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  Coming up in June and July!

○ Ni Hao from the new CIR in the Prefectural Office

Hello everyone! My name is Xu Kui, and I am from China. I am going to be working as a Coordinator for International Relations at Kagoshima Prefectural Government. In my role, I look forward to introducing people to Chinese culture, and introducing Kagoshima, the Treasure of the South, to the people of China, all against the backdrop of this wonderful city.

A month has passed since I first step foot on Kagoshima on the 15th of April. Before I tell you all about my impressions of Kagoshima, let me first introduce myself.

I was born in Xuzhou, the most northerly city in the Chinese province of Jiangsu. Xuzhou is home to Xiang Yu, the King of Chu from the Romance of the Three Kingdoms; as a key thoroughfare, for many years the area has been the scene of many conflicts.

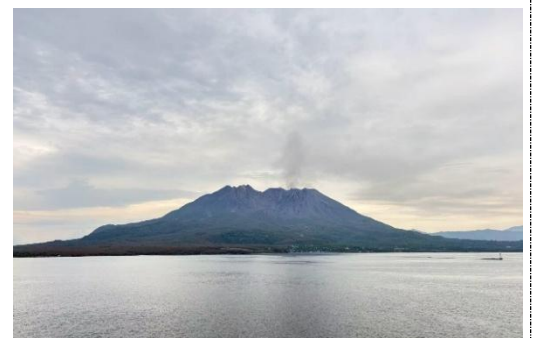
I developed a strong interest in Japanese through Miyazaki Hayao's anime and enrolled in a Japanese major. For my master's degree, I wanted to challenge myself and studied law. After graduating, I worked for two years at a Japanese company.

I previously lived in Yamagata prefecture and Tokyo as an exchange student; however, this is my first time in Kyushu. When I was in China, I knew that Kagoshima's Sakurajima was very famous, but that was about the limit of my knowledge. When I stepped off the plane, I was struck by how mountainous and green the place was. I have always loved nature, so I held great hope in my upcoming job and life here.

On my third day in Kagoshima, I was walking home when I happened to catch Sakurajima erupting! It was a stunning spectacle, and what's more, I couldn't believe that it really does rain ash. After one month living here, I feel that I am now better prepared to deal with the ash and I believe that, just maybe, myself and Sakurajima can live in harmony going forward.



Xuzhou, Jiangsu province



Sakurajima

As I am writing this, it has been one month since I came to Kagoshima. I've not had much chance to look around the prefecture yet; so, over the next year I want to visit every part of Kyushu, immerse myself in beautiful scenery and culture, teach many Chinese people about Japan, and extoll the beauty of cultures that cross borders.

02 International exchange in Kagoshima

O2026 Prefectural Scholarship Students arrive in Kagoshima

Organised by Kagoshima Prefecture, the Prefectural Scholarship Programme aims to teach the children of Kagoshima's emigrants about our prefecture and contribute to nurturing valuable talent within our prefecture and emigrant communities. The Programme sends students to university in Kagoshima at the Prefecture's expense and is in its 56th year, having started in 1970.

This year we have three Scholarship Students who joined us at the start of April: two from Brazil and one from Peru.

The Scholarship Students will live in Kagoshima for 11 months, until February next year, and will study their respective degrees in the agricultural and engineering faculties. They have already begun their lessons at university marking the start of their next 11 months.

We asked about their reasons for joining the Programme:

· Takahashi Nagayoshi Tainah Yuka (Brazil)

Nice to meet you, my name is Takahashi Yuka.

I am from San Paolo in Brazil. My parents are Japanese-Brazilian: my mother is third generation and my father is fourth generation.

I am studying Food Engineering as an exchange student in the Faculty of Agriculture at Kagoshima University. My research topic is analysing the nutritional benefits of *sacha inchi* grown in the Amazon, with a view to increasing its consumption and its future applications.

I am very grateful to the people of my *kenjinkai* and Kagoshima Prefectural

Government Office for the opportunity to participate in this Programme.

It has been a long-held dream of mine to go to Japan and understand my roots; so, I joined my Kagoshima kenjinkai and made some very good friends. It was there that I found out about this scholarship.

During my time in Japan, I would like to dedicate myself to learning Japanese because Japanese is not just the native tongue of my great grandparents but, through them, mine as well. Unfortunately, as I wasn't able to speak Japanese at school, I ended up forgetting my Japanese.

For this reason, I am really looking forward to taking advantage of this fantastic opportunity to remember my Japanese and improve my Japanese communication.

Furthermore, I will try to give my all in my research in order to improve my knowledge even after I return home.

· Niho Enzo Yoshio (Brazil)

Nice to meet you, my name is Niho Enzo.

I am from Brasília in Brazil, and graduated with a degree in Computer Science from the University of Brasília. My grandparents on my father's side were from Kanoya City, Kagoshima Prefecture.

My hobbies include sports, programming, reading and hanging out with friends. In particular, the sports I really like are basketball and powerlifting.

