

Multilingual Electronic Newsletter

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かごしま南の風便り



Kagoshima Southern Wind Tidings

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Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Column

- Kagoshima National Sports Festival ・ National Sports Festival for the Disabled! ●
— By Kim Hyojin (CIR from South Korea) —

The 75th National Sports Festival Kagoshima was held from 7 Oct to 17 Oct 2023, and following that, the 20th National Sports Festival for the Disabled was held from 28 Oct to 30 Oct 2023.



Mascot Characters of Kagoshima Prefecture: Guribu Family

These events were scheduled to be held in 2020, but due to the effects of the COVID pandemic, it was decided to be held three years later as the Kagoshima National Sports Festival and National Sports Festival for the Disabled.



At the opening and closing ceremonies of both events, we had a booth titled “Kagoshima Prefecture’s International Relations”. At the opening ceremony of the National Sports Festival on 7 October, I was also involved in the operation of this booth and introduced about the prefecture’s international relations to visitors.

We also introduced Jeollabuk-do, a province of South Korea which has friendly relations with Kagoshima Prefecture. Tourist guidebooks and maps of Jeollabuk-do were distributed, and we shared about our exchanges with them and transportation access from Kagoshima Prefecture to Jeollabuk-do. In addition, we also provided information on the scheduled air routes between Kagoshima and Seoul, South Korea, which will resume from 29 October.

It was very meaningful as we were able to introduce the prefecture's international relations while interacting with prefectural residents as well as athletes and visitors from all over the country.

We hope that this will be a good opportunity to increase the interest of prefectural residents in the Kagoshima's international relations and in Jeollabuk-do, South Korea!

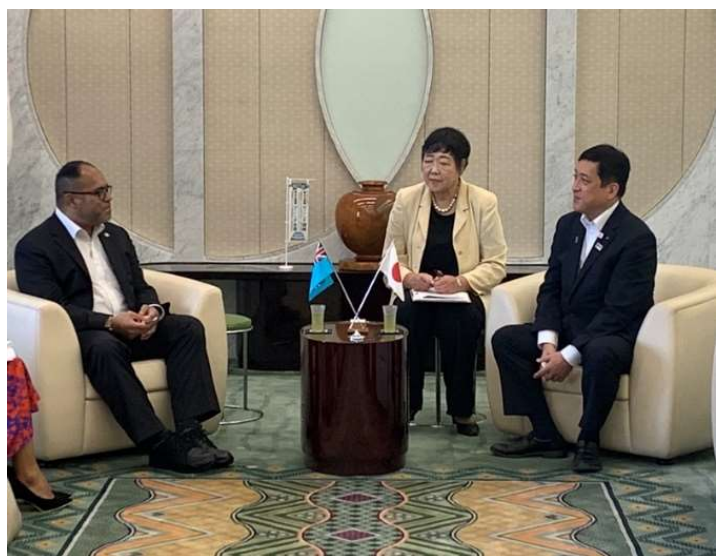
Activities of the Governor

● 11 Sep: Courtesy Visit by the Ambassador of the Republic of Fiji to Japan ●

The Ambassador of the Republic of Fiji to Japan, H.E. Mr. Filimone Waqabaca, paid a courtesy visit to the prefectural office.

According to Ambassador Waqabaca, this was his first visit to Kagoshima and he was surprised to be able to see Sakurajima, an active volcano up close. He also expressed his desire to further deepen future exchanges and cooperation in industries such as agriculture and fisheries.

According to the governor, Kagoshima has a wide variety of attractions, including a diverse and rich natural environment that includes the World Natural Heritage sites of Yakushima, Amami Oshima and Tokunoshima. These attractions also include foods such as Kagoshima *wagyu* beef, the best *wagyu* beef in Japan, and authentic *shochu* (distilled liquor). At the same time, he expressed his wishes for increased mutual visits in the future.



During the Courtesy Visit

International Relations of Kagoshima

- Courtesy Visit by the 2023 Kagoshima Prefectural Overseas Technical Trainees and Prefectural Scholarship Exchange Students to the Vice Governor ●

On 13 October 2023, three members from the 2023 batch of Kagoshima Prefectural Overseas Technical Trainees (from Brazil, Paraguay, and China) and three from the Prefectural Scholarship Exchange Students (from Brazil and Peru) paid a courtesy visit to Vice Governor Fujimoto at the prefectural office. The six members introduced themselves in Japanese and reported on their respective training and study progresses.

Vice Governor Fujimoto gave words of encouragement to both the trainees and exchange students while asking them questions about their life in Kagoshima. They are scheduled to stay in Kagoshima until mid-February next year, deepening their learning in their respective specializations and working hard on training and research.

We look forward to the continued success of both the trainees and exchange students in the future.



During the Courtesy Visit

Tourism Information in Kagoshima

- Kirishima Shrine (Kirishima City) ●

～Kirishima's best power spot! A gorgeous shrine born from the nature around a volcano～



Photo: Kagoshima Prefectural Visitors Bureau

According to an official announcement on 9 February 2022, the Main Shrine Hall, the Offering Hall and Worship Hall of Kirishima Shrine were designated as National Treasures of Japan, and the Kirishima Shrine Corridor and Imperial Envoy Hall were designated as Important Cultural Properties of Japan.

As you pass through the road approaching the shrine surrounded by tranquil greenery, the majestic shrine building in exquisite vermilion will rise before your eyes. Kirishima Shrine enshrines *Ninigi-no-mikoto*, the hero in the ancient legend of the founding of Japan, and is said to have been established in the 6th century. It is also one of the few shrines which carries the suffix of “*jingu*” (*Kirishima Jingu* in Japanese), referring to a Shinto shrine of high status with a connection to the imperial family.

It was originally built between Mt. Takachiho and Mt. Ohachi in the Kirishima mountain range, but the shrine building was burnt down and relocated numerous times due to repeated eruptions of Mt. Kirishima. The current shrine building was donated by Yoshitaka Shimadzu, the lord of the Satsuma Domain, in 1715 during the Edo Period. It was built on a slope, richly decorated throughout and have been designated as National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties of Japan.

The *ku-men* (literally “nine masks”) are nine sacred masks enshrined at Kirishima Shrine since ancient times, and are believed to be part of a unique belief system related to *kumen*, or the art of making money and suchlike. There are also amulets and various goods at the shrine.

There are numerous locations in the surrounding area where you can enjoy spectacular views of nature, such as autumn leaves and the beautiful Shinsui Gorge born of volcanic activity. This makes Kirishima Shrine a place where you can enjoy a sacred atmosphere away from the bustle of the city.

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