Because truthfully, that is exactly what I am. I get anxious about all sorts of things, some of them normal and some of them not so much, and uprooting my whole life to move to another country is definitely the bravest thing I've managed to do in my life. I'm thrilled to be here and I'm very excited to discover what life has to offer in Miyazaki, but I'd be lying if I said I wasn't pretty intimidated at times! And I'm sure there are several of you out there who feel the same, if you moved here from other countries. So this column's my attempt to document the process of getting over these anxieties, bit by bit, as I get accustomed to life in Miyazaki and Japan in general. I hope it's helpful to you if you're a worrier like me – and if not, I hope you at least get a kick out of it.

To wrap things up here, I'll start with a light hearted one I'm sure plenty of foreigners can relate to: natto. That sticky, intensely flavored dish made with fermented soybeans. It's a famously "acquired taste" that Japanese people love to try out on foreigners to see how they manage it. And let me be the first to admit: I have not acquired it. I haven't even tried natto. But I will let you know when I've mustered the courage to do so!

