

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

VOL.173

▽ Topics

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

Life with Changing Seasons: My Four Seasons in Kagoshima

— By Wong Yimin (CIR from Singapore)

[2 Activities of the Governor](#)

Visit by the British Ambassador to Japan on October 24

Visit by the Czech Ambassador to Japan on October 24

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

Lecture on 『Paraguay and Kagoshima』

[4 Tourism Information in Kagoshima](#)

Primeval Mangrove Forest in Amami Oshima

Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Column

● Life with Changing Seasons: My Four Seasons in Kagoshima ●

— By Wong Yimin (CIR from Singapore)

It is nearing the end of the year, and it is again the time for the changing of seasons. How has everyone been faring so far?

It has been over a year since I had arrived here in Japan, and it's just enough for me to have experienced a round of the four seasons here.

Winter, spring, summer, and fall. To someone like me who hailed from a tropical country like Singapore, this is an entirely new experience!

In Singapore with its tropical rainforest climate, there are essentially only two 'seasons': summer and rain.

Singapore weather is always warm and humid all year round, with temperatures around 32°C during the day and 27°C at night. As such, there is little distinction between seasons.



Summer in Singapore is eternal

For us, talking about seasons is usually in the context of holidays, for it is only during vacation that we can experience beautiful seasonal sceneries. However, I now have the opportunity to experience living in such an environment after arriving here in October last year, as a Coordinator of International Relations (CIR) under Kagoshima Prefecture.

With different seasons, there are constantly new and amazing things to look forward to; endless flower fields in spring, colorful displays of fireworks in summer, vibrant red autumn leaves in autumn, and the cold beauty of winter.

However, there are challenges especially to someone like me from a tropical country. Today, I would like to share these experiences with everyone.

Autumn

When I first arrived last year, it was October. The first couple of weeks had been a familiar summer, but very soon after, the temperatures plunged along with the coming of autumn.

The fall season brings along stunning scarlet foliage, crisp cool air, and also disorienting dips and rises in temperatures.



Autumn foliage in Kirishima

Even though it has been said that large temperature differences between day and night significantly contribute to the vibrancy of fall colors, but that in itself was a daily challenge for me.

Cue frantic experiments in figuring out what sort of clothing combination works best in each specific temperature range, along with getting used to the drastic temperature differences between and within each day.

Back home, we will usually wear the same kind of clothes every day. However here, I learnt to become close friends with the weather app, and my daily attire was dictated by the little numbers on it.

Winter

Slowly, the bright days faded into cold grey winter, and the mercury dipped even further downwards.

This was also when I fully appreciated the phrase “chasing the sun”. In the past, sunlight equated to hot, humid and sticky. But in winter, seeing the sun was just like seeing an old friend; warm, friendly and inviting.



Winter crane migration in Izumi

However, there was one good thing to the cold; hardly any insects and mold around! In Singapore, the hot and humid climate means insects and mold was a daily household affair; not having any around during winter was a nice change indeed.

Spring

Thereafter, the temperature thankfully warmed up and it was time for spring. I felt alive again!

However, due to my lack of experience in this area, it took me a while to realize that spring has actually arrived. As a result, there was almost no impression of spring, and instead felt like winter had transited directly to summer...



Spring sakura (and Sakurajima) in Kagoshima City

With this years' experience in hand, I aim to pay closer attention next year and not miss out these subtle changes that herald the change of each season.

Summer

Next up, summer swings by along with its buzzing cicadas and insects.

To me, it felt that the main difference between summer in Kagoshima and Singapore lies in the humidity level. The humidity levels in Singapore is very high, and the air itself has a sticky muggy feeling. In addition, perhaps it is due to the lower humidity but the powerful midsummer sunlight in Kagoshima feels almost painful on the skin.

However, the temperatures rise to around the same levels as in Singapore and it feels very comfortable to live in. I would say that this is the season that I felt at ease the most in!



Summer fireworks in Kagoshima City

Conclusion

As the wheel of time turns, each different season in turn brings about its own unique beauty and challenges, aptly showcasing the concept that change is the only constant in life. No season last beyond a few months, and right when you got used to one, it is soon time to transition to the next season.

