



MIA news

Miyakonojo International Association

Miyakonojo International Association
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I LOVE MIYAKONOJO! - Soyolmaa Luimed (Mongolian CIR)

Since coming to Miyakonojo City Hall as a Coordinator of International Relations (CIR), it has come time for me to welcome in summer for the seventh time. It is thanks to the gentleness of her people and the general ease of living here that each day in Miyakonojo has been so thoroughly enjoyable. I would like to offer my heartfelt gratitude to everyone I have met during my time here.



I am the 6th generation of CIR to come from Mongolia; to those who came before me and laid the foundations for Mongolian CIRs in Miyakonojo City, I am extremely grateful. As to exactly why Miyakonojo City began to take in CIRs from Mongolia, it is closely related to citizens from this city who, after visiting friends in Mongolia, returned home and decided they wanted to “bring light to the nomads of Mongolia” by means of wind-power generators (this resulted in a group known as モンゴルに風力発電機を贈る会, Mongoru ni Fūryoku Hatsudenki wo Okuru Kai, The Delivering Windpower Generators to Mongolia Association). Mr Kawasaki and his counterparts, who were central to these activities at the time, continue to undertake varied activities that ultimately provide support to numerous Mongolian citizens. To Mr Kawasaki and everyone else who continue to be benefactors for Mongolians both in this city and at home through the Miyakonojo-Mongolia Friendship Association (都城モンゴル友好協会), thank you. I hope that this exchange that has brought us together continues to bind Miyakonojo City and Mongolia as one, with ever greater exchange opportunities and projects into the future.

I'd also like to thank the many students and staff at Miyakonojo's Elementary, Middle, High and Technical schools. In getting to know you all, you bestowed upon me the title “Teacher of Mongolia”, an honour I will carry with me for

the rest of my life. As I have children of my own that continue to teach me many things, I find myself being the student while the students are the “teachers”. Beyond this, meeting the students that will carry Miyakonojo and Japan into tomorrow and hearing about their thoughts and dreams for the future has been one of the most valuable learning experiences of my life. To all of our cute, good-natured and energetic kids, thank you! There's one more addition here that I just HAVE to make: our cutest teachers of all, the kindergarteners! One of the special privileges of my position is being allowed to play the part of “Santa” for all the kindergarteners. To each and every one of the kids who became my teacher and friend, thank you!

Next, to everyone who I had the opportunity to meet and get to know through introducing Mongolia at each region's community centre; those lively people who made Japan what it is today and hold the power. Each and every word that came from these energetic yet gentle people was a valuable teaching in its own right. I will step forward into the future holding precious all of the time we spent together and connections we made. To everyone I met through our study sessions at community centers, thank you very much!

As a CIR, Miyakonojo City citizen, and as a Mongolian, there is someone that I immediately adored from the moment we met. A person who has worked tirelessly to spread Japan's traditional culture, irrespective of nationality or age, to a number of Japanese and international children and adults alike: the master instructor of the Fujima branch of Japanese traditional dance, Ms Fujima Sumimaru. I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to Ms Fujima, as well as her disciples in the Sumimaru group. This month, thanks to the assistance of Ms Fujima and everyone in the Sumimaru group, the “Japan-Mongolia 50 Year Anniversary of Establishing Diplomatic Relations Video Production ~ Celebrating through Japanese Traditional Dance! ~”, as developed by local Mongolian residents, ended in success; this will be spread throughout Mongolia using our official Facebook page, allowing us to let everyone know about more about the charm and beauty of Miyakonojo City. Miyakonojo City's head of PR, Bonchikun, made space in his busy schedule to join us as a special guest, and helped us bring Mongolia and Japan, as well as Miyakonojo and Ulaanbaatar, closer together. Bonchi-kun, Aigatogashita! (Arigatō gozaimashita, as spoken in Miyakonojo's dialect).

We also uploaded to YouTube a video on July 1st about Japanese Traditional Dance; I'd like to once again thank Ms Fujima for her time spent teaching us. When it comes to cultural exchange, it is truly a field without boundaries; culture imparts the gravity of common ground, exchange allows us to once more learn what is important to us, each of

To everyone who has taken the time to read this article, should you be interested, please take a look at the previ-



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ously mentioned video by following the link in the QR code below!

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLglb6_tntawDPYf7uDcFTVxXP1miYgO2Y



Next, I'd like to thank the fire department, Rotary Clubs, the local library, and the numerous other groups that represent the local government and the citizens of Miyakonojo, for all the times that they have called on myself and the other CIRs to join them for study sessions and other events. I am extremely happy to have been able to jointly engage in so many wonderful events; I've learned so much from it all.

