



## Tidings from Tsen

Hello everyone, this is Tsendsuren from Mongolia.

I worked as Miyakonojo's Mongolian Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) for five years and as Program Creation Staff at BTV Cable Television for two. While it feels like my time in Miyakonojo ended just yesterday, as the memories are still vivid, more than ten-odd years have passed.

At the time, since it was my first job in Japan, I was worried about all sorts of things. Would I be able to eat sushi, could I do my job properly, make friends, get used to my environment and the culture, I felt anxiety towards all sorts of things, from trivial matters to grand concerns.

From my experience studying Japanese at college for 4 years I was confident in my ability to interact with Japanese people but, despite my studies, not being able to understand the Japanese that the locals spoke was debilitating. However, now, when I hear Miyakonojo-ben out and about somewhere in the world happy tears trickle down my cheeks.

I spent the youth of my 20's in Miyakonojo City. Even till this day I clearly remember the first day that I arrived. The differences with Mongolia were plentiful and I thought that people were so strange. I never imagined that I would grow to like it this much.

Miyakonojo's nature is gorgeous, its food is delicious, and it's an easy-to-live-in environment. But for me, the most alluring aspect was the people.

Through work, I met lots of people. As a CIR, I introduced Mongolian culture at schools and various events and during TV production I visited loads of places to gather information. Despite not even understanding right from left, I was warmly accepted by my colleagues and the people that I met during my journey. Thanks to that kindness, I gradually became used to Japan, enjoyed work, got used to the food and culture, and made lots of friends.

The 7 long years that I spent living in Miyakonojo were short. There was a day in which I said goodbye to my dad forever and a time where my friend came down with a serious illness. For someone like me, separated from their friends and family in Mongolia and living on their own in a foreign country, I was saved by everyone's kindness. Thanks to that, I was able

to overcome numerous hurdles. I wondered why they were so kind to me even though I couldn't do anything special for them. Yet, they always surrounded me with their warm hearts.

I have never thought of the people that I became close with while in Miyakonojo as foreigners. I lovingly think of them as my precious family and relatives.

It will soon be 13 years since I left Miyakonojo, but whenever I return, I am greeted with the same unchanging kindness that makes me feel as though I have traveled back to my hometown.

I now live on Australia's Gold Coast. Up until this point I had devoted myself to Japanese studies but this time I am trying my best to learn English. Also, a friend from my Miyakonojo days lives here too! For 3 years, at town hall, my friend Tim worked together with me as the Australian Coordinator for International Relations. For my sake, Tim met me at the Australian Airport wearing Mongolian traditional dress ware. Once again, I began a new challenge getting used to a different environment and culture but Tim and his family are extremely reliable. Spanning all the way to far off Australia, I am grateful every day for the fortune I met in Miyakonojo.



One day, a friend from Miyakonojo told me "No matter how many times I'm reborn, I'd want to meet you again". At that moment I thought from the bottom of my heart that "It's good that I learned Japanese, good that I came to Miyakonojo, and it's good that I was born a human". From being blessed with the opportunity to work in this town, I met people that I will cherish lifelong and had an experience for which I am lifelong thankful.

Every time I remember Miyakonojo, I become blissful and there are a mountain of things I want to talk about, but wrapping up is difficult. Therefore, I will finish with this. I trust that once again we can meet somewhere in the world. At that time, I want to talk about all of the stories that I have piled up, so until then, stay healthy. :)

## Information & Notices

### ☆ Japanese Speech Contest for Foreign Residents Participant applications open! Application Required

- ◇Date & Time: February 2nd (Sun) 2:00pm - 4:00pm
- ◇Topic: "Miyazaki" (Things you have felt while living in Miyazaki, feelings towards your home country etc.)
- ◇Location: Kenden Hall (Miyazaki Prefecture Enterprise Bureau Building 1st floor)
- ◇Eligibility: anyone who meets the following criteria 1. Those

residing in Miyazaki prefecture, over the age of 16, whose first language is NOT Japanese 2. Have lived in Japan for LESS than 5 years

- ◇Inquiries & Application: Miyazaki International Foundation
- ◇Speech Length Limit: about 3 min ☑Deadline: January 9th (Thu)
- ◇Inquiries & Application: Miyazaki International Foundation  
Tel: 0985-32-8457 E-mail : miyainfo@mif.or.jp

## Movies In Theaters

C-Plaza Cine-port (Tel: 0986-24-2571) 17-9 Nakamachi, Miyakonojo, Miyazaki

- Eleven Rebels
- Doctor X: The Movie
- Gladiator 2: The Call of Heroes
- Moana 2: The Legend of the Sea
- Venom: The Last Dance
- Shinji Muroi: The Undeclared (Part 1)
- Shinji Muroi: The Survivor (Part 2)