I haven't visited Japan before and my new life in Kagoshima that started this April is my first time living alone.

During my time here, I will work on my research, exchange with Japanese locals and foreign residents and immerse myself in Japanese culture.

· Guibu Kawahira Aldo (Peru)

As a product designer, my mind works by translating abstract ideas into tangible forms. My day-to-day usually takes place between screens, complex geometries, 3D modelling, and the precision parameters required by digital manufacturing. I have always seen technology as my primary creative tool, but establishing the centre of my research here in Kagoshima has made me realize that tools are nothing without a philosophy to back them up.

Since the beginning of my training, I have felt a deep and sincere admiration for Japanese design. Its ability to achieve maximum expressiveness through a minimum number of elements, its reverent respect for materials, and the relentless search for harmony between function and beauty are principles I have always aspired to integrate into my work. However, experiencing it firsthand completely transforms the theory.

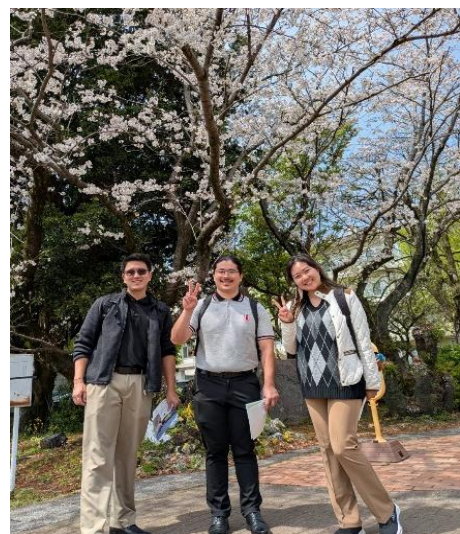
Being here allows me to explore a fascinating contrast. On one hand, I analyse the rich local craft heritage and aesthetic sensibility; on the other, I seek ways to reinterpret those traditional concepts through the contemporary processes of digital fabrication and three-dimensional prototyping that I am passionate about. It is not about replicating the past, but about using modern technology as a bridge to project that subtlety and minimalism into the future of object design.

This stay in Kagoshima is not just a study period, but a personal laboratory for experimentation. Every corner of the city, from the layout of its spaces to the most everyday objects, pushes me to sharpen my observation and refine my own aesthetic criteria. It is a constant learning process that is reshaping how I conceive volumes, textures, and user interaction with the product.

In the end, the true value of this cultural and technical exchange will be reflected in the projects to come. My goal is to absorb the very essence of this culture of detail so that, upon my return, I can bring a much more mature, global, and conceptual vision to my professional practice, sharing with those around me a perspective where digital technology and Japanese sensibility coexist in perfect balance.



At the airport



At Kagoshima University

03 The Governor's activities

○ Governor's top sales in the Eastern, Southern and Central US: reception at the Japanese Embassy, Washington DC promoting prefectural produce and tourism (13th April)

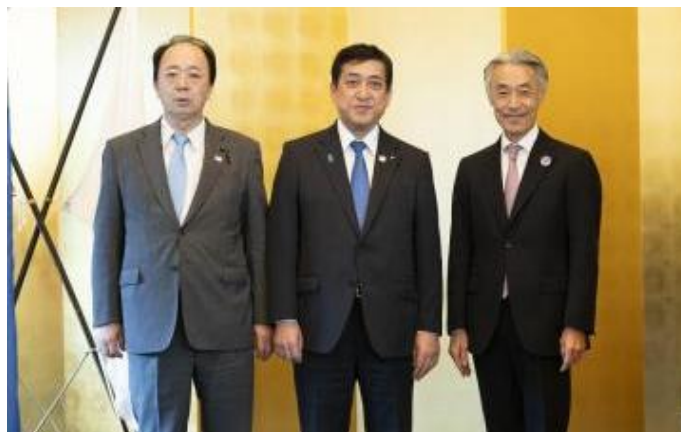
With the support of the Japanese Ambassador to the US, Yamada Shigeo, we held a reception promoting prefectural produce and tourism.

We welcomed around 300 people to the reception including guests from the American restaurant industry, chefs, the food and tourism industries and the media.



Five chefs from America used wagyu beef and amberjack in various international dishes. A famous bartender mixed *honkaku* (traditional) shochu in cocktails; and a variety of produce, including Kagoshima's amberjack sushi, eel *kabayaki*, dried bonito, matcha, shochu and more was served at the event.

There was also a display of traditional handicrafts as well as a VR tourism experience. I very much felt the passion for Kagoshima from those in attendance and I am confident that this has expanded our sales channels and tourist appeal.



