

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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Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Column

● A “Ni Hao 🐼” from Kagoshima Prefecture’s new Chinese CIR

by CIR Chen Yun, from China

Hello everyone! My name is Chen Yun, and I joined the Kagoshima Prefecture this May as a Coordinator for International Relations. I’m excited to be here and look forward to working with you!

Time flies—more than four months have already passed since I came to Kagoshima. It feels as if the day I first set foot here were only yesterday. After graduating from university, I followed a steady, ordinary path: getting a job, getting married, and having a child. Then, in late April, I received a message from the Embassy of Japan in China

informing me that I had successfully passed the JET Program exam. A mix of excitement, joy, surprise, confusion, and hesitation all washed over me at once.

While I was thrilled by the chance to gain such a special life experience, I also felt uncertain—could someone like me, who had never lived abroad alone, really adapt to

life in an unfamiliar place? And so, on May 20, carrying both nerves and anticipation, this remarkable journey in Kagoshima began.

Since coming to Kagoshima, the question I get asked most often is, “Have you gotten used to life here yet?”

Each time, I proudly answered, “Absolutely, I’m fully adjusted!” People would compliment me, saying, “Wow,



Sakurajima, a symbol of Kagoshima



Heart-shaped rock on
Sakurajima

you adapted so quickly!” But the truth is, it’s not because I’m particularly quick to adapt—it’s thanks to all of you, who have supported me in my daily life, that I’ve been able to enjoy this experience safely and happily.

From arranging a comfortable home for me, handling the complicated paperwork for my family, and helping install light bulbs, to picking me up at the association when I was about to get lost, helping move the bed in pouring rain, accompanying me to health checkups, preparing Japanese chimaki (a traditional Japanese rice dumpling wrapped in bamboo leaves) for Tango no Sekku, patiently teaching me how to use the office system, answering even the smallest questions, taking me to famous tonkatsu and ramen restaurants, showing me how to transfer money at the ATM, giving me a glass cup and kindly saying “It’s okay” when I accidentally broke it, warmly watching over my imperfect Japanese, and even giving me tickets to the hot springs...



The sea at Cape Sata

Each and every one of these acts of kindness, countless like the stars in the sky, has brightened my life in a foreign country with warm light and filled my heart with deep gratitude. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone I have met so far. Meeting all of you is, without a doubt, my greatest treasure.

Since coming to Kagoshima, I’ve tried to learn about this region in many ways—through brochures and websites, by asking colleagues and friends, and by experiencing things firsthand. The more I learn about Kagoshima, the more I fall in love with this fascinating city that coexists with a volcano.

Kagoshima is a city blessed with nature. On Sakurajima, I experienced the special lava formations that have become a symbol of this area and witnessed the wisdom of the islanders living in harmony with the volcano.

At Sengan-en, the Shimazu Clan's villa, I was captivated by the beauty of traditional Japanese architecture and the scenic views of Sakurajima

and Kinko Bay. At Cape Sata, the southernmost point of Japan, I witnessed a dreamlike sea shimmering in jade green. In Ibusuki, full of tropical charm, I experienced the rare Japanese sand baths. At the historic Kirishima Shrine, I felt the living presence of faith and reverence for the gods. Surrounded by lush greenery at Jigenji, I took a deep breath away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Kagoshima is not only known for its magical landscapes shaped by volcanoes and the sea, but also as a vibrant city where tradition and modernity blend beautifully.

I joined the lively "Rokugatsudo" festival and felt firsthand the happiness and strong spirit of the people. At Kagoshima's "Ogionsaa," festival, I witnessed how local traditional culture continues to thrive.

At the planetarium in Kagoshima Municipal Science Hall, I was moved by "MOON BASE," which conveyed the vastness of space and humanity's spirit of challenging the unknown. At a dreamy aquarium, I explored the diverse world of marine life and was reminded of our responsibility to protect nature.



Tsurumaru Castle Ruins with
Lotus Flowers

At the Reimeikan Museum, I visited the miniature exhibition by the popular creator Tatsuya Tanaka and was amazed by his creative ideas that give everyday objects new life, learning the extraordinary potential hidden in the ordinary.

Kagoshima truly feels like a treasure chest—every time I set foot here, I discover something new and special. Drawn in by the city's mysterious charm, my curiosity is sparked every day.



