
□ ■ **Multilingual Electronic Newsletter – Kagoshima Southern Wind Tidings (Vol. 164)** ■ □

[○ Latest Updates ○](#)

Registration of Izumi Wintering Habitat of Cranes as a Ramsar Convention Wetland (18 Nov)

[○ Coordinator for International Relations \(CIR\) Column ○](#)

Hello and nice to meet you!

By Wong Yimin (CIR from Singapore)

[○ The A-Z of Kagoshima's International Relations ○](#)

Activity Report of Kagoshima Asia-Pacific Intercultural Countryside Center (KAPIC Center)

[○ Seasonal Tourism Information ○](#)

Shibushi Illumination 2021

(from the website of Kagoshima Prefectural Visitor's Bureau 「Travel in Kagoshima」)

[○ Editor's Note & 【Request】 Topics related to Kagoshima ○](#)

○ Latest Updates ○

● **Registration of Izumi Wintering Habitat of Cranes as a Ramsar Convention Wetland (18 Nov)** ●

The Ramsar Convention aims to conserve wetlands of international importance, and has registered the reclaimed land area in Izumi City as the Izumi Wintering Habitat of Cranes. It is the largest location in Japan where more than 10,000 cranes migrate to each year, and it has become an international responsibility to ensure its environmental conservation and ecosystem preservation.

This registered land area is a total of 478 hectares on the Izumi Plain, and is one of the most important wetlands in the world with endangered hooded cranes and white-naped cranes flying in from Siberia. As there are decreasing numbers of wintering habitats such as these due to increased human development all over the world, the residents have been bearing the responsibility of such preservation activities for 60 years.

With this new addition, there are now three such registered wetlands in the prefecture. This includes the previously-registered locations of Imuta Pond (in Satsumasendai City) and Nagata Beach (in Yakushima Town).

(From the homepage of Izumi City)



o Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Column o

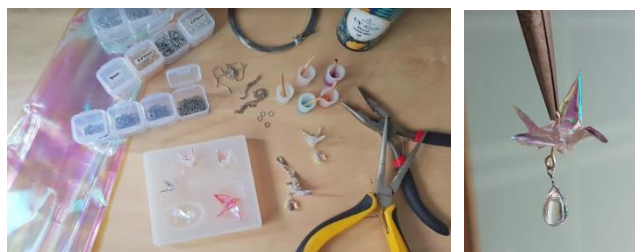
● Hello and nice to meet you! ●

By Wong Yimin (CIR from Singapore)

Hi everyone, my name is Wong Yimin, and it's great to meet you via this newsletter! I have the pleasure to be assigned the role of Coordinator of International Relations in Kagoshima Prefectural Office, and have just started work from October this year. Coming in the middle of the global pandemic has been an experience, but with the kindness and assistance from everyone, things have been relatively smooth-sailing and I am eternally grateful.

I majored in Psychology in the National University of Singapore. It was also in university that I started learning Japanese, and first heard about the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) programme and its position of Coordinator for International Relations. After graduation, I worked for a few years in Japanese companies before deciding to take the plunge last year and apply for the position. It has always been a dream to be able to experience working life in Japan, and this was the perfect opportunity to be able to interact with the rich culture of Japan and engage in meaningful cultural exchanges. I was delighted to be accepted but alas, the pandemic hit and everything was deferred for a year to 2021. However, I believe that this is fate; if not for the deferment, it is likely that I would not have been assigned to the beautiful and pleasant city of Kagoshima after all. All's well that ends well!

My hobbies are photography and craftwork; with the natural beauty of Kagoshima and her rich culture, I am excited to capture her beauty and experience the traditional crafts of the area.



An example of craftwork that I did

Coming from the urban city of Singapore, Kagoshima's bountiful nature is an amazing new experience for me. Each morning as I woke and enjoyed the sun rising above Sakurajima with a cup of tea in hand, it is a reminder of how lucky I am to be where I am now.



Sunrise over Sakurajima

I have only been here for 3 weeks, but during the bustle of settling down I was able to experience the warm hospitality of the people here and I am really grateful for it. Being a naturally shy person who is insecure in my Japanese, this is a big step out of my comfort zone. However, I am learning and adapting fast thanks to the kind patience of everyone around, while enjoying each step of the process along the way.

As of now, plans are already being made to experience what Kagoshima has to offer, and I cannot wait for them! These plans include visiting the famed Yakushima, an inspiration for Studio Ghibli's animated movie "Princess Mononoke". This was a place which I had always wanted to visit after watching the movie many years ago, and was delighted to have this dream come true soon. Stay tuned for further updates on this adventure!

I have barely been here for less than a month and the future stretches out ahead, bright and full of potential. As a newcomer, there are many things which I am still learning but I will do my very best. Again, I really appreciate all the gracious support of everyone around and I look forward to your kind guidance!



Sunset sky near the Prefectural Office

○ The A-Z of Kagoshima's International Relations ○

● **Activity Report of Kagoshima Asia-Pacific Intercultural Countryside Center (KAPIC Center)** ●

Kagoshima Asia-Pacific Intercultural Countryside Center (also known as KAPIC Center) was established in 1994 as a base for international exchange and cooperation in Kagoshima Prefecture, and this year marks its 28th year anniversary. As of now, there has been over 290,000 users and has accepted foreign trainees from 127 countries. KAPIC Center is also managed and operated by a designated administrator (Kagoshima International Exchange Promotion Agency) since 2006.

