

Multilingual Electronic Newsletter

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かごしま南の風便り



Kagoshima Southern Wind Tidings

VOL.171

▽ Topics

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

Minamiosumi ② Southernmost tip of mainland Japan

— By Wong Yimin (CIR from Singapore)

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

Visit by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of San Marino to Japan

[3 Prefectural Scholarship International Students Column](#)

A dreamlike trip to Amami Oshima, the land of my ancestors

— Japanese Brazilian Kawassaki Daniela Yuka (Kagoshima University)

[4 Tourism Information in Kagoshima](#)

Hakozaki Hachiman Shrine in Izumi City ~A welcome by giant crane sculptures~

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## Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Column

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- Minamiosumi ② Southernmost tip of mainland Japan ●
  - By Wong Yimin (CIR from Singapore)

(This article is a continuation from Vol.169)

### Cape Sata Lighthouse

Standing at the very tip of the cape is a lone white lighthouse, creating a visually stunning contrast with the clear emerald waters surrounding it. This was one of the oldest lighthouses in Japan, and was designed by Richard Henry Brunton in 1871 as part of the overall plan to make Japan's coasts safer for foreign ships at the start of the Meiji Period.

Out of the 26 lighthouses he designed and built all over Japan, this is the only one which is not directly connected to the mainland. Instead, it cuts a solitary figure on Owajima Island, some 50 meters away.

The original was destroyed in an air raid in 1945 during the Pacific War and was restored in 1950. Today, it stands tall and proud at the southernmost tip of Japan, lighting the way for vessels entering Kinko Bay.

Looking at it standing silently and alone at the very southern tip of Japan mainland, it is difficult to imagine the isolation and distance from civilisation that the lightkeepers must have felt!



*Sign indicating Cape Sata*



*The view of the other side of the observatory. On a clear day, the figure of Mt. Kaimon in Ibusuki can be seen here.*

In an interesting twist of fate, I had the chance to visit Japan's northmost point in Wakkanai, Hokkaido some years ago.

Now standing at the southmost point this time, it was extremely surreal to feel both the similarities and differences; Northmost Japan has a steely subarctic atmosphere with open rolling hills and a wide empty coastline, while southmost Japan is warm and subtropical with lush green jungles. However, both have a certain desolate feel that comes with being isolated out at each of their respective edges of mainland Japan.



*Monument in Minamiosumi, Kagoshima, marking the southmost point of mainland Japan*



*(From a previous trip) Monument in Wakkanai, Hokkaido, marking the northmost point of mainland Japan*

### **Cape Sata Lighthouse Keeper's Former Quarters**

After drinking in the extensive view, it was time to head to the next destination. After heading back down into the subtropical jungle and through winding stone paths, we reached the site of Cape Sata Lighthouse keeper's former quarters.



*Stone steps leading to the former quarters, surrounded by tropical greenery*

It sits quietly on a cliff edge high above the ocean, surrounded by primeval forest and separated from the lighthouse itself by a short stretch of ocean. Though only part of the exterior stone wall is left today, it remains an important cultural and historical landmark.

Looking at the silent stone walls overran by creeping greenery, it is a solemn and strangely lonely sight, as lonely as the sole figure of the lighthouse across the waters. How it must have felt, to be living in a surreal location as this, far down at the very tip of Japan!



*The remnants and interior of Cape Sata Lighthouse keeper's quarters*

It was then time to head back. We retraced our steps and returned to the entrance, bidding farewell to both our guides for their extremely informative guidance and explanations.



*One last glimpse of the lighthouse*



*A quick stop along the way back; the Suwa Shrine, known for its unusual double torii gates*

### **Ogawa Waterfall**

Our last stop was to Ogawa Waterfall, a magnificent waterfall near Minamiosumi Town.

The footpath follows a rippling stream and gently winds through lush greenery before reaching the waterfall proper. Normally the water is a tranquil stream flowing down into a crystal-clear emerald pool, but on the day we visited it was a powerful roaring cascade instead.



*The pathway towards the waterfall*

Thanks to a perfect combination of water and light, we were also treated to an unexpected, brilliant rainbow at the base of the waterfall!



*Ogawa Waterfall and its surrounding water bodies*



*An area with a refreshing and natural cool air flow along the way to the waterfall*



### Going home

All too soon, it was time for us to head back. Bidding farewell to our companions from Minamiosumi Town Hall, we made our way towards the ferry terminal and across the bay back home.

The journey to the southernmost tip of mainland Japan has been a fascinating trip, where it almost felt like a visit to a tropical island.

Our heartfelt appreciation to the staff of Minamiosumi Town Hall for taking precious time out to show us around, and to the guides at Cape Sata for their kind explanations. Without their kind support, this entire experience would not have been possible. My thanks to my fellow colleagues from the Kagoshima International Association too, for their company and making this trip so enjoyable.

What a memorable experience this has been indeed!