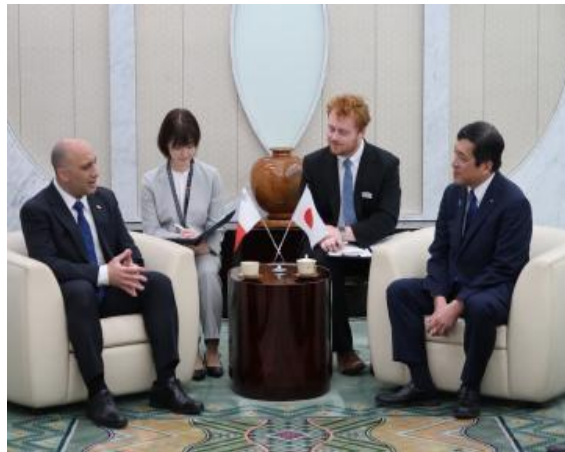
Assembly chair, Mr. Hidaka (left), Governor (centre), Ambassador of Japan to the United States of America (right)

○ Visit from the Maltese Ambassador to Japan (20th April)

Andre Spiteri, the Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to Japan, paid a visit to the Prefectural Office.

Ambassador Spiteri spoke about the shared history between Kagoshima and Malta and told me that he was taking the opportunity of his visit to deepen his country's relationship with Kagoshima.

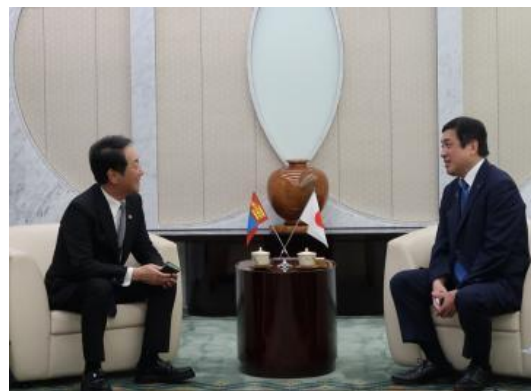
I expressed my gratitude to the Ambassador for his previous work with people in Kagoshima and that I look forward to working together to continue and develop our bilateral relationship.



Visit from the Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to Japan

○ Visit from the Honorary Consul of Mongolia, Fukuoka (27th April)

Honorary Consul, Miisho Yoshihiko, of The Honorary Consulate of Mongolia in Fukuoka paid a visit to the Prefectural Office. Honorary Consul Miisho spoke to me about Mongolia and took the opportunity of his visit to express his desire to deepen relationships with prefectures in Kyushu, starting with Kagoshima.



Visit of Honorary Consul Miisho Yoshihiko, Honorary Consul of Mongolia in Fukuoka

04 Kagoshima event information

○ Kanoya Rose Festival, Spring 2026 (25th April to 31st May)

The festival programme includes a kitchen café, petting zoo and Osumi flower market, as well as lectures, pop-up merchandise shop and garden tours every weekend. The spring roses come into full bloom together and the climbing rose arch will be a sight to behold.

Kanoya Rose Garden 「© K. P. V. B」 ▶



○ 2026 Sand Festival in Minamisatsuma

(3rd to 5th May)

The Sand Festival in Minamisatsuma gave Kagoshima's Golden Week a real shine and was held in a sandcastle town!

This year's theme was "A sand stroll: a story of castles built from sand". Castles of the world, from those etched in history to those in famous tales, towered above the festival. As you walked around the sandcastle town, it was fun to get a flavour of the unusual!



Sand Festival in Minamisatsuma 「© K. P. V. B」 ▲

What is the Sand Festival?

One of Japan's three great sand dunes, Fukiagehama's precious sand is used in the event, in a beautiful show of the relationship between nature and people. The event, run by local people, can be enjoyed by everyone!



▲ Sand festival in Minamisatsuma 「© K. P. V. B」

  Coming up in June and July !

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◇ June

6th and 7th 93rd Yamakawa Port Festival (Ibusuki City)

7th Seppetobe (Hioki City)

11th to 14th Ibusuki Hula Festival (Ibusuki City)

◇ July

18th to 19th Kirishima-Kokubu Summer Festival

24th to 9th Aug 47th Kirishima International Music Festival Kagoshima

25th Chiran Neputa Matsuri

Do pay a visit! ♪



Editor's note (International Strategy Division, Policy Planning and Coordination

Department, Kagoshima Prefectural Government)

Hello, everyone!

I hope you had an enjoyable Golden Week!

Amami Oshima has entered into the rainy season 9 days earlier than usual this year (on the 3rd of May)! I hope everyone is well prepared for the heavy rain that is coming our way.

Going forward we must be careful of the rain and also the heat; in particular, heatstroke. This is a season of great temperature change so do take care of yourselves.

I hope you are all looking forward to the next 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.

▲▽ Submissions/Enquiries ▼▲

International Strategy Division

Policy Planning and Coordination Department,

Kagoshima Prefectural Government,

10-1 Kamoike-shinmachi,

Kagoshima City, Japan 890-8577

TEL: +81-99-286-2306 / FAX: +81-99-286-5522

E-mail:

English: cir1@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp

Chinese: cir2@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp

Korean: cir3@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp

Kagoshima Pref. Government
homepage

<http://www.pref.kagoshima.jp/>



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