

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.174

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Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Column

● The Little Things That Matter ●

– By Kim Hyojin (CIR from South Korea)

An exchange event for newly-arrived foreigners, ‘Hearty Party’, was held at the Kagoshima International Friendship Center on 30 October. This is an event where foreigners new to Kagoshima City are welcomed and where they can deepen connections and cultural understanding through mutual exchanges. Here, there are various foreign cultural booths introducing the culture of different countries and Japanese cultural booths with activities such as Japanese games and kimono dressing, allowing foreign residents and Japanese to interact with each other.

This year as well, I set up a Korean cultural booth showcasing traditional Korean games with the Korean CIR from Kagoshima City. Many participants visited in order to experience the games, which includes the classic traditional Korean game of *tuho* (throwing arrows from a distance into a narrow-necked jar), *yutnori* (a board dice game similar to Japan’s *sugoroku*, but where four wooden sticks called ‘*yut*’ are thrown instead of dice), *ddakjichigi* (where players try to flip each other’s folded paper disks) and *jegichagi* (a game of kicking a ‘*jegi*’ made from a coin wrapped in paper, with the aim to keep it off the ground).

Various participants of all sorts visited the Korean cultural booth, ranging from those who has never experienced Korean culture, to those who are hooked onto Korean dramas and learning Korean language, to fans of K-pop idol groups, and we had an enjoyable cultural exchange experience. In addition, the participants are of varying age ranges, from elementary school to university students to families with children. As such, I was also able to interact with people of all ages.

Among them were a Japanese child and his mother. The boy has been interested in Korea for a long time, and he also expressed interest in the traditional Korean games at this event. He listened carefully to my explanations, and wholeheartedly participated in the games.

I really appreciated the child’s pure-hearted interest in Korean culture, and also struck up a conversation with his mother who was watching from the side. She said, “I have had experience abroad, and that was a valuable experience for me. I wish for my child to also be exposed to various different cultures.”

The conversation we had at that time led to me and the Kagoshima City Korean CIR being invited to dinner. We wanted to give the child great memories, so we asked the mother in advance about her son's preferences and prepared Korean snacks and games that we can play together.



On that day, we visited their residence with excitement and were welcomed by the mother and her son with friendly smiles. When we entered the house, the atmosphere was warm and the walls covered with world maps and alphabet charts. At that time, I thought it would be nice if someday this wall will also include *hangul* (Korean script) charts too.

In no time at all, we were able to savor a delicious meal of hand-rolled sushi prepared by the mother, and during the meal we chatted excitedly about various topics such as travel preparations to Korea, school lunches, and Korean road signs.



After that, we played games while enjoying toasted marshmallows. We also chatted about pragmatic topics such as dual-career families and parenting in Japan and Korea.

Perhaps it was because we were too absorbed in the conversation, but before we knew it, it was time to go home. Although we were filled with regret, but we went home anticipating the next time when we could meet again. I was very grateful to both the mother and son for creating such wonderful memories, and I would love to meet them again if the opportunity arises!

This encounter made me reconsider the importance of exchanges at the grassroots level. I believe that even though these are chance encounters, but they will deepen mutual understanding and lead to exchanges among future generations.

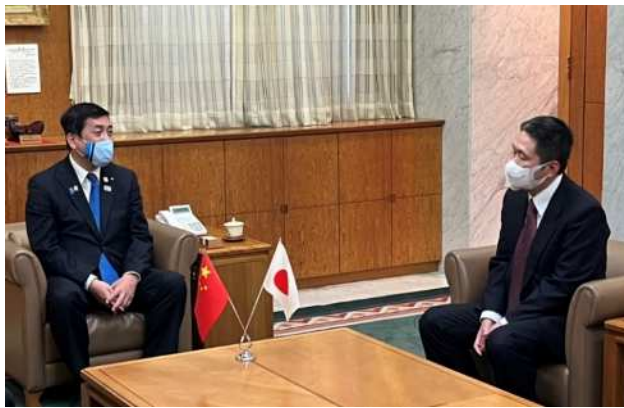
You might think that just an individual exchange will not lead to any changes, but how about taking that first step out in something little that matters?

Activities of the Governor

●Visit from the Consul General of China in Fukuoka●

Mr. Lu Guijun, the Consul General of China in Fukuoka, paid a courtesy visit to the Prefectural Office. He offered congratulations towards Kagoshima clinching the Prime Minister's Award at the National Competitive Exhibition of Wagyu. He also mentioned that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and China, and he would like to continue promoting exchanges in various areas such as youth exchanges, culture and the arts.