*A glimpse of cloud-capped Mt Kaimon across the bay on our way back*



*The beautiful sunset at the end of the day*



*The view of Cape Sata, the lighthouse, and the observatory together*

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

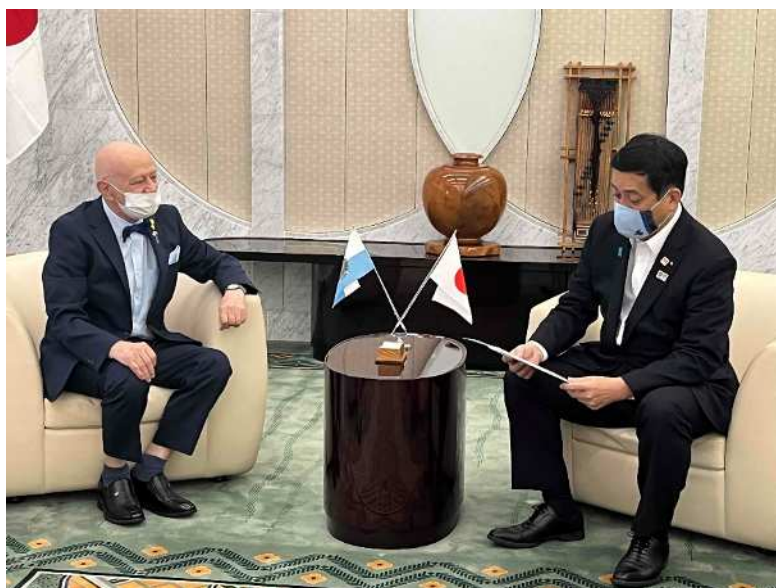
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### ● Visit by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of San Marino to Japan ●

H.E. Mr. Manlio Cadelo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of San Marino to Japan paid a courtesy call to the Prefectural Office on 9 August.

Ambassador Manlio spoke about the World x Locals Evening of Gastronomy event which was hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of San Marino in Kanoya City on August 8th, whereby the rich ingredients, culture and historical background of Kagoshima and Miyazaki were discussed. In addition, he also mentioned that once again, he was able to appreciate the splendor of Kagoshima's nature while at Aira Sanryo.

Governor Shiota expressed his gratitude for Ambassador Manlio's active efforts as Kagoshima International Friendship Ambassador, and he will continue to promote exchanges between Kagoshima and the Republic of San Marino.



Left: Ambassador Manlio

Right: Governor Shiota

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## Prefectural Scholarship International Students Column

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- A dreamlike trip to Amami Oshima, the land of my ancestors ●
  - Japanese Brazilian Kawassaki Daniela Yuka (Kagoshima University)

On 6 August, I visited Amami Oshima with Mr. Yoshimura, Secretary General of the Kagoshima International Association. As soon as we arrived at Amami Airport, I enjoyed one of the local specialties, keihan (chicken rice), at a nearby restaurant. It was delicious!

Thereafter, we made a stop at the Heart Rock along the way to Uken Village. It refers to a heart-shaped tidal pool among the rocks on the coast, but unfortunately due to high tide it was all submerged under the sea. It was a pity but nonetheless, we reset our feelings and headed towards the recently-opened Amami-Oshima World Heritage Conservation Center. After visiting the ingenious exhibits of Amami's unique nature, flora and fauna, we finally arrived at Uken Village at around 4:00pm!

Upon reaching the hotel, we were immediately welcomed by husband and wife Mr. Naotoshi Takada and Ms. Sayuri Takada, who are friends of my family. Ms. Sayuri was born in Brazil and can speak Portuguese, and we were able to talk about many topics. During the entirety of our visit, we were very well taken care of by them and I am very grateful.

The mayor of Uken Village, Mr. Akira Motoyama also personally visited the hotel and we had a lively conversation about the plans of this trip, about my family, and also about my studies in the university. He gifted us with many specialty products of Uken Village and is a really kind mayor.

In addition, I also met with reporters from 2 local newspapers and received various interviews. The reporters also continued their enthusiastic coverage the following day, and my visit was featured extensively in the news.

That evening, I was invited to a warm welcome party by the people of Uken Village. Ms. Tsukumi Tatsushima, Director of the Planning and Tourism Division from the Uken Village Office was there, along with Mr. Miyoji Murano, Mr. Takayuki Kijima, Mr. Hirofumi Watari and Mr. Kenji Uchida, a group who had visited Brazil in 2018. My relatives Mr. Manabu Fumioka, Mr. Tomoya Shirai and the married couple Ms. Sayuri Takada and Mr. Naotoshi Takada were present too.

In addition, the staffs of Uken Village Office also helped with various preparations and took very good care of us. Faced with this warm welcome from everyone, I was overwhelmed with feelings of gratitude that cannot be expressed by words alone. I had also received gifts of bracelets and earrings handmade by Amami craftsmen; they are dainty and beautiful and I really love them.

While enjoying the delicious food during the party, I had a great time chatting with everyone about topics such as my ancestors and the trip to Brazil that Mr. Kijima and the rest went on previously. Mr. Murano and Ms. Sayuri also brought out a shamisen and sang a local song called Shima Uta. It was my first time hearing it but the emotion within the song left a deep impression in my heart, along with the beauty of the increasingly star-filled skies as the night went on.

