

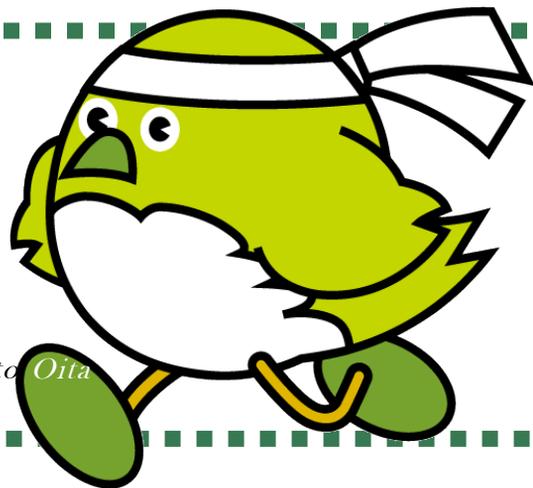
What's up,

OITA!

2020 March

No. 46

Bringing the latest from Oita, Japan to all those connected to Oita thriving all across the globe.



The Marega Project's Research Delegation Visits Oita

The Marega Project, a programme with a focus on developing future researchers, convened at the Oita Prefecture Ancient Sages Historical Archives over a five-day period beginning from Feb 10.

The participants included one associate professor and two postgraduate students from the Sapienza University of Rome and one postgraduate student from the Naples Eastern University. All participants hold experience in researching Japanese culture or Japanese classical canons.

A lecture on Petro Kasui Kibe was conducted as part of the project's overall theme on Christianity in Oita. The lecture was geared at introducing the history of the titular Petro Kasui Kibe, a Christian who was ordained a Priest upon arriving Rome in A.D.1620.



Governor's courtesy visit.



The delegation at work.



Besides collaborating in reporting research findings and performing exercises and presentations on the Marega Papers and other materials related to Christianity in Oita, the participants also conducted onsite research at local Christian monuments connected to the Marega Papers including the Usuki Castletown.

By the end of the training, participants expressed that they would like to see similar efforts on research and cultural exchange continued in the future.

The participants also engaged in a courtesy meeting with the Oita Prefecture's Governor. The Governor stated his expectations in the new academic project's future potentials, and hoped that it would become a good opportunity for participants to get in touch with Oita's history and culture. The words were warmly received, with participants articulating the honour of being a part of the programme.

With the end of this year's training, the Oita Prefecture looks forward to seeing the project bringing future academic exchange opportunities between Oita/Japan and Vatican/Italy.

Appointment of New Mejiron Overseas Supporters

Exchange cadets from Brazil



Marvin Ishii and Lika Shikata, two students from families of Japanese expatriates based in Sao Paulo, have returned to Brazil after completing an almost year-long training that began in April 2019.

Prior to returning home, Mr. Ishii and Ms. Shikata were assigned Mejiron Overseas Supporters by Deputy Director General Isoda of the Planning Promotion Department.

While studying mechanical engineering and architecture respectively at the Oita University, the cadets explored the prefecture and other parts of Japan on weekends and had a good taste of local cultures. 'We're very glad to have come to Oita, and would like to visit again if the opportunity arises,' commented the two.

APU Alumni from Malaysia

During a recent visit to Malaysia, the Oita Prefecture appointed three APU alumni as Mejiron Overseas Supporters.

Lee Tee Ting joined a Japanese-affiliated company after graduation. Ms. Ting currently works for the Malaysian and Singaporean tourism boards where she supervises local inbound tourism.



Strawberry Galore

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Though the peaks of the mountains are still lightly capped in snow, there is already a breath of spring in the air in Oita. The arrival of spring also brings new seasonal produce to the table, and now is the perfect time to enjoy strawberries.

While strawberries from the green grocers and supermarkets are all well and good, there is something intrinsically mesmerising about plucking the fruit fresh and plopping it in your mouth. If strawberry-picking is your idea for a fun weekend activity, then you might be pleased to know that it can be done at the Dome Ichigo-En, a facility that is around a 20min drive from central Oita.

Planted on raised beds that almost reaches an adult's chest, the strawberries can be easily be picked by adults, children or anyone who uses wheelchairs. Aside from the popular local *Berryts*, other well-known varieties such as the *Akihime*, *Benihoppe*, *Sagahonoka*, *Oi-C-Berry*, *Kaorino* and *Kanamihime* can be sampled as well, making the Dome Ichigo-En the perfect weekend escape if you want that extra dose of sweetness.



A Course
Hands-On Farming Experience
(Takeout)
Pick the fruit and enjoy them home.

Entrance fee: 400 yen for elementary-school-age and above, 200 yen for 3-year-old and above (free admission for participants younger than 3)
Charge for strawberries: 150 yen per gram (picked strawberries sold in grams)

B Course
All-You-Can-Eat (40min entrance)
Eat all you can at the facility within 40 minutes.

1,500 yen for adults (junior high school students or above)
1,000 yen for elementary-school-age and above
800 yen for three-year-old and above

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