The fascinating miniature exhibition

I'm excited for the days ahead in Kagoshima. I hope to make the most of this valuable international exchange opportunity by deepening my understanding of Japan, actively sharing both Japanese and Chinese cultures, and serving as a bridge for friendship and cultural exchange between our two countries.

The Governor's Activities

●3 August: Attending the Final Concert and Closing Ceremony of the 46th Kirishima International Music Festival●

The Governor attended the Master Class Graduation Ceremony of the 46th Kirishima International Music Festival, held mainly at Kirishima International Concert Hall (Miyama Conseru), welcoming renowned musicians and students from Japan and abroad.

On the day, a final orchestra concert was held, in which the students also participated, featuring romantic and passionate performances, including a piano concerto by pianist Elisso Virsaladze.

We look forward to the day when these students, inspired by the valuable experiences gained in the Master Class, will spread their wings from Kirishima to the world—and one day return to the festival as performers and instructors.



▲Delivering a speech to the audience



▲Scenes from the Final Orchestra

●19 August: Debriefing from FY2025 Kagoshima Youth Overseas Exchange – Singapore Course Delegates●

The participants of the 2025 Kagoshima Prefecture Youth Overseas Exchange Program – Singapore Course shared their return reports. They spoke about experiences such as rediscovering the charm of Kagoshima and directly experiencing a multicultural society, which broadened their perspectives and international outlook.

Governor Shiota also asked about their training activities in Singapore and their interactions with local people. We hope that the valuable experiences gained during this program will serve as a foundation for the participants to make active contributions to their communities and schools, and to become future leaders of Kagoshima.



▲Commemorative photo with all participants



▲At the reporting session

●21 August: Debriefing from FY2025 Satsuma Student Dispatch Program Participants●

Two high school students and a supervising teacher who visited the United Kingdom from July 22 to August 4 as part of the Satsuma Student Dispatch Program reported back to Governor after their return.

The students shared that through lectures and group work they were able to learn about differences between Japan and the UK, and that hearing from a variety of people provided them with valuable experiences that connected to their future dreams.

Governor asked in detail about their impressions during their stay in the UK and the content of the lectures offered through the program. We hope the two students will make the most of what they learned from this program and go on to thrive in various fields in the future.



▲Commemorative photo holding the gifts



▲In conversation during the meeting

Seasonal Information from Kagoshima

●Kagoshima Tops Japan in First-Flush Green Tea Production for the First Time●

Kagoshima ranked first in Japan for first-flush green tea harvested in spring 2025—the first time since 1991—producing 8,440 tons, which is 320 tons more than second-place Shizuoka Prefecture, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

The ministry attributed Kagoshima's success to abundant sunny days and well-timed rainfall since April, which led to healthy plant growth and a higher yield per cultivated area.

Governor also commented, “This year, we surpassed Shizuoka in first-flush green tea production. Including the second and third harvests, I believe Kagoshima has a strong chance of becoming number one in overall aracha (unrefined tea) production as well.”



▲Minamikyūshū's tea fields with Mount Kaimon © K. P. V. B

●Plenty of Summer Festivals Happening Across Kagoshima☀●

Kagoshima Prefecture came alive with summer festivals this year. Highlights included the Kagoshima Kinko Bay Summer Night Fireworks, a signature event of the region; the Kanoya Summer Festival, where over 2,000 dancers paraded through the

city streets; and the Satsuma Kuroshio Kibaran Sea Makurazaki Port Festival, held to pray for safe voyages, abundant catches, a good harvest, thriving businesses, and the promotion of local industries.

Each festival had its own unique charm, attracting large crowds from both inside and outside the prefecture.



▲Spectacular fireworks over Kinko Bay
in Kagoshima City © K. P. V. B



▲Satsuma Kuroshio Kibaran Kai Makurazaki
Port Festival (Makurazaki City) © K. P. V. B



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



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

Although the calendar says autumn, the lingering heat still has us breaking a sweat. Since July, Kagoshima United FC's remarkable winning streak has had us drenched in excitement and late-summer warmth!

In September, the handball team Blue Sakuya kicks off their season, followed by the Kagoshima Rebnise basketball team in October. Watching the players' intense and wholehearted performances is truly moving—and I can't help but cheer even louder! I'm looking forward to enjoying this 'sports season' while rooting for our hometown teams♪

This edition marks a special milestone: our 200th newsletter!

As we celebrate this achievement, we look forward to continuing to share enjoyable news about international exchange in Kagoshima Prefecture, cherishing the journey of the past 200 editions ㊦



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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