From Governor Shiota, he expressed his hopes for the early resumption of regular air routes between Kagoshima Airport and China, and at the same time the promotion of tourism that utilizes the these routes. He also introduced the World Natural Heritage Sites in Kagoshima which includes Yakushima, Amami Oshima and Tokunoshima, and hopes that many Chinese people will be able to visit Kagoshima and enjoy the rich nature and foods here.



Left: Governor Shiota / Right: Consul General Lu Guijun

●Visit from the Ambassador of the Federated States of Micronesia to Japan●

Mr. John Fritz, the Ambassador of the Federated States of Micronesia to Japan, paid a courtesy visit to the Prefectural Office. He shared the event report for the event Katsuobushi Summit that was held on 24 November (Thursday), and also talked about the historically close relationship between the Federated States of Micronesia and Kagoshima. He also hopes that we can continue to strengthen our mutual understanding and relationship, and to further deepen the exchanges and cooperation that we have in various fields in order to connect our history to the next generation.

From Governor Shiota, he talked about islands such as Yakushima which share the same traits as the Federated States of Micronesia, and also introduced the richly diverse food that is the pride of Kagoshima. In addition, he also mentioned looking forward to hosting the Pacific Alliance Leaders Meeting in Kagoshima and to continue promoting exchanges with the Federated States of Micronesia.



Left: Ambassador John Fritz /
Right: Governor Shiota

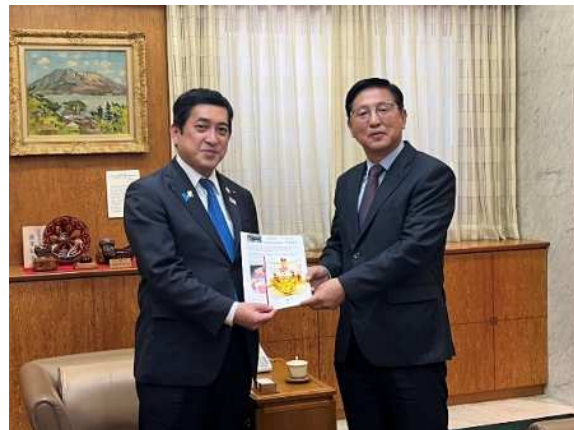
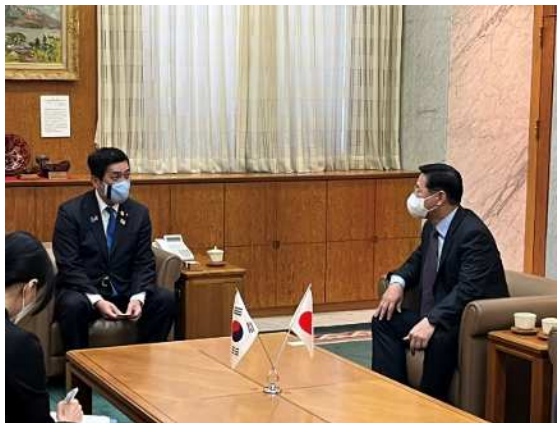


Left: Ambassador / Center: Governor
/ Right: Ambassador's wife

●Visit from the Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Fukuoka●

Mr. Park Geon Chan, the Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Fukuoka, paid a courtesy visit to the Prefectural Office. It was his first time visiting Kagoshima, but he shared his thoughts about how beautiful the nature here is, and how delicious the food is. He also mentioned that he would like to work towards restoring regular flight routes between Kagoshima Airport and South Korea as soon as possible.

From Governor Shiota, he mentioned the exchanges between Kagoshima Prefecture and Jeollabuk-do (North Jeolla Province), and also the Chin Jukan Kiln in Hioki City. He also introduced the World Natural Heritage Sites in Kagoshima which includes Amami Oshima, Tokunoshima and Yakushima, and hopes that many Koreans will be able to visit Kagoshima in the future and enjoy the lush nature, numerous hot springs and delicious foods here.



