

Multilingual Electronic Newsletter

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かごしま南の風便り



Kagoshima Southern Wind Tidings

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▽ Topics

1 Monthly Column

- By Kayoko Matsumura (International Affairs Division)
- Let's go to Southern Kagoshima!

2 Activities of the Governor

- 9 August: Opinion Exchange with Mr. Anh, General Manager of Vietnam Airlines Branch in Japan
- 22 August: Congratulatory Address at the Welcome Reception for the Asian-Pacific City Summit
- 24 August: Attendance at the 2024 Kagoshima Prefecture Shochu Export Expansion Project Subcommittee Meeting

3 International Relations of Kagoshima

- 19 July: Visit by students from Tsinghua University
- 29 July: Visit by the Chairman of Brazil Kagoshima Kenjinkai
- 23 August: Visit by FY2024 Prefectural Scholarship Exchange Students

4 Tourism Information in Kagoshima

- 24 August: The 22nd Kagoshima Kinko Bay Summer Night Fireworks Festival

Monthly Column

● Let's go to Southern Kagoshima! ●



Hello, everyone!
The topic today is about a late summer trip within Kagoshima Prefecture.



It has been five months since our Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs) from China and Korea first arrived in April. This time, we took Ms. Deng and Ms. Kim to the Minamisatsuma area of Kagoshima, which is filled with the magnificence of nature including blue seas and green lands.

First, we started with a filling meal of Chiran green tea soba noodles for lunch, where the green buckwheat noodles were very appetizing. According to the two CIRs who finished everything on their plates, the noodles had a refreshing flavor of tea in addition to the usual soba taste and was easy to eat, even in summer.



Next, we went to the Chiran Samurai Residence Complex.

There are several samurai residence complexes in Kagoshima Prefecture. However, for the ones in Chiran it is said that Hisamine Shimazu, the Lord of Chiran, brought back the culture of Kyoto that he saw on his way back from his official visits to Edo. As such, the area is designated as an important 'Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings' by the Japanese government.

The large stone walls and carefully maintained green hedges were very impressive, and walking along the paved paths invoked thoughts of the bygone days of the Satsuma clan.

Lastly, we visited Chiran Farm, a specialty store for organic Chiran Tea.

Chiran Tea is a brand of green tea produced in Minamikyushu City, which is the largest producer of green tea by municipality in Japan (about 15% of total domestic production).

Minamikyushu City has all the conditions necessary to produce delicious tea, including fertile, well-drained soil thanks to the volcanic ash of Sakurajima, a warm climate all year round, and abundant sunshine.

At Chiran Farm, we were each offered a sample serving of hot and cold green tea, and were also served matcha soft serve generously topped with matcha powder.

The ice cream had a unique local flavor with the rich aroma and moderate tartness of Chiran tea.



There are many other places to visit in the Minamisatsuma area of Kagoshima. This includes Fukiagehama, one of Japan's three major sand dunes, a well-known whiskey distillery, and Bonotsu, a famous marine leisure spot.

As a day is definitely insufficient to visit all these places, hence we headed back home while commenting that we would love to visit again in another season.

Minamisatsuma Tourism Association: <https://kanko-minamisatsuma.jp/en/>

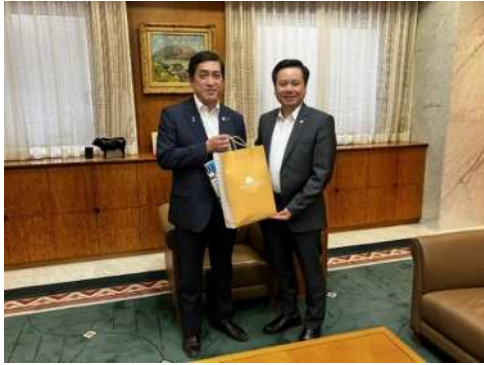
Activities of the Governor

● 9 August: Opinion Exchange with Mr. Anh, General Manager of Vietnam Airlines Branch in Japan ●

We had an opinion exchange regarding the start of regular flights between Kagoshima and Vietnam with Mr. Ngo Sy Anh, General Manager of Vietnam Airlines, Japan Branch.

Kagoshima Prefecture concluded a partnership agreement with Vietnam Airlines and H.I.S. Co., Ltd. for the launch of regular flights between Kagoshima and Vietnam in November last year. Furthermore from March this year, it has been decided that a two-way charter flight will be operated at the end of this year between 30 December to 3 January next year.

Going forward, we will continue to provide support to airlines and engage in sales and promotions to local travel agencies and so on in preparation for the launch of regular flights.



