



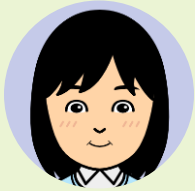
What's Up, OITA !

Bringing the latest from Oita, Japan to people around the globe

FY 2026 International Policy Division

Nice to meet you

Introducing this year's members of the International Policy Division.



Director

Kyoko Matsuki

This is my second year as Director of the International Policy Division

As well as promoting international exchange, we are also working hard to promote a multicultural community where foreign residents and locals can live peacefully. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated!

Decluttering

Latest Obsessions



Passport Team

Associate Director

Kazuhisa Yamada

Sudoku

Main Responsibilities

- Passport inspection (overall management)
- HR development for the Passport Team



Passport Team

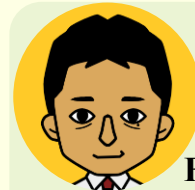
Senior Staff

Kanae Noji

Travel

Main Responsibilities

- Passport inspection and delivery
- Outsourcing of passport services
- Passport team budgets



International Strategy Team
Head Section Manager

Fumitoshi Adachi

Speaking English

Main Responsibilities

- Promotion of overseas strategies (overall management)
- HR for the division



International Strategy Team

Associate Section Manager

Daisaku Okawara

Playing With My Daughter

Main Responsibilities

- Promotion of overseas strategies
- Matters related to overseas promotion (United States)



International Strategy Team
Staff

Sakura Hikawa

Dubai Chocolate

Main Responsibilities

- Budgeting, accounts, auditing
- Matters related to overseas promotion (Taiwan)
- JET Programme



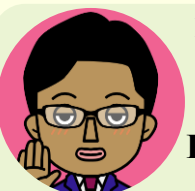
International Strategy Team
Staff

Haruna Eguma

Collecting Perfumes

Main Responsibilities

- Nihongo Partners (Japanese Language Partners Programme)
- General affairs, PR, homepage administration



Multicultural Society Promotion Team

Head Section Manager

Kazuhisa Namba

Reading

Main Responsibilities

- Overall management of team operations
- HR development for the team
- English interpretation



Multicultural Society Promotion Team

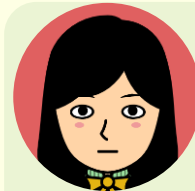
Chief Staff

Hiroto Hirai

Anpanman

Main Responsibilities

- Multicultural society promotion projects
- Matters related to support for Ukraine



Multicultural Society Promotion Team

Senior Staff

Misaki Fujikawa

Spicy Food

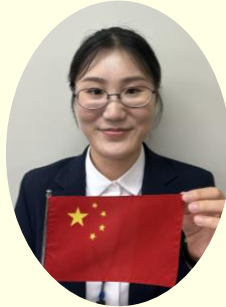
Main Responsibilities

- Support for exchange students' studies and employment
- International exchange organisation affairs

Greeting Message

Introducing the new Coordinator for International Relations for this year!

Chinese CIR



Hometown: China
(Jiangxi Province)

Hobbies · Skills · Festivals, Exploring

大家好! (dà jiā hǎo) Hello everyone!

My name is Man Liao, and starting this year, I'll be working as a Coordinator for International Relations at the Oita Prefectural Office. Do you know the Chinese poem, "Gazing at the Waterfall on Mount Lu," by Li Bai? This poem is about Mt. Lu's beautiful waterfall in my hometown of Jiujiang in Jiangxi Province. I was born and raised in Jiujiang and went to Dalian for college. After I graduated, I worked in Shenzhen for 2 years.

I began studying Japanese because I came to love a nationally popular idol group in Japan. I wanted to learn more about Japan and Japanese, so I enrolled in The School of Japanese Studies in college. The more I learned, the more strongly I was drawn to Japan's traditional culture, especially local traditional events and ethnic culture. Wanting to see and experience the festivals I learnt about in class with my own eyes, I visited towns deep in the mountains of Japan many times. With a deep interest in Japan's local culture, I felt that it was fate that this time I was dispatched as a CIR to Oita Prefecture, which is so rich in nature and history.

Oita is so full of charms such as its countless onsens, delicious local sake and kaarage, that I've come to a point where I can genuinely exclaim from my heart, "I love Oita!" In the future, I want to learn a lot about Oita and blend in, so that I can confidently introduce Oita to my friends as if I were a local resident. And, as I gain various experiences, I will do my best to share Chinese words and culture and be a bridge between Japanese and Chinese cultures! Please feel free to reach out about anything regarding Chinese language or culture.