To all of the people who greet me with warmth and a smile on the way from my home to work, everyone who lets me know "I heard you on the radio", and everyone to whom I am indebted through club activities and regional meetings; to all of my superiors who have shared with myself and my fellow CIRs all that our city has to offer (including some home-made pesticide-free vegetables!), all the city hall staff that exemplify polite hospitality through their greetings and warm reception, and the staff that manage our public service vehicles; to everyone that has supported international exchange through the Miyakonojo International Association, including all of its members and staff; to all of you, I am truly grateful! It is thanks to all of the wonderful CIR supervisors and Internationalisation Promotion Office staff that have led us to the present moment, that while learning about the need for fulfilling public service through daily tasks, I have been able to obtain a plethora of invaluable experiences as a person and as a CIR. *Маш их баярлалаа!* (Mash ikh bayarlalaa, thank you so much!)

While I personally love the fresh water, clean air and abundant greenery that Miyakonojo offers, I feel that one of the most attractive parts of this city is in fact its ease of living, as well as its enriching public services. Additionally, the development of International Exchange continues to hold an important position within the city's administration, and this exchange is continuing across a number of countries. Being able to work at the number one City Hall in Japan has been an honour, and I personally hope that I can continue to use Miyakonojo City Hall as a case study. I am incredibly grateful for all of the wonderful people I have had the chance to meet and make connections with, but even those people who I've yet to meet, I cherish the opportunities given to me through MIA NEWS, the City's PR magazine, and our local radio shows, through which I've been able to share experiences with you all.

To the other CIRs who have been with me each and every day, working hard and supporting each other; I'm so happy to have become close enough to understand each other, even without speaking a word! To all of the friends from countries around the world that I've made both in Miyakonojo City and across the prefecture, thank you all! Through becoming friends with you, I feel as if I've travelled a bit of each of your home countries, a luxury that I'm glad to have been able to experience.

As of this month, I will be graduating from my position as a Coordinator of International Relations, but I will strive to continue to contribute to the deepening of ties between Japan and Mongolia, as well between Miyakonojo City and Ulaanbaatar City. To that extent, I hope that you don't mind having me for a while longer yet!





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Aussie Bites! (A Trip to Australia, MIA Member Shigeo Yonemura)

I went to Australia roughly 10 years ago, in January 2011. With plans to go and see the Opera house, as well as hug a koala, my wife and I joined a tour group.

Our first destination was the Springbrook National Park, where they care for and manage Koalas and Kangaroos. There, we took a photo while hugging a koala. We also gave some feed to the kangaroos.

As a large number of them kept coming over to us, as much as I told myself to not step on their tails, I ended up treading on them a few times.



The following day, as the weather was clear, the Opera House looked beautiful as it shined and sparkled in the daylight.

The next day was once again clear skies, so we made our way out to the natural expanse known as the Blue Mountains (in particular, the Three Sisters). We heard from our tour guide that due to the evaporation of Eucalyptus oil in the trees, the air shimmers a shade of blue! It was an amazing sight to behold.

Finally, on our last night, we were guided to an observation point offering a wonderful nighttime view of the Sydney Harbour Bridge; truly a romantic sight.

Make sure you travel to Australia at least once in your life! It's a wonderful country.



Following the National Park, we made our way to a dance show held by Australia's traditional inhabitants, the Aboriginal people (I wonder if this show is still going?). Their entire performance felt very powerful.

Information & Notices

◇ Results of the 2022-23 AGM Vote on Agenda Items

With regards to the yearly agenda as sent out by post to members (excluding international residents and students), as a majority has been achieved, the agenda has been passed. Thank you for your cooperation.

◇ Currently Planned Events

June 26th (Sun): Community Safety Workshop (held)

September 10th (Sat): World Beer & Trivia Night

January 15th (Sun) 2023: World Festa

Weekly (Fri) & Bi-weekly (Sun): Japanese Practice Sessions

Other planned events:

Chinese & Mongolian Language courses, TALK & TALK, Chinese Talk session 「飯局」, Cooking Adventures, Japanese Volunteer Skill-up Sessions.

◇ Daily Life Consultations for Foreign Residents in Miyakonojo

Native language consultations concerning everyday difficulties will be available in Miyakonojo.

Date & Time: July 15th (Fri), 1PM - 3:30PM

Venue: Miyakonojo Community Center 2F (Washitsu 3)

How to Apply: E-mail or FAX MIF in advance with the following information: ①Name ②Phone Number

③Your concern (a brief description) ④Your language

*Sessions are 30 minutes per person. Be sure to make an appointment in advance

Inquiries & Application: Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents

TEL: 0985-41-5901, FAX: 0985-41-

5902

E-mail: support@mif.or.jp



Movies info

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

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



- Elvis (Japanese Sub)
- Fullmetal Alchemist: The Final Chapter - Scar the Avenger (Japanese)
- Shin Ultraman (Japanese)
- Dragon Ball Super: SUPER HERO (Japanese)
- Top Gun: Maverick (Japanese Sub)
- Meitantei Conan: Halloween Bride (Japanese)

- Tsuyukusa (Japanese)
- Buzz Lightyear (Japanese Dub)
 - *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)