Left: Governor Shiota / Right: Consul General Park Geon Chan

The A-Z of Kagoshima's International Relations

● Visit Tour to Akune and Ichikikushikino City for Prefectural Scholarship Exchange Students and Overseas Technical Trainees ●

6 people visited Akune City in December to meet Mr. Kawabata, Chairman of the Prefectural Immigrant Family Association. They include the 2022 overseas technical trainees (Mr. Uezono from Brazil and Mr. Kitazono from Peru) and also the 2022 prefectural scholarship exchange students (Ms. Kawassaki, her mother, and Mr. Suehiro from Brazil, and Mr. Kuwae from Peru).

They had a great time chatting with the Chairman about the Kenjinkai's anniversary events, the relatives of the exchange students, and about the international exchanges they had while in Brazil. The visit ended and everyone left the Chairman's house with high hopes for being able to resume exchanges with the various Kenjinkais from next year onwards.

After that, the group visited the Satsuma Students Museum in Ichikikushikino City where they learnt about the history of Satsuma. Time flew by in the blink of an eye, but it seemed like this day would be able to be a part of the good memories made in Kagoshima before they each had to return to their respective countries at the end of February.



Information on Kagoshima's Regional Specialties

● 2022 Winning Products of Kagoshima's Regional Specialties Contest decided! ●

Kagoshima's Regional Specialties Contest was held on 31 October 2022 (Monday), and 11 prize-winning products were selected in two sectors; the food sector and the crafts/daily necessities sector.

This time, we will introduce the products among them that won the Kagoshima Prefectural Governor's Award.

Food Sector

Aged Sashimi Series originated in Kagoshima:

Aged amberjack: 983yen (tax included)

Aged Japanese sea bream: 1,166yen (tax included)

Aged flounder: 1,274yen (tax included)

Gift set of all three types: 3,672yen (tax included)

Shelf Life: 120 days (frozen)



Kagoshima's aged fish has several times the umami compared to fresh fish, and can be found as part of course meals at Michelin-starred restaurants in Tokyo. Enjoy this creamy and rich taste with the accompanying chef's special sauce in the comfort of your own home.

PLOW A LAND CO., LTD.

6-1-1F Nishi Otemachi, Kanoya City, Kagoshima

〒893-0008

Tel: 0994-36-8099

Crafts/Daily Necessities Sector

Sakurajima tumbler made from
Satsuma Tin, 'Saikou'

–the ultimate gift from Sakurajima–

Price: 49,500yen (tax included)

Volume: 250ml

Dimensions: Height 8cm x Diameter
8cm



A collaboration between the local resource of Sakurajima lava, patented technology from Kagoshima Prefectural Institute of Industrial Technology and Satsuma tin. It is also the world's first successful development of rainbow colors in tin, and various color shifts can be enjoyed depending on the viewing angle and lighting.

Satsuma Tinware Crafts Museum Iwakiri Mikodo

4-18-2 Kokubunchuo, Kirishima City, Kagoshima

〒899-4332

Tel:0995-45-0177



Kagoshima Prefectural Government Home Page:

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



Editor's Note (Kagoshima Prefecture Department of Tourism,
Culture and Sports)

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Hello, it is Nakamine here, and I wish you a Happy New Year.

I was in charge of the Kenjinkai from April last year, and thank you so much for your support since then. We will work towards providing information on Kagoshima via the Hotline Newsletter in 2023 as well, so we look forward to your support this year too.

With that, please look forward to the next issue!



«A request to our readers»

Please share with us any news or events in your country or region that may serve as reference for Kagoshima prefecture. We welcome brief and simple submissions and we always look forward to hearing from you.

Examples:

- Imports of agricultural, forestry and fishery products from Japan
- Trends in tourism to Japan
- Exchanges with other parts of Japan

(Enquiries)

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«Associated Websites»

(1) Tourism

- [Kagoshima – The Official Tourism Website](#)

(2) Specialty Products

- [‘Kagoshima Fan-Net’ webpage \(Specialty products, agricultural produce, etc.\)](#) (Japanese only)

(3) Food

- [‘Kagoshima no Shoku’ website](#)

(4) Agricultural, Livestock and Seafood Products

- [The Kagoshima Brand](#)
- [‘Furusato’ certified food products](#)
- [Natural and processed meat products webpage](#)
- [Kagoshima Prefecture Chamber of Tea Industry website](#)
- [Special forest products webpage](#)
- [Marine Products webpage](#)

(5) Others

- [Kagoshima Internet TV channel ‘Move! Kagoshima’](#)
- [Official Kagoshima Prefecture Facebook](#)
- [Official Kagoshima Prefecture Twitter](#)
- [Kagoshima Prefecture Official Website](#)