Greetings! My name is Toh Jia Han. Starting August, I was appointed as the Coordinator of International Relations at Kagoshima. Through translating this newsletter, I have learnt more about my fellow CIRs from their columns, and now it is my turn to write something.

I am a 25 year old fresh graduate from Singapore. If you ask why I am relatively older than Japanese fresh graduates, it is because I studied a double major in Japanese Studies and English Linguistics in the National University of Singapore, and also served two years of conscription in the army (called National Service). My hobby is b-boying (breakdance) and I have been dancing for about 8 years.

When I first applied to be a CIR, I expressed no placing preference on the application form. I was unsure if I would get it, and thought that I would stand a better chance if I kept my application flexible. Even so, I was very happy to be assigned to Kagoshima. Kagoshima is relatively warm, which is closer to tropical Singapore. Kagoshima, which also has a lot of famous foods, is also a good fit for a foodie like myself.

It seems like I am fated to be in Kagoshima. In my second year of university, I heard about the CIR position, and was interested in it. When I mentioned this to my Japanese Studies professor, he introduced me to a former student. He had just quit his job as the Kagoshima CIR after finishing five years, and understood the job down to the last detail.
This senior answered my many questions enthusiastically. However, he warned me over and over that CIRs all over Japan worked very different roles, and that his experience might not be relevant to mine. When I, who had expressed no placing preference, was assigned to Kagoshima four years later, we were again connected. I wonder if I write this article from the exact same chair in the office as my senior used to sit in, six years ago.

It has been a short but hectic month here, and I have had many interesting experiences. To support the ALT training, we went to Kanoya, where I had my first experience interpreting. Although I was very nervous, but I had prepared amply, and I thought that it went smoothly. I also took many pictures of their kimono and calligraphy experiences.
The other CIRs and a Japanese colleague brought me along to the beach at Minamisatsuma. A classic summer activity, we swam in the sea and ate shaved ice. In the evening, we returned to Kagoshima City, where we ate a grilled meat buffet. When I reached home, sunburnt and bloated, I fell asleep almost as soon as my head touched the pillow. I’m grateful for everyone’s kindness, and I will cherish the wonderful memories from that day.

My Japanese Studies professor’s wife is from Kumamoto, and so he comes to Kagoshima occasionally. He said that he ate the best black pork of his life in Kagoshima, and so I went last weekend. When I ordered, the elderly lady beside me immediately knew I was a foreigner, and she kindly struck up a conversation with me. Besides teaching me how to eat pork cutlet, she also encouraged me about work. In the end, she very kindly lied that she was in a hurry, and gave me the orange ice cream that came with her set meal.

I have only been in Kagoshima for just one month, but I have already felt the warmth of the people around me. For an introvert like myself, I am grateful to the people that have reached out to me, and I am happy that I have come to Kagoshima. I look forward to your kind guidance!
Visit by the South African National Rugby Team

The South African national rugby team came for a pre-camp at the Shiranami Stadium, in preparation for the Rugby World Cup which opens on the 20th of this month. General Manager Charles Wessels, Logistics Manager JJ Fredericks, and athletes RG Snyman and Herschel Jantjies paid a courtesy visit to the prefectural office on 11th September.

General Manager Charles said that “Beginning with the preparation of Shiranami Stadium, we were granted the use of wonderful facilities, and the camp proceeded under the best conditions.”

Even as we wish for the South African national rugby team’s win, hopefully this opportunity will also strengthen the ties between South Africa and Kagoshima Prefecture.
Kagoshima Prefecture has accepted foreign technical trainees to study in specialist fields within the prefecture since 1985. As of last year, 240 people from 27 countries had come to Kagoshima, and studied various different specialist fields.

This year, Brazil, Dominican Republic, and Jiangsu Province in China each have one trainee coming to our prefecture. The three have different areas of study – product design, anime production, and aquaculture.

The three will receive Japanese language lessons at the Kagoshima Asia Pacific Intercultural Countryside Center (KAPIC) in Kanoya City up until the end of October, and will be receiving specialist training in their respective fields at various training organisations within Kagoshima City from November until February next year.
Introduction of Kagoshima Specialty Products

Botanicanon Delight Series

2018 Kagoshima New Special Produce Competition, Association Board Chairman Prize (Crafts and Livingware Category)

① Delight Moist Getto Lotion 150ml, ¥4104
② Delight Cleansing Emulsion 150ml, ¥4536
③ Delight Essence 30ml, ¥5940
④ Delight Wrinkle Botanical Cream 15g, ¥5616
⑤ Delight Face Oil 60ml, ¥4860 (tax incl.)

Botanicanon uses Kagoshima’s locally produced ingredients, and is particular about using 100% natural ingredients and being chemical-free. Targeted at the ageing process, these are ageing-care natural foundation cosmetics that recall one’s beautiful skin.

Botanical Factory Inc.
3310 Nejimeheta Minamiosumicho Kimotsukigun Kagoshima Japan 893-2505
TEL 0994-24-3008
A Note from the Editors (Kagoshima Prefecture International Affairs Division)

What did you think of this month’s "Kagoshima Southern Wind Tidings"?

The editors will continue to strive to make this prefectural multilingual newsletter a source of information and a bridge to connect all of you to Kagoshima. We would like to ask our readers to provide their opinions, suggestions, article contributions and Kagoshima-related news.

Inquiries

International Affairs Division, PR and Tourism Strategy Department
Kagoshima Prefectural Government
10-1 Kamoike-shinmachi, Kagoshima City, Japan 890-8577
TEL 81-99-286-2306 | FAX +81-99-286-5522

By Email

English: cir1@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp    Japanese: minami@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp
Chinese: cir2@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp    Korean: cir3@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp

The copyright to this report belongs to Kagoshima Prefecture. Any and all unauthorised use of this report (redistribution, BBS, posting, etc.) is prohibited.