

Chairman Inauguration Address



I, Nishida Kazutoshi, Miyakonojo City's Deputy Mayor of Business have been appointed as the Miyakonojo International Association's (MIA) Board of Directors Representative and Chairman.

As you are aware, yearly, there number of foreign residents in Japan is increasing. According to a survey conducted by the International Promotion Office, as of December Reiwa 5 (2023), there are 2,215 foreign residents in Miyakonojo city; marking the largest ever recorded. Furthermore, an investigation by the town of Mimata confirmed 189 foreign residents. With this, foreigners already reside within the Miyakonojo region in large numbers but from hereafter will continue to increase.

With this scenery as a base, together with people of different citizenship's and ethnoses, in order for cross-cultural understanding and to shape our region hand in hand, I'm convinced

several elements will gradually become more and more essential. Those elements are symbiotic intercultural understanding, foreigner support and consultation operations, and the ability to connect with those of different countries and cultures through our association's international exchange events.

In regards to the events that, up until last year, were cancelled due to the coronavirus's infection effects, they will gradually be resumed. However, in efforts to further contribute to the Miyakonojo region's international exchange/understanding and intercultural symbiosis, I'd like to sponsor events in the way before the time of Corona.

To all our officials and members, thank you for providing your ongoing cooperation and support.

Miyakonojo International Association (MIA)
Board of Directors and Chairman Nishida Kazutoshi

Departing Leads to an Even More Wonderful Reunion!

I am Miyakonojo's 16th Chinese Coordinator for International Relations: Karen Ei. Reluctantly, as my term nears its end, I offer my parting words.



As a CIR, I worked towards the mission of imparting correction information and fostering Chinese interest and understanding. Even if limited to just one person, I strove to contribute to Japan and China's friendship.

Within this year, with 54 times totaling over 98 combined hours, 70 percent of the work was International Exchange Classroom duties. From pre-school to senior citizen students, we presented to over 4899 attendees. Rather than one-directional seated classroom learning, I attempted to implement a style of participation-learning. I wore Hanfu, brought traditional goods and toys such as a shadow theater and Jianzi (shuttlecock kicking game), and started learning to play the Erhu (traditional Chinese instrument) to then perform to the students. I received a lot of letters from the students saying "Chongqing was shocking!" and "I want to visit China!". I subsequently felt enormous pride when a Miyazaki E-press article wrote "Karen's Chinese presentation left the biggest impression on our hearts".

Miyakonojo's allure lies in its plentiful nature and comfortable living. For example, the iris's, hydrangeas, and hibernating buzzards observable at Kanemidake, Mt. Takachiho, Mt. Karakuni, and Onamino Pond all manifest the year-round enjoyable climb up Kirishima's mountain range. Interacting with Mother Nature is not only extremely moving, but also equally as inspiring.

Regarding the comfortable livelihood, starting with being able to procure well balanced meals, I was satiated body to mind. Thanks to home-delivery meal service, even during a busy everyday routine, I was able to cook on short-notice. Additionally, thanks to the beauty salon worker's brilliant technique, my hair quality and nail shape significantly improved. From practicing kendo and Erhu to studying for test qualifications, both in body and mind I lived a fulfilling everyday.

I'll relay two points that surprised me about Miyakonojo.

The first is about beef. All of the beef in Miyakonojo has an assigned number along with its parent's information and birth plus

physical growth reports attached. It was shocking that you can track it up until the moment it becomes meat. Additionally, there is a "beauty" contest where the winning female cow is used for breeding. When I told my friends that Miyakonojo born calves are shipped to regions like Matsuzaka and Saga to be used as the nation's representative calf, even my Japanese friends were surprised.

The second surprising point is about chicken. I'd understand if it was fish or even horse but eating chicken raw? I first learned about this in Miyakonojo when, I heard about "tataki" (fresh half-raw chicken with its front face cooked). At first, I resisted eating it, but once I dug in, there was no sense of unpleasantness. I realized it was just a part of Japanese cuisine and I came to like it for its crispy-chewiness.

The first time I had Miyazaki's staple food, "Chicken Nanban", its sweetness struck me. I've now become used to sweetness so if something isn't sweet I find it strange. My mountain climbing friends taught me how to make it but I was taken aback upon learning that even though they are Kyushu neighbors, Miyazaki and Kagoshima's cooking methods for adding wheat and eggs, as well as the sweet vinegar production methods are different.

However, the true reason I became a fan of Miyakonojo is that it is a town overflowing with kindness. During kendo, my teacher instructed me without reserve. The townspeople treated me to all sorts of gourmet, invited me into their homes, made me sukiyaki and gane (Miyakonojo and Kagoshima local cuisine), taught me how to make Shimenawa (rope used to cordon off consecrated areas or as a talisman against evil), and helped me make lots of fun memories. Due to a recent leg injury, I was forced to live an unfree lifestyle for 2 months but due to the help from my doctor, workplace, schools, and frequented stores, I felt Miyakonojo's kindness and zealotness all over again.

This job may be over, but I'll continue to do international exchange. Not just with China, but I'll also share about the Miyakonojo that I love. From the bottom of my heart, I am looking forward to the possibility of meeting you all again!

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Movies In Theaters

- C-Plaza Cine-port (Tel: 0986-24-2571)
17-9 Nakamachi, Miyakonojo, Miyazaki
- Godzilla -1.0
 - Demon Slayer World Tour-Miracle Bonds, Hashira Training
 - Haikyuu-Battle at the Garbage Dump

- 2/16
- Matching
 - Doraemon Movie 43: Nobita no Chikyuu Symphony
 - My Home Hero: Film
 - Migawari Chushingura

- Dune Part 2
- Fly
- Disney & Pixar "3 Masterpieces to cry to" Turning Red, Soul, Luca
- Meitantei Conan Movie 27: 100-man Dollar no Michishirube 4/12