The next day, I went around the village with Mr. Uchida from the office and Mr. and Mrs. Takada. Firstly, we visited the graves of my ancestors. It was in a joint columbarium, and I placed an offering of flowers and incense. Afterwards, we went to the Brazil Bridge, which was built long ago by my great-grandfathers from donations by people originally from Uken Village who had immigrated to Brazil. After crossing the bridge, we visited my grandmother's cousin, Mr. Yotsuo Tsuda at his house.

After the visit, we went around various scenic places in Uken Village such as Mt. Mineta Observatory, Funakoshi Beach, Mt. Yuwan and Yakeuchi Bay; all of them have an overwhelming beauty that utterly convinced me the reason why Amami Oshima is registered as an UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site.

In the afternoon Ms. Sayuri prepared a Brazilian home-cooked meal for us. It includes picanha (grilled beef), coxinha (chicken croquettes), pastels (minced meat pies), lots of fruit and above all, the signature Brazilian feijoada (beef stew with black beans) and rice. It was truly the nostalgic taste of Brazil and I finished everything at one go; it was very delicious!

Here, it is time for us to reluctantly leave Uken Village, and I headed towards Naze with Mr. Yoshimura. After checking into the hotel, we were visited by Mr. Hisao Tsuda and his family from Kasari and we enjoyed an hour-long chat.

Thereafter, we went to a hostel run by Mr. Yosuke Nagata, who was introduced to us by my uncle Mr. Masaki Fumioka (Chairman of Brazil-Kagoshima Kenjinkai). Mr. Nagata had worked in Brazil for a period of time, and that was when he became acquainted with Uncle Masaki. He is also fluent in both Brazilian (Portuguese) and English. It was a short chat, but he treated us kindly and showed us around the hostel.

The third day would be our last day in Amami, and it was a visit to the long-awaited Oshima Tsumugi Village. It was one of the places I really wanted to go before I came to Amami, and it was as wonderful as anticipated. The techniques used in the process of mud-dyeing and weaving are really unique and impressive, and it was a very satisfying experience.

Looking back on this trip, I was able to meet with so many people in such a short period of time, and everyone has been very friendly, warm and kind; I would never have expected to receive such a kind treatment. I hope that someday in future I would be able to visit Amami again, to meet with everyone and to repay this kindness. To everyone, please accept my sincere gratitude and thank you so much.





We received a warm welcome from everyone at Uken Village!

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## Seasonal Tourism Information

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- Hakozaiki Hachiman Shrine in Izumi City ～A welcome by giant crane sculptures～●

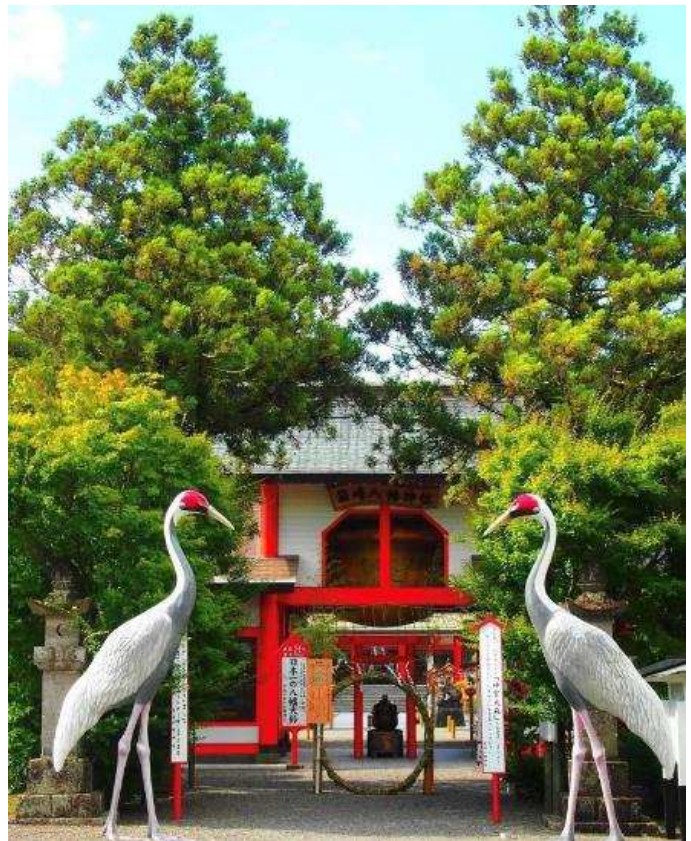
Today's photo is of Hakozaiki Hachiman Shrine in Izumi City!

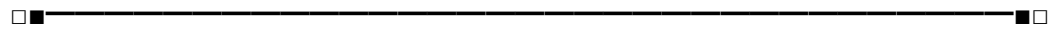
This shrine is located in Izumi City, which is famous as a migratory ground for cranes. At the entrance, you will be welcomed by giant crane sculptures!

Within the precinct, there are various points of interest such as the largest shrine bell in Japan, along with many adorable crane sculptures!

Photo by @o.sotoasobi (from Instagram)

Thank you for the beautiful photographs!





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

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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.



「Kagoshima Southern Wind Tidings'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 ▲▽▲▽

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