I look forward to working with everyone!



We will keep up the good work too!



Rosa Boutelle



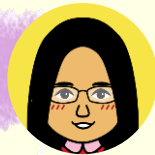
Latest Obsessions

Drawing

English interpretation/translation, editorial supervision, Prefectural Advisor etc.



Aliceana Lin



Hot Springs

English interpretation/translation, editorial supervision, international human resource development & training



Suyoung Ahn



Watching the News

Korean interpretation/translation, editorial supervision, international human resource development & training



News from Usuki City

Usuki City
Homepage



Broadcasting Throughout the World as a Creative City!

With its accession into the “UNESCO Creative Cities Network” in 2021 as its catalyst, Usuki aims to use food culture as an axel for sustainable urban development, aiming to connect itself to future generations while enjoying food.



USUKI
CITY OF GASTRONOMY



Member of
the Creative Cities Network



We invited the Consulate-generals of the Netherlands and the U.K. for an exchange event at the memorial ceremony for the De Liefde.



Rare banquet-style Honzen
cuisine



Local cuisine with its roots in
frugality



Culture of fermentation and
brewing born from good quality
water



Promotion of agriculture which is
kind to the local environment

News from Tsukumi City

Tsukumi City
Homepage



The Local Flavours of Tsukumi: A Town of **Tangerines** and the **Sea**



Tsukumi's Specialities

Hyuga-don

A local dish from Tsukumi's Hotojima Island made from red tuna meat dressed in a luxury sesame sauce containing soy sauce and sugar.

In Season From Autumn to Winter!

Tsukumi Reef Squid

“Reef Squid” refers to Bigfin Reef Squid. It is an exquisite product characterised by its sweetness and mochi-like texture.



Juicy and Sweet!

Tsukumi Tangerines

Bathed in abundant sunlight, and meticulously cultivated by Tsukumi's nature, they boast a fresh flavor with a good balance of sweetness and acidity.

News from

Oita City

Oita City
International Division
Instagram



In Oita City, events are held regularly to promote the creation of a multicultural and inclusive community. This time, we will introduce two of those events!

Let's Cook and Talk! Multicultural Exchange Kitchen



An exchange event where Japanese and foreign residents cook while using "simple Japanese"

*Applications for FY 2026 are now closed.

World Festa

An event where you can eat cuisines from around the world, enjoy internationally diverse stage performances, and feel like you've traveled the world in just one day!



Date and Time: 31st Oct 2026 (Sat) 10:30~15:30

Location: Toyota Carolla Festival Square

News from

Hiji Town



Statue of Adventurer Fernão Mendes Pinto Statue Installed in Shiroshita Park

Last September, Hiji Town and Montemor-o-Velho (Portugal) formed a Sister-City agreement. As a symbol of friendship, a statue of the adventurer Fernão Mendes Pinto, a native of the city, was gifted. The unveiling ceremony took place on March 20th, with the attendance of Acting Mayor Ana Maria dos Santos Ribeiro, Mayoral Aide Nuno Santa Rita, and His Excellency Mr. Gilberto Jorge de Sousa JERONIMO Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Portuguese Republic. Acting Mayor Ana Maria stated, "Pinto symbolizes not only history but also the connection between cultures and people. In Hiji Town as well, Pinto's history and footsteps have connected, and a new history has begun. We want to forge new friendships in this new world."

After the unveiling ceremony, a commemorative ceremony was held at Grand Mercure Beppu Bay, gathering relevant parties to deepen their friendship. Many town residents attended the commemorative cultural lecture titled "Pinto and Hiji," where they learned about the history of Fernão Mendes Pinto and Hiji Town.



Usa City

~ A Relaxing Day Out ~

Toukoji 500 Arhats



British CIR
Rosa Boutelle

Did you know? Using just public transport, it's possible to reach somewhere otherworldly. Toukoji temple is the perfect place for a relaxing day out. In the heart of nature, you can enjoy meeting the 500 Arhats and searching for faces that remind you of loved ones.



What Are Arhats?

Arhats are said to be “near-perfect beings. Not Buddhas, but the highest level that mortals can reach”. However, the Arhats at Toukoji have such a wealth of expressions, that rather than being perfect beings, they may represent ordinary people of this world. Perhaps that's why people feel so close to them. The Arhats here were commissioned by the 15th-generation Great Master Gyokuhō Dōrin to stonemasons in Hiji Town. Their lifelike expressions make it seem as though they were sculpted under the guidance of their spirit within the stone.