This training center has comfortable accommodation facilities and is located on the shores of Lake Osumi which is blessed with beautiful nature.

Currently trainees from overseas are unable to come to Japan due to the COVID pandemic, and events at KAPIC Center are being reduced in scale or cancelled. However, we are working to enhance our content while making full use of our online capabilities.

Today, we would like to introduce the various programs that KAPIC Center is focusing on this year.

① Online International Exchange Program



7/14 Active English Program in Kanoya Girls' High School



7/28 Kirishima Global Activity

KAPIC Center has been conducting on-site lessons at Kanoya Girls' High School since last year, and also held online exchanges with Prince Royal's College in Thailand this year. In addition, KAPIC Center also hosted a part of the Kirishima Global Activity this year, which was organized by Kirishima City Education Committee. In this event, online exchanges were held between junior high school students from Kirishima City and students from Russia, Thailand and Azerbaijan.

Due to the COVID pandemic, it is very difficult to have direct interactions with trainees or prefectural residents, but online exchanges can be easily carried out at no cost as long as schedules can be coordinated and both sides have suitable internet environments in place.

②SDGs Program



6/22 On-site lessons at Shibushi Junior High School



10/19 Educational visit at Harada Elementary School

KAPIC Center offers various programs about global understanding, but recently there has been an increase of requests from schools for programs and on-site lessons that include content about Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Hence, we are also currently promoting the enhancement of various SDGs-related programs. This is done by incorporating the essence of SDGs into existing global understanding programs or designing programs solely focusing on SDGs.

③English Event Program



4/25 The First English Challenge



7/11 The Second English Challenge

Since 2020, foreign language activities has been compulsory for elementary school students who are of third grade and above, and learning English has been becoming increasingly important. In this context, KAPIC Center is holding English events for elementary school students together with Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) in the Osumi Peninsula. We believe that we can contribute to the development of cosmopolitan human talents by having fun with using English from the early stages of life in elementary school and having an enjoyable time interacting with foreign teachers.

★Afterword★

KAPIC Center will be focusing on the abovementioned projects in this fiscal year. Please contact us if you are keen on having international exchanges with foreigners, interested in SDGs or learning English while having fun. KAPIC Center will continue to contribute wholeheartedly to the internationalization of Kagoshima Prefecture.

Kagoshima Asia-Pacific Intercultural Countryside Center (KAPIC Center)

[A d d r e s s] Kamitakakumacho, Kanoya, Kagoshima 3811-1
[E - m a i l] info@kpic.jp
[W e b s i t e] <http://kpic.jp/>
[T e l] 0994-45-3288
[F a x] 0994-45-3258

○ Seasonal Tourism Information ○

● Shibushi Illumination 2021 ●

(from the website of Kagoshima Prefectural Visitor's Bureau 「Travel in Kagoshima」)

<https://www.kagoshima-kankou.com/event/52321/>

This is a seasonal tradition that brings colours to Shibushi in winter. It features 140,000 light bulbs that illuminate the Symbol Tree, steam locomotive and the trees in Shibushi Tetsudo Memorial Park. There will also be an arch of light where it is said to bring happiness when you pass through it with your loved ones.



- ◎ Date: 4 December 2021 (Saturday) to 3 January 2022 (Monday)
- ◎ Light-up: 6:00PM to 11:00PM ※It will be until 2:00AM the following day for Christmas and New Year holidays
- ◎ Location: Shibushi Tetsudo Memorial Park (3 Chome 24-5 Shibushicho Shibushi, Shibushi 899-710)
- ◎ Fee: Free



Website of Kagoshima Prefectural Government

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



Editor's Note (International Affairs Division, Kagoshima Prefectural Government)

*

How did you find this month's edition of Kagoshima Southern Wind Tidings?

We as editors will continue to strive to have this prefectural multilingual newsletter be a bridge of information that connects Kagoshima with everyone.

▽ The other day, I experienced glamping in Ichikikushikino City, where glamping is a coined word that combines glamorous and camping. After entering the tent, it has the same amenities as in a hotel and there is also an attached space where you can enjoy BBQ.

Unfortunately it was raining until late at night, but for some reason the sound of the rain was very soothing and I was able to enjoy this extraordinary experience effortlessly.





「Kagoshima Southern Wind Tiding's bulletin board」 is looking for the following content:

☆ Kagoshima Photo Gallery

We would like to invite you to send us photos that remind you of Kagoshima, or photos of Kagoshima that you might have seen overseas. Please also attach a brief description along with the photo. (e.g. a mountain of volcanic-ash bags)

☆ Knowledge about living in Kagoshima

Please share with us information related to life in Kagoshima. (e.g. delicious ways to enjoy fried fish cakes, or how to deal with volcanic ash.)

We also welcome any other information that you would like to share with our readers.

▲▼▲▼ **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

↓ Email

English : cir1@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp

Korean : cir3@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp

Japanese : minami@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp

Kagoshima Prefecture owns the copyright to this report. Any and all unauthorized use of this report (redistribution, reproduction, BBS, publication, etc.) is prohibited.