•Commemorative photo with General Manager Mr. Ngo Sy Anh



•During the opinion exchange

● 22 August: Congratulatory Address at the Welcome Reception for the Asian-Pacific City Summit ●

The Asian-Pacific City Summit was proposed by Fukuoka City in 1994 to promote mutual cooperation and networking among cities in the Asia-Pacific region. This year marks the 30th anniversary and is the first time that it is held in Kagoshima City. At this event, the Governor attended the welcome reception and gave a speech.

We welcomed all participants from both Asian-Pacific cities and Japanese cities to Kagoshima Prefecture. Through information sharing and collaboration, it is our hope that we can solve problems such as climate change which are occurring around the world, and to realize a sustainable social system.

At the reception, a variety of dishes using local ingredients were served. At the same time, the Sakurajima Hino-shima Taiko Drums Preservation Society did a *taiko* (Japanese drum) performance, and Kazuyuki Ishihara gave a flower performance on the stage.



•During the speech

● 24 August: Attendance at the 2024 Kagoshima Prefecture Shochu Export Expansion Project Subcommittee Meeting ●

The 2024 Kagoshima Prefecture Shochu Export Expansion Project Subcommittee Meeting was held to discuss about the promotion of Kagoshima's *honkaku* shochu (authentic shochu) exports with the Kagoshima Prefecture Sake Brewers Association and other related organizations.

At the meeting, participants confirmed this year's overseas activity plans, shared examples of initiatives related to Japanese sake, which is a leading export, as well as the current status and challenges of the alcoholic beverage markets in France and India. In addition, the importance of continued efforts were also reaffirmed.

Kagoshima Prefecture will work closely with the national government, the Prefectural Sake Brewers' Association and other related parties in order to strategically expand exports of Kagoshima's world-reowned *honkaku* shochu.



•Speaking at the meeting



•During the meeting

International Relations of Kagoshima

● 19 July: Visit by Students from Tsinghua University ●

18 students from Tsinghua University paid a courtesy visit to the Prefectural Government, along with Associate Professor Sun Bin of the Faculty of Foreign Studies at Tsinghua University.

According to Associate Professor Sun, he was impressed by the lush nature and rich history of Kagoshima, and moved by the teachings of Ganjin and Takamori Saigo; as a result, he had a very fulfilling visit. In addition, the participating students also said that they were able to learn about areas such as Yakushima while visiting in person.

According to Governor Shiota, he hoped that this trip would be a good experience for the future of the participants, and that they will come back once again to Kagoshima and enjoy its diverse attractions.



•With students from Tsinghua University

● 29 July: Visit by the Chairman of Brazil Kagoshima Kenjinkai ●

Mr. Sergio Masaki Fumioka, President of the Brazil Kagoshima Kenjinkai, paid a courtesy visit to the Prefectural Government.

Chairman Fumioka presented us with a commemorative magazine for the 110th Anniversary Ceremony of the Founding of Brazil Kagoshima Kenjinkai which was held last year, and expressed his gratitude about attending the commemorative ceremony.

We would like to continue to build on the exchanges that we have and further develop our relationship of exchange and cooperation with the Kagoshima Kenjinkai Brazil.



•The Chairman of Brazil Kagoshima Kenjinkai



•During the courtesy visit

● 23 August: Visit by FY2024 Prefectural Scholarship Exchange Students ●

The 2024 Prefectural Scholarship Exchange Students from Brazil and Peru visited the Prefectural Government.

The purpose of this scholarship program is to accept children of emigrants from Kagoshima Prefecture to study here. Upon the return to their country, they can then serve as a bridge between their home country and Kagoshima Prefecture and contribute to the promotion of mutual economic and cultural exchange. The program started in 1970, and since then 148 people had come to Kagoshima.

According to the prefectural scholarship exchange students, they wanted to study Japanese more in order to make their studies at university and their lives in Kagoshima more fulfilling.

According to the governor, he hoped the students would work hard in their studies, enjoy Kagoshima's delicious foods and alcohol, and share the merits of Kagoshima after returning to their home countries.



•With the Prefectural Scholarship Exchange Students



•During the visit

Tourism Information in Kagoshima

● 24 August: The 22nd Kagoshima Kinko Bay Summer Night Fireworks Festival ●

This is one of the largest fireworks displays in Kyushu, held against the backdrop of the world-renowned natural scenery of Sakurajima, one of the world's famous active volcanoes, along with the calm waves of Kinko Bay.

Every year, the summer night sky is lit up with elaborate displays of approximately 15,000 fireworks, including a simultaneous series of 1-*shaku* (about 30cm) and 2-*shaku* (about 60cm) fireworks.

This year would be the 22nd festival, and the fireworks display was packed with highlights. It includes a prayer for the recovery from the Noto Peninsula earthquake, the annual concurrent launching of two 2-*shaku* large fireworks, and a musical fireworks finale with 2,222 consecutive launches, including large fireworks.

Number of fireworks: approx. 15,000



• *The fireworks finale*

