



In the Blink of an Eye

Miyakonoko City Chinese CIR CHO REIKA

Time really flies by...

A year in Miyakonojo, flashed by. In April, I will finish my work here in Miyakonojo City and return to China. The other day, when I was reserving my return ticket, I finally came to realize that I'd be leaving. The decision to leave my family in China to work in Japan was a selfish one but, fortunately, I was able to perform my work thanks to their understanding and support. Within this year, my family visited Japan many times making tons of wonderful memories.

For the nature-loving me, Miyakonojo is akin to paradise.

During our morning meetings at the main office (chourei), I could clearly view Mt. Takachiho's peak through the glass and when getting off work, I could stroll along the transparent Oyodogawa River's terrace. On sunny weekends, I would leisurely and willfully solo-cycle or invite friends to go mountain climbing. And last year, when I first climbed Mount Karakuni, we reached the summit just when the sunrise brightened the sky. From there I was blown back by the beauty of the sea of clouds spreading under my eyes.

For the food-loving me, Miyakonojo is akin to paradise.

The vegetables raised in Kirishima's water and black soil are divine, especially winter's sweet bok choy and napa cabbage. The sweet potatoes are sugary and springy so no matter how many I eat I'm never satiated. It doesn't even need to be stated how exquisite the meat is but charcoal grill, chicken naban, ginger-fried pork, and yakinuki are all some of my favorite foods.

The best thing about moving to nature abundant Miyakonojo was, as expected, being blessed with the area's people. The actual work is fun and the workplace atmosphere is fabulous. Whether it was work or life related, in various avenues the people at my workplace attended to my care. They are like a family overflowing with love. Both the Japanese and Chinese friends that I met here helped me loads when I

first arrived. Not only did they provide me an assortment of housewares but they also took me all around town to hang out. Due to everyone's help, I was able to avoid getting homesick and live everyday fulfilled.

Ahhhh, the kids were so cute at the schools! I love doing the school visits. I'd be alleviated from the kid's innocent smiles and energetic greetings. Additionally, meeting the city's denizens at lectures and events while establishing country to country cultural exchange was what I believe to be true human to human connection. From just a mere smile, the distance between us shrunk. I believe that from directly speaking face-to-face, one's standing can transform from a faraway existence of "that country's people" to a closer kinship of "this country's people". Therefore, I am grateful to Miyakonojo for providing me with the opportunity to feel Japan firsthand. Conversely, I am also grateful to Miyakonojo for providing me the opportunity to showcase the "real" China.

This year that I spent in Miyakonojo will surely become a beautiful memory that I'll never forget. I will treasure this precious memory and return one day. If you all ever have the chance, please come hang out in my hometown, Chongqing. I'll be waiting there!

Everyone, 再見(zàijàn).



Movies In Theaters

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

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

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| ● Mobile Suit Gundam GQuuuuuuX | ● Wicked |