

# Multilingual Electronic Newsletter

多言語メールマガジン

かごしま南の風便り

Kagoshima Southern Wind Tidings



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## ▽Topics

### [1 Coordinator for International Relations column](#)

*(by CIR Ben Moran, from the UK)*

- Greetings from Kagoshima Prefecture's new English CIR

### [2 International Exchange in Kagoshima](#)

- Exchange with the Republic of Vanuatu

### [3 The Governor's Activities](#)

- 4 July: Visit by H.E. Ambassador Daba Debele Hunde, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Japan
- 15 July: Visit by students from Tsinghua University to the Prefectural Office
- 21 July: Opening ceremony of the 4th International art exhibition in MAKURAZAKI

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## Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) column

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### ●Greetings from Kagoshima Prefecture's new English CIR●

*By Ben Moran*

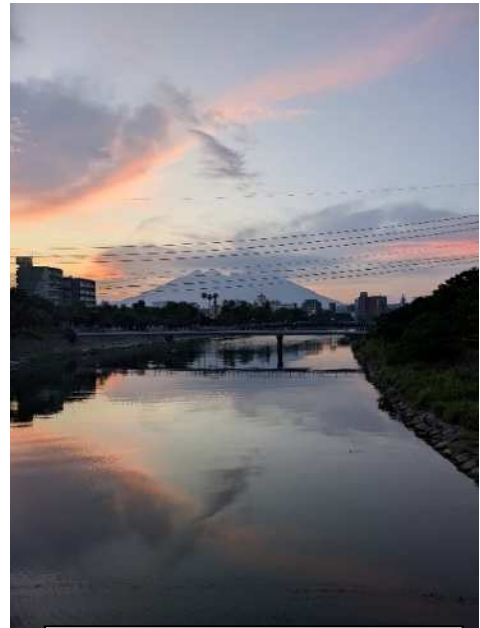
Hello, my name is Ben Moran and I am the new English-speaking Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) working at Kagoshima Prefectural Government. I started work in early April of this year and replaced my esteemed predecessor, Joseph Snowden. Joseph worked tirelessly for two years on the tail end of the Coronavirus pandemic and everyone who he worked with speaks incredibly highly of him. These are certainly big shoes to fill.

Firstly, let me introduce myself. I am 22 and was born in Devon, United Kingdom where I grew up alongside my mother, father and younger brother. From 2020 until 2024, I studied Japanese Studies at The University of Manchester. In 2023, I studied at The University of Osaka as an exchange student. After university, I worked in a café for six months, so if this job doesn't work out I can always go back to making coffee instead.

Whilst I was working at the café I was accepted onto the JET Programme, an international exchange programme run by the Japanese Government that facilitates foreigners to work as teachers or in the civil service. I was given one month's notice from the Programme that I was accepted for the role and that I was going to be sent to work at Kagoshima Prefectural Government. That was the shortest month of my life!

Once I arrived in Kagoshima in early April, I was immediately struck by its natural beauty and pace of life. Having moved from London, the change of pace continues to be a breath of fresh air.

One of the first things I did, naturally, was to go out every day and try and find new angles from which I could take photos of Sakurajima. I had never seen an active volcano before, so I was very excited. And, even though it is very inconvenient when it does erupt, I secretly look forward to all the photo opportunities.



Finally found a new angle!

I have really enjoyed working alongside all my colleagues over the past three months. More than anything, I would like to use this as an opportunity to convey my appreciation and gratitude for their ongoing kindness and patience with me! I have also really enjoyed the meat of my job which is my first experience of proper translation and interpretation. It has thrown up many challenges but I feel up to tackling them thanks to the ongoing support of my colleagues.

So, why did I choose to study Japanese? This is a question I get asked often and, when I am working on at translation that is defeating me, a question I often ask myself.



Taiko performance at a firework show in April

Before university, when I was a student in school I was lucky enough to have two wonderful Japanese teachers. My school, although in the UK, offered French, Spanish and Japanese. I wish I could tell you that it was a love of anime, manga, shoguns, samurai or Hello Kitty that drew me to Japanese, but the truth is that it looked more exciting than French or Spanish.

However, my true passion for Japanese really developed in university. I attended lessons on Japanese politics, religion, history and sociology both in Manchester and Osaka from which my interest in Japan as a country developed. My year abroad in Osaka left me with a number of new friends for whom I am incredibly grateful to have met and continue to know. From this period onwards, I became determined to improve my Japanese (still a work in progress) and use it wherever possible.

In my job I have to use my Japanese constantly so I am hoping that it is improving. For those who are reading the English version of this, and other editions of Kagoshima Southern Wind Tidings, do know that it is me that is doing the translation until August, so please direct any complaints about translations to me using my contact details at the bottom of this newsletter.

So that is a brief summary of who I am and how I ended up here in Kagoshima. My goal for the next few months is to go out into the Prefecture and explore as much as possible; next on the list is Kirishima! I also am looking forward to working alongside my fellow Kagoshima Prefectural CIRs to further nurture and promote international exchange across this wonderful prefecture.

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## International Exchange in Kagoshima

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### ●Exchange with the Republic of Vanuatu●

The Republic of Vanuatu is a South Pacific island nation that shares many commonalities with Kagoshima. In order to strengthen friendly relations with them, we conducted an exchange program in conjunction with Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai as follows.