The four seasons can be a little overwhelming the first time they are experienced, but it is indeed a new and enjoyable challenge, and feels somewhat like four familiar friends who takes turns coming to visit you each year.

I will enjoy and look forward to the advent of the next season!

Activities of the Governor

- Visit by the British Ambassador to Japan ●

Ambassador Longbottom of the British Embassy in Japan paid a courtesy call to the prefectural office on 24 October.

She praised the taste of Kagoshima's wagyu beef, which was awarded the best in Japan. Ambassador Longbottom also said that on account of the long-standing relationship between the United Kingdom and Kagoshima, she would like to deepen exchanges and cooperation in various fields such as youth exchange, with the aim of strengthening our mutual understanding and relationship.

According to Governor Shiota, he would like to continue promoting exchanges with the United Kingdom based on the friendship agreement between Camden Town (London) and Manchester City. He also said that he looks forward to a future increase in mutual movement of people across borders due to the relaxation of border control measures.



Left: Ambassador Longbottom / Right: Governor Shiota

- Visit by the Czech Ambassador to Japan ●

Ambassador Tomčo of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Japan paid a courtesy call to the prefectural office on 24 October.

He offered congratulations on the winning of the Prime Minister’s Award at the National Competitive Exhibition of Wagyu, and talked about how the Czech Republic and Kagoshima has something in common where they are both currently focusing on the space industry. Ambassador Tomčo also mentioned how Sakurajima and the remote islands of Kagoshima are attractive tourist destinations for the Czech people.

According to Governor Shiota, he mentioned about a company in Kagoshima Prefecture which manufactures Czech beer, and also introduced the world natural heritage sites of Amami Oshima, Tokunoshima and Yakushima. He also said that he would like for people from the Czech Republic to visit Kagoshima in future and directly enjoy the nature and wagyu beef here.



Left: Ambassador Tomčo / Right: Governor Shiota

The A-Z of Kagoshima's International Relations

- Lecture on 『Paraguay and Kagoshima』 ●



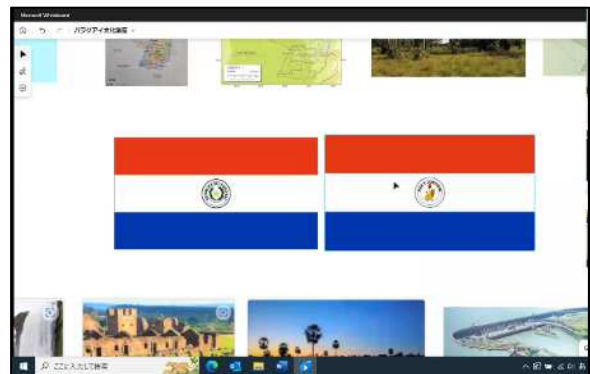
Introduction from the lecture slides

A lecture titled "Paraguay and Kagoshima" was held on 20 November at the Kagoshima Prefectural Citizens Exchange Center, and is about the history of immigrants from Kagoshima to Paraguay in South America. This was organized by the Kagoshima International Association in order to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Kenjinkai in Paraguay.

Mr. Yatsuro Sonoda, director of the Iguazu Immigration Museum, gave an online talk introducing the country of Paraguay, his experience of moving from Kagoshima to Paraguay, and about his current lifestyle there.

Japanese emigration to Paraguay began in 1936, and currently there are 9 main Japanese residential areas with 120 people from 40 households, including second- and third-generation Japanese. These residents participate in the Kenjinkai and have regular exchanges with each other.

During the lecture, the participants asked many questions about Paraguay and the history of the migration. The atmosphere of the lecture was harmonious, with laughter being heard occasionally.



Left: At the venue / Right: During the Zoom explanation

Tourism Information in Kagoshima

- Primeval Mangrove Forest in Amami Oshima ●

Today's photo is the about the primeval mangrove forest in Amami Oshima!

Mangroves thrive in tropical and subtropical regions.

Enjoy the amazing nature of the World Natural Heritage Site, Amami Oshima, while riding a canoe! ☺

Photo by @komajun0318 (from Instagram)

Thank you for the beautiful photo!



■ ————— ■
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.

■ ————— ■

「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 ▲▽▲▽

International Affairs Division, Tourism, Culture and Sports 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.