

W h a t ' s U p , O I T A !

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



August 2016 No. 03
Published August 22, 2016



Greetings! from Shunro Hori <hori-syunro@pref.oita.lg.jp>, the Head of the International Policy Division in the Oita Prefecture Planning Promotion Department

The rainy season ended 11 days earlier this year than last year, on 18th July. Although there was occasionally severe rain, Oita suffered no typhoons, and no major damage. Now, we suddenly will see a succession of extremely hot days. One day, Hita was recorded as having the highest temperatures in the country (36.9°C on the 31st of July). There are lots of summer festivals in Hita, Beppu and so on, as well as firework displays throughout the prefecture.

The Resident Ambassador of Vietnam Paid a Courtesy Visit to the Governor

On July 4th, **Nguyen Quoc Cuong**, the resident ambassador to Vietnam, came to Oita Prefecture alongside Ambassador Nguyen Thi Nguyet Nga and made a courtesy call to the governor. With the number of Vietnamese study abroad students exceeding 500 and the number of Vietnamese tourists having increased three fold in comparison to the previous year, exchange is growing deeper between Vietnam and Japan, and the ambassadors and governor exchanged their opinions regarding the continuing advancement of relations in the future.

Furthermore, members of the ambassadors' party participated in the 2016 Women's International Exchange Meeting in Oita held at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, paid visits to Umi Jigoku, the Prefectural Art Museum, and other locations, and exchanged opinions with study abroad students.



“Kyushu’s Recovery Sale” Takes Off on July 1st!

The sale of travel coupons aimed at revitalizing tourism in Kyushu has begun. It's possible to save on travel up to 70% in Kumamoto and Oita and up to 50% in all other prefectures in Kyushu. One participating store closing applications for coupons on the same day the day sales began shows the coupon's large popularity.





A Bridge of Dreams

Construction began in 2003 for the Kokonoe “Yume” Otsurihashi suspension bridge, and the bridge opened for tourism on October 3rd of 2006. Surrounding the bridge are beautiful waterfalls called “Shindo.” Previously, there was a road that let people look at the waterfalls, but that road was destroyed around 1975. But thanks to the Kokonoe “Yume” Otsurihashi suspension bridge, people can once more see these beautiful waterfalls.

The number of visitors to the bridge depend on the season as the bridge is an outdoor tourist attraction. On weekends when there’s no rain, roughly over 2,000 visitors come by. Apart from Japanese natives, there are many visitors from China, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. There are also visitors from Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. There’s no onsite for any language other than Japanese, but there are pamphlets in a variety of languages, and the website is available in Japanese, English, Chinese (Traditional and Simplified), as well as Korean. Don’t worry about language support at the bridge though. The scenery is so beautiful, you’ll find you don’t need any words at all.

You have to grab a “Yume” burger before going home. This delicious burger is the best way to finish up a daytrip. Burgers were chosen as the bridge’s signature food because Kokonoe is sister cities with Sasebo, Nagasaki, who are known for their burgers. When possible, the burger is locally sourced, with vegetables primarily from the local town and the meat coming from the prefecture in general.

The bridge was closing in on its ten millionth visitors, but, due to the effects of April’s earthquakes, the number of visitors has decreased, and the bridge will likely not see its ten millionth visitor until next March. Although the earthquakes did damage some roadways in Kokonoe, the area is doing well, and the bridge is most definitely safe and ready to be visited.



Fun facts!

Just like Cinderella and Prince Charming, the **two waterfalls** near the bridge (one larger, one smaller) are a happy couple.

This **390 meter** long bridge is the second longest pedestrian suspension bridge in all of Japan. The **173 meter** distance between the water and the bridge is the highest in the nation.

In Japanese, the word “yume” means dream, so the literal meaning of “Yume Otsuri Hashi” is the Large Suspension Dream Bridge. The reason **the bridge is known as a “dream”** is because, after a bridge allowing people to see the beautiful scenic waterfalls collapsed around 1975, there was no way to be able to witness this breathtaking scenery. The reconstruction of the bridge was like the realization of a dream, and so the bridge was named likewise according to the results of an opinion poll.

3 Assistant Language Teachers Appointed “Mejiron Foreign Correspondents”

This summer, three Assistant Language Teachers who have finished their time as ALTs were appointed as “Mejiron Foreign Correspondents.” At the appointment ceremony, Governor Hirose encouraged the correspondents, telling them: “I hope that as well as continuing to support the children and students of Oita Prefecture, you will also promote Oita’s fantastic tourism resources, such as its rich nature, fresh and delicious food, and hot springs, in your home countries!”



Name: Hannah Brown
Country: USA

I have spent three years here making precious memories thanks to the kindness of the people of Oita. As a Mejiron Foreign Correspondent, when I return to my home country I plan to tell lots of people about how great Oita Prefecture is, and about Japanese culture and food! I’ll try my best!



Miriam Starling

Name: Kylie Ha
Country: Australia

Over the past three years while working as an ALT in Oita Prefecture, I have had many experiences, met many people, learnt many things, and had a wonderful time here. As a Mejiron Foreign Correspondent, when I return to my home country, I would like to introduce people from all over the world to the wonderful places in Oita. I plan to make a big effort to encourage cultural exchange, and to shorten the distance between Oita and foreign countries. I am looking forward to it!



Editors’ Note

Thank you for reading this month’s English language edition of “What’s Up, Oita!” We hope that everyone is staying hydrated during the heat and keeping busy with the many fun things to do in Oita.

Name: Casey Kasper
Country: USA

Hello! My name is Casey Kasper. I’m a cowboy from Texas, USA! I live in Nakatsu. My hobbies are cycling, bad jokes, and drinking with friends. I was able to carve out many wonderful memories in Oita. People from Oita are kind, the food in Oita is delicious, and the scenery is the best. I will work my hardest as a Mejiron Foreign Correspondent, and undertake lots of activities. Thank you!



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