#### 1. Introduction Exhibit on the Republic of Vanuatu at the Prefectural Office

- Period: Thursday, 24 July 2025 – Thursday, 31 July 2025
- Location: 1st Floor Lobby of Kagoshima Prefectural Office (next to the escalator)
- Exhibit Contents: Display panels introducing Vanuatu's traditional costumes, handicrafts, tourist attractions, and other related items



◀ Exhibition at the Prefectural Office

#### 2. Exchange at the Republic of Vanuatu National Day Event at Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai

- Date and Time: Wednesday, 30 July 2025, 15:00–17:00
- Location: National Day Hall, Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai (Ray Garden)
- Performers:
  - Mr. Yoshihide Shimazu (Satsuma Biwa, Hitoyogiri)
  - Ms. Hiroko Shibato (Piano)

- Event Details:

During the event, two pieces were performed:

1. National Anthem of the Republic of Vanuatu (performed by Mr. Shimazu and Ms. Shibato)
2. Horai-san (performed by Mr. Shimazu)

In addition, the event featured presentations highlighting the commonalities between the Republic of Vanuatu and Kagoshima Prefecture, as well as demonstrations of musical instruments and related items.



▲ Stage Performances ▲

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## The Governor's Activities

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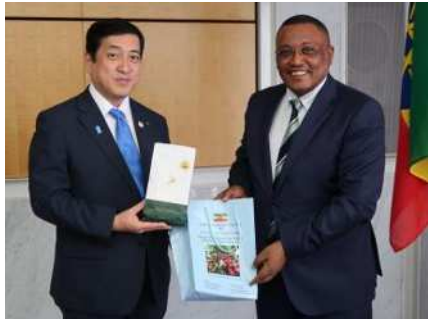
### ●4 July: Visit by H.E. Ambassador Daba Debele Hunde, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Japan●

Ambassador Daba Debele Hunde of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia paid a courtesy visit to the Kagoshima Prefectural Office.

During the visit, Ambassador Daba shared insights into Ethiopia's history and culture, as well as the commonalities between Japan, Kagoshima, and Ethiopia.

He also expressed a desire to promote various forms of exchange with Kagoshima, including cultural and people-to-people interactions.

Governor Shiota introduced Kagoshima's rich natural environment, cuisine, history and culture, and hoped that exchanges with Ethiopia will become increasingly active in the future. Both sides also expressed the hope that this visit will further strengthen and develop the relationship between Kagoshima Prefecture and Ethiopia.



▲ Commemorative gift from the Ambassador



▲ With the Ethiopian delegation

### ●15 July: Visit by students from Tsinghua University to the Prefectural Office●

Thirteen students from Tsinghua University were in Kagoshima as part of a summer program conducted under an agreement with Kagoshima University, and they paid a courtesy visit to the Prefectural Office on 15 July.

From 8 to 19 July, the students had attended lectures at Kagoshima University, engaged in exchanges with local students, and took part in field studies within the prefecture.

They shared their impressions and memories of their stay, noting that they had learned about the management philosophy of the late Mr. Kazuo Inamori



and the role Kagoshima played in the Meiji Restoration. They also visited natural landmarks such as Sakurajima and Kirishima, and expressed how deeply impressed they were by the prefecture's rich natural beauty.

Governor Shiota highlighted the long history of ties between Kagoshima and China, noting that Minamisatsuma City was the site where the Chinese monk Ganjin landed in the 7th century, and that ports in Kagoshima served as stopovers for missions to Tang China between the 7th and 9th centuries. He also expressed his hope that the students would come to appreciate the many charms of Kagoshima and would visit again in the future.



▲ With the Tsinghua University delegation

### ●21 July: Opening ceremony of the 4th International art exhibition in MAKURAZAKI●

At the opening ceremony of the 4th Makurazaki International Art Award Exhibition held at Nanmeikan in Makurazaki City, Governor Shiota attended as a guest of honor and delivered congratulatory remarks.

The exhibition, organized as an international competition for contemporary art, aims to promote international cultural exchange and enrich local culture. It features many inspiring works from both Japan and abroad that have passed the final screening and were selected as prize-winning or finalist entries.



In his remarks, the Governor expressed his strong hope that the exhibition will continue to be cherished by many people and will steadily grow in the years to come.



▲Delivering congratulatory remarks

▲Viewing the exhibited works

▲Commemorative photo at the opening ceremony



Kagoshima Prefectural Office website <http://www.pref.kagoshima.jp/>



Editor's note (International Affairs Division, Kagoshima Prefecture Tourism, Culture and Sports Department)

This month's newsletter featured an article on the Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai. Have any of you had a chance to visit?

By July, the total number of visitors reportedly exceeded 10 million—a clear sign of the high public interest. The Expo grounds are filled with pavilions where you can experience the latest technologies and the cultures of various countries, making it exciting even just to walk around. ★

I only visited for work, but I was overwhelmed by the energy and the crowds. Next time, I hope to be able to go privately and take my time exploring.

We look forward to bringing you more in next month's issue!



The Kagoshima Southern Wind Tidings is accepting submissions on the following topics:

☆**Kagoshima Photo Gallery**

We are looking for photos that have a Kagoshima feel to them, or photos of Kagoshima you have found overseas. Please send them with a brief description of the photo (e.g., Mountain of volcano ash collection bags).

We are also accepting any other information or stories you would like to share with our readers.

▲▼▲▼ **Inquiries** ▲▼▲▼

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