



# MIA news

Miyakonojo International Association

Miyakonojo International Association  
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## Our Town, Our People

This corner introduces foreign nationals living in Miyakonojo and Mimata, as well as residents engaged in international projects.



Hello everyone! My name is නෙශාන් ගීරංග අබේසිංහ (Neshan Geeranga Abeysinghe) from Sri Lanka. Presently, I am in my second year of studying Environmental Horticulture at Minami Kyushu University, Miyakonojo Campus. I came to Japan on the 6th of April, 2017. I first spent 2 years studying Japanese at the Futaba Foreign Language School, from which I graduated and chose to enrol at Minami Kyushu University, leading me to Miyakonojo.

Sri Lanka is a country located in South Asia. If you look at a map, you will find a small island country located to the south of India, surrounded by the Indian Ocean on all sides. Sri Lanka has a land area of 65,610 km<sup>2</sup>, which makes it roughly twice the size of Kyushu, and its capital is known as Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte. We do not share the same 4 seasons of Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter as Japan has. Rather, we have a consistent temperature of around 30 degrees year round. Our country has 3 main languages of Sinhalese, Tamil & English. In terms of religion, 70% of our population is primarily Buddhist, with proportions of our population following the teachings of Christianity, Hinduism & Islam.



Though we have a New Year's celebration in Sri Lanka as well, unlike Japan, we celebrate ours in April. When New Year's comes around, we make traditional candies, enjoy traditional sports, and make our way around to see our friends and relatives at their homes. The following month in May, there is another major festival celebrating the Buddha's birth, enlightenment and entering into Nirvana. Buddhists spend this day putting up beautiful decorations in their home and visiting nearby temples. Wesak (Vesak) Lanterns are made and adorn our houses, and a big celebration is held. Making these lanterns and putting them around our house is something I did every year as a child. Since these lanterns are made from bamboo, I'd like to try making some here when I find the time.



### Note from the Editor:

As it may be difficult to see the original characters used to represent Neshan's name in his native Sinhalese as written above, the same characters have been included here once more in an enlarged font:

නෙශාන් ගීරංග අබේසිංහ

## General Information

※For all events listed below, necessary precautions will be taken in order to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

Additionally, we ask for your cooperation with the following precautions:

\*Hand Sanitisation \*Use of Masks \*Body Temperature (Participants must not have a fever of 37.5°C or above)

### ◇ Members Only International Understanding Seminars: China & Mongolia

Miyakonojo's CIRs Qian Huiwen (China) & Soyolmaa Luimed (Mongolia) will be introducing their countries and hometowns in Japanese at two seminars.

#### Ⓐ Mongolia

Date & Time: Dec. 15th (Tue) 2020,  
10:30 - 11:30AM



Presented By Ms. Soyolmaa Luimed

Content: Presentation introducing Mongolian Culture  
Learn to make Mongolian Christmas Decorations!

#### Ⓑ China

Date & Time: Dec. 16th (Wed) 2020,  
10:30 - 11:30AM



Presented By Ms. Qian Huiwen (from Shanghai)

Content: Introducing Shanghai

#### Further details regarding both Ⓐ & Ⓑ

Location: Miyakonojo Community Centre  
2nd Floor Study Room

Cost: Free

Capacity: 15 members (participants will be selected by lottery if applications exceed 15 members)

**These courses are being run for MIA members only.**

When applying, please provide the following details:

- ① Name
  - ② Preferred Method of Contact (Phone Number/E-mail)
  - ③ Seminar Preference (If you wish to attend both, please include which is your first preference)
- You may apply over the phone or by e-mail.

#### Applications close December 7th (Monday)

\* Successful applicants will be contacted and informed by phone or e-mail by December 10th (Thu).

Please direct all applications and inquiries to:  
Miyakonojo International Association Office

Phone: 0986-23-2295

Mail: mia@btvm.ne.jp

### ◇ Trivia Night Answers!

How did you go with last month's trivia questions? Though it is unfortunate that we could not hold our yearly World Beer & Trivia Night this year, we are hopeful that we will be able to do so next year.

For those who took on the challenge of last month's questions, here are the answers, with a little bit of extra information for the curious:

- 1) *How many characters are in the Mongolian Cyrillic Alphabet?*  
→ 35! This is actually 2 more than the modern Russian Cyrillic alphabet!
- 2) *List all seven of the 'Ancient Wonders of the World'. How many of these wonders still remain standing?*  
→ The Great Pyramid of Giza, The Colossus of Rhodes, The Lighthouse of Alexandria, The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, The Temple of Artemis, The Statue of Zeus and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Only the Great Pyramid remains today!
- 3) *What is the 27th character in the English Alphabet?*  
→ The Ampersand! As it turns out, the ampersand (&) was traditionally treated as a part of the alphabet. Due to a certain song becoming popular, however, it eventually lost its place, and the modern alphabet is now often treated as having 26 characters!
- 4) *On a standard competition dartboard, what number lies to the right of the number 20?*  
→ 1! With a 5 on the left hand side, aiming for the 20 can be quite risky if your shot is a little bit off!
- 5) *Which planet's English name does NOT stem from the name of an ancient Roman or Greek God?*  
→ Earth! All of our other planets borrow their names directly from ancient mythology as follows:  
Mercury (Roman God Mercury, of Commerce/Eloquence/Communication/Travelers, etc.)  
Venus (Roman God Venus, of Love)  
Mars (Roman God Mars, of War)  
Jupiter (Roman God Jupiter, of the Sky/Lightning)  
Saturn (Roman God Saturn, of Wealth/Time, etc.)  
Uranus (Greek God Uranus, of the Sky)  
Neptune (Roman God Neptune, of the Sea)  
Pluto (Roman God Pluto, ruler of the Underworld)



### Movies info

C-Plaza Cine-port (Tel: 0986-24-2571)

17-9 Nakamachi, Miyakonojo, Miyazaki Map-Code (GPS): 117 488 540\*55



- Kimetsu no Yaiba the Movie: Infinity Train (Japanese)
- Tonkatsu DJ Age-Taro (Japanese)
- The Legacy of Doctor Death -BLACK FILE- (Japanese)
- Oni Girl (Japanese)
- Jikobukken Kowai Madori (Japanese)
- Stand By Me: Doraemon 2 (Japanese)

\*The 1st of every month is ¥1,100 for everyone.

\*Every Wednesday is 'Ladies' Day', all ladies ¥1,100.

\*The cinema is closed every Tuesday.

\*For session times visit: <http://movie.walkerplus.com/th286/schedule.html> (Japanese)