

What's up,

OITA!

 2021 March
No. 58

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



2nd Japan-Korea Friendship Convention in OITA

On February 12, the Japan-Korea Cultural Exchange Association (JKCA) held the 2nd Japan-Korea Friendship Convention in OITA at J:COM Horuto Hall Oita.



Top left: Ms. Noh, Coordinator for International Relations (CIR), delivering greetings on stage

Executive committee's visit to the prefectural office

The executive committee made a visit to the Oita Prefectural Office on Feb 1. 'Aside from other regions of Kyushu, Oita receives the highest number of tourist from Korea,' said Committee Director Hashimoto. 'We would be keen on furthering communication, and work on making this event as big as the movie festival someday.' In response to this remark, Director Takaya of the Oita Prefectural Planning Promotion Department made the following comment: 'Korea is an important partner to Oita Prefecture, grass root exchange like the one today is extremely important in times of the COVID-19 outbreak.'

Even better content

The event saw opened for the second time since its initial convention last year. In addition to the screening of three cinematographic pieces from Korea and Japan such as 'Harmony', audience also received a presentation on the traditional cultures of the two countries from Director Kim Sun Yeong of the Kurushima Takehiko Memorial Hall. In the traditional performances segment, audiences had the pleasure of enjoying a samul nori piece from Korean exchange students studying at the Nippon Bunri University, as well as a shonai kagura piece performed by children.

The event was carried out in conjunction to COVID-19 control measures – body temperature checks, disinfection procedures and entrance capacity limit were conducted on the day. Through this series of efforts, numerous participants were able to grasp a deeper understanding towards the communication between Korea and Japan.



Front row from left: Department Director Mr. Takaya, Committee Director Mr. Hashimoto, Vice Committee Director Mr. Korenaga
Back row from left: International Policy Division Director Mr. Fujii, Executive Bureau Chief Mr. In, CIR Ms. Noh

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN ?

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN? is a column that talks about what past CIRs and other affiliates of the Oita Prefecture have been up to.



Bamboo lantern festival in Hita

Ms. Li Ting

Traineeship programme cadet from China
Placement in Oita Prefecture: May 2019 ~ Nov 2019

Memories of Oita

A year has passed since I left Oita. I am continuing my studies in the Japanese language through listening to NHK news and watching TV dramas. Even now, memories of Oita Prefecture, especially those of the carbonated onsen at Nagayu, bring about a wave of nostalgia. I had travelled to the onsen on bus in autumn, and was mesmerised by the scenery on the other side of the window. Having made an overnight stay, I managed to enjoy the onsen without any rush. At the time, I thought enviously about how happy the neighbourhood must feel to live so close by an onsen.

Countering COVID-19

Wuhan in Hubei Province saw an explosion in COVID-19 cases during last year's lunar new year period. Through combined efforts nationwide, the situation has since improved greatly – I myself have also joined the journey along with everyone else. Although the worldwide total has reached 100 million cases, I believe that we can definitely win the fight if countries around the world worked together.



Around Ganiyu, a famous spot at Nagayu Onsen



Top: Autumn scenery at Honghua Temple at Mt. Dongfang, Xialu District.

Bottom: Statue of a little monk covered in snow at the Honghua Temple



Where I live now

I now live in Xialu District in Huangshi of Hubei Province. The district is bubbling with energy thanks to its developed core industry and new industry sectors, and can be reached from Wuhan on car in around one and a half hours. My current work is connected to the construction industry. Maintaining the urban scape is a meaningful line of work, and it can be likened to the work of a beautician. If possible, I would love learn about Oita's construction sector on site.



Art Tunes! Presents: Becoming Art at Oita Prefectural Art Museum

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In commemoration of the Oita Prefectural Art Museum (OPAM), the facility is collaborating with "Art Tunes!", a popular programme broadcasted on NHK E-TV.

Created by artist Inoue Ryo, who worked on the art, lyrics, song and animation for the series, "Art Tunes!" draws inspirations from famous works from both Japan and abroad. By superimposing interactive media onto high-definition replicas, Inoue puts a playful twist on how one perceives art.



The exhibit space stretches across parts of the first and third floor, with the first floor free to access. Upon entering Gallery B on 3F, the first interactive display that comes into view is a rendition of Hokusai's 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa'. When I entered the space, a group of students were jumping playfully inside of a dinghy as Hokusai's waves whooshed and clashed around at the background in the form of projected animation. In the same display space, bamboo craft pieces such as 'Flower Basket "Doto (surging waves)"' by Shono Shounsai and 'Hato (ocean swells)' by Monden Kogyoku, as well as other artworks themed on ocean waves by local artists are exhibited in proximity. In a similarly whimsical manner, audiences are introduced to famous pieces and other hidden gems created by Oita's local artists.

OPAM has utilised the opportunity to increase exposure to the prefecture's art and culture. Among the seven animations, 'Playing Pretend Together' makes direct reference to the Kumano Magaibutsu in Bungotakada. The exhibition is a wonderful opportunity to come in contact with art in a fun and engaging way, and will be open to the public until early May.

Art Tunes × OPAM Playing Pretend Together Art Museum
Feb 19 ~ May 9, 2021

Admission

Standard: 300JPY (250JPY early bird)

University & senior high school students: 200JPY (150JPY early bird)

Junior high school students or younger: Free