



MIA news

Miyakonojo International Association

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Notices

Greetings from the Office Head:

Hello everyone. My name is Shibuya Yoshiharu (渋谷吉春), and as of the start of April, I will be joining MIA as the new Office Head.

In my forties, I was in charge of the middle school exchange programs for the Education Department's Schools & Education Division. I have previously been dispatched to Australia, China & Mongolia; these happen to be exactly the



three countries from which our current CIRs hail. I feel this must be some sort of fate.

Regarding the 2022 Annual General Meeting

The Miyakonojo International Association's Annual General Meeting for 2022, due to the continued spread of the Novel Coronavirus for the foreseeable future, has been cancelled for this financial year.

With regards to upcoming plans for projects and events, further notification will be made once more at a later date.

Inquiries: TEL 0986-23-2295
E-mail: mia@btvm.ne.jp

Bonchi de Travel Results!

Bonchi de Travel was an international exchange event held from January 14th to February 28th at City Hall in the 1st Floor Lobby. Each of Miyakonojo's three CIRs put on displays of recommended travel destinations, held a vote-by-sticker panel, and held an episode drive, seeking to hear from the people of Miyakonojo about their experiences with each country. As the results of voting on these episodes have now been released, we would like to share with you the winners!



China

First Place - "Food Stalls popular with locals" (当地人会去的饭馆)

Roughly 30 years ago, when I was in my late twenties, I spent two years travelling throughout China. Backpacking, with no plan. My first stint was from Hong Kong to Peking. My second was from Shanghai to Ürümqi. Everyone I met from around the world, and especially the people of China, each day gathered for something akin to a banquet. It was so much fun! Dunhuang's donkey-based cuisine particularly left an impression, but the Niúròu miàn (Beef noodle soup), the shāobǐng (Fried rice cakes)... I couldn't possibly list them all! Now, what do I want to try next?

Chǎo shǒu (Spicy Wontons)!

Nickname: Kuma. Age: 60's.

Second Place - "Hainan Dao" (海南岛)

Around 20 years ago, I went to Hainan Dao, a place often called "the Hawaii of the Far East". The ocean was gorgeous, the place had an atmosphere similar to Vietnam, Thailand or Okinawa, and all of the people I met on the streets were very friendly and inviting. Every day, when I was on a break from work, I would look forward to going to lunch with a co-worker at one of the stalls between buildings; I have memories of getting delicious cold noodles or seafood noodle soup. It's definitely one place I would like to revisit and reunite with everyone.

Nickname: Mii-tan. Age: 40's.

CIR Special Prize - "Hot Pot" (火锅)

The other day, I went to a Chinese restaurant and had hot pot for the first time ever. It was spicy, but very delicious! Hot pot is the best!

Nickname: Jun. Age: 40's.

Australia

1st Place - Melbourne

When I was a primary school student, and the Melbourne Olympics began, I remember that we danced to a song about the Olympics (In Japan, this was for 1st and 2nd year students). While I didn't know about the names of other countries or cities at that age, Melbourne is the one name that has stayed in my head, all this time. One more memory I have is of Perth. A superior at the company I worked for played an active role for us in Perth. While they passed away some two or three years ago, I still fondly remember their smile.

Nickname: Aa-chan. Age: 70's.

2nd Place - Coffs Harbour

The town I lived in was Nambucca Heads. On the weekends, I would drive an hour up to Coffs Harbour to go shopping. As the sun rose and peeked through my bedroom window, a number of small birds would come to play on the rooftop. While work was hard, each day was enjoyable.

Nickname: Marty. Age: 70's.



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Bonchi de Travel Results!

CIR Special Prize - Gold Coast

As a first year at university, I took a month of summer break in a homestay program on the Gold Coast. I was staying with an elderly woman in her seventies (living on her own), and she treated me as if I was her own grandchild; I got to feel first-hand the warmth of the Australian people. Just before returning home, at the airport, I cried because I didn't want to leave, and she gave me a big hug. I would love to go and visit her again.

Nickname: Maa. Age: 20's.

Mongolia

1st Place - "Mongolian Cuisine" (Монгол хоол)

A number of times, I've had the pleasure of trying Mongolian cuisine offered to me, and they were all delicious! They use a lot of meat and vegetables, and it really warms you up. I'd love to head there one day, and try some local food in Mongolia! Бууз, Хуушуур, Цуйван, Банштай цай

(Buuz (Steamed dumplings), Khuushuur (Fried dumplings), Tsuivan (Mongolian noodle stew), Banshtai tsai (Milk tea with dumplings)).

Nickname: Yamamusume. Age: 30's

2nd Place - No title

Three years ago, a young boy from Mongolia stayed with us for a homestay program. He brought with him a photo album full of pictures of the Mongolian landscape. We still keep in touch to this day. I'd love to go there some day.

Nickname: 22maru. Age: 40's

CIR Special Prize - "Food" (Хоол)

The meat is a given, but I'd also love to try eating Mongolia's dairy products, such as cheese, milk, and yoghurt.♥ I've once been to Mongolia on a business trip, and I'll never forget the brilliant blue sky, the freshness of the air, or the warmth of the people.

Nickname: Yoppii. Age: 30's.

Aussie Bites! (Great Ocean Road, by George Goonan)



Just a short drive from Melbourne (1hr 20min) is one of my favourite holiday destinations, the Great Ocean Road. Calling it a destination isn't quite right though, as it stretches across 243km, and is home to a number of stellar beaches and unique landmarks! The photo you see here was taken at one of these landmarks called The Grotto, located on the latter half of the Great Ocean Road. If you get lucky, you might have the whole

beach to yourself, and there's even a few small caves off the beaten path!

Fish & Chips along the coast, great surf, plenty of hiking trails inland... What more could you want!

◇ Articles For MIA News

Are you interested in writing a short article about international exchange or cooperation for MIA News? Some possible topics include travel journals, introductions to your home country, experiences staying with a host family, and activities with an international exchange or cooperation group. Articles should be about a page long and include a couple of relevant pictures. If you'd like to write more than that, please consult with MIA. If you'd like to write anonymously, that can be taken into consideration.

We are also looking for people interested in sharing their Australian experiences. Whether it's a rare location you found or some fascinating people you interacted with, we want to share your story with all of our MIA members!

Please contact us if you are interested!



Movies info

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

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



- Sing: Next Stage (Japanese Dub)
- The Batman (Japanese Sub/Dub)
- Yomei 10 Nen (Japanese)
- Doraemon: Nobita's Little Star Wars 2021 (Japanese)
- West Side Story (Japanese Sub)

- Jujutsu Kaisen 0: The Movie (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)