Beloved Arhats

Passing through the gate felt like entering another world. I was greeted by rows of Arhats wearing various cute patterned hats. These hats weren't provided by the temple, but by visitors who felt the Arhats resembled someone they know. Each hat carries wishes to protect loved ones from the cold or hopes that they can wear their favourite clothes again.



Head Priest's Recommendation



Behind the main temple are Arhats of the 16 disciples personally taught by the Buddha, along with a replica of Yakushiji Temple's Buddha footprint stone. These rare and precious artefacts are a must-see if you visit.

A Refreshing Spot



Walking along the nearby Yakkan River, I felt refreshed by the gentle, cool breeze. By the riverbank there were also many small crabs, which kids are bound to enjoy.

I was moved by the compassion of those who prepared hats for the Arhats. Among them I even found one resembling my late-grandfather. It brought me comfort to see him wearing a hat, just as he always did.

This place's beauty can't be captured in pictures. I really recommend visiting!



Rosa



Oasis on the Hill Oita City Art Museum

American Cir
Aliceana Lin



Located south of Oita Station and about a 6-minute bus ride, there is an oasis on top of a hill overlooking the city: the Oita City Art Museum. Surrounded by lush nature, the air is refreshingly crisp and the scenery is breathtaking. This is a place where art can be easily enjoyed by everyone. I was impressed by all the facilities including a library corner, a courtyard, and an observatory, all of which can be used freely even if you're not visiting the exhibitions. With "hidden" art installations throughout and ample room to explore, it's an experience not to be missed.



The museum houses about 3,000 artworks and showcases works from Oita-born artists such as Tatsuo Takayama and Heihachiro Fukuda. There are 4 exhibition rooms each exploring a different theme. I was especially captivated by the bamboo room. It's amazing to see the different ways that bamboo is used to create an artwork.

The special exhibition this time was, "The World of Hiroshi Kagakuji." It was fascinating to learn about his life as a picture book author and his contributions to special education. As a fan of the series, it was great learning more about him.



To the left of the main museum, you'll find the Child House. The surrounding area was thoughtfully designed with kids in mind, featuring a huge elephant monument and several dog statues – can you count them all? Inside, there's a free space for reading and crafts, plus an area for events and classes. Since entry is free for middle school students and below, it's a wonderful place for families to visit. Don't miss the observatory either, where you can enjoy a breathtaking 360-degree view of Oita City.

Oita City Art Museum

865 Ueno, Oita City, Oita, 870-0100
Hours: 10:00~18:00 (Last entry at 17:30)
Fee: Regular ¥440, High School ¥220,
Middle School and under Free



You can receive an amazing present if you collect the stamps! (until December 20, 2026)



OITA CANBUS

Exclusive bus stop for OITA CANBUS
Fare: Adults (Middle School and Up)
¥200
Around 6 minutes from Oita Station
Ueno no Moriguchi

A trip you can only experience in Oita!

A Tour of Beppu Bay on the Amphibious Hovercraft



Chinese CIR
Man Liao

Since coming to Oita, I've been curious about the hovercraft after a colleague told me, "Oita is the only place in Japan where you can ride a passenger hovercraft." This time, I was able to join a tour of Beppu Bay on the hovercraft I'd been dreaming of!

Originally, the hovercraft ran across Oita's waters for about 38 years from 1971 until the cease of operations in 2009. There must be many people who are delighted about the revival of the hovercraft, which holds many memories.



As you ascend the long, white slope, which feels like it leads to the clouds, you can take in a panoramic view of the quietly docked ferries and the scenery of Nishi-Oita Port. Inside the terminal, events and special exhibitions related to hovercraft are also held.



The Final Departure of the Hovercraft in 2009
(Credit: Association of Inheritance Hovercraft)

The View of Beppu Bay from the Sea



After returning to port, cleaning and maintenance are meticulously performed every time

The hull is adorned with star patterns, giving it a futuristic design, like a rocket heading into space. In addition, the sound and vibrations have been significantly reduced compared to previous hovercrafts. Airport sightseeing tours are also available. The landing runway is longer so you can fully enjoy the hovercraft's signature high-speed drifting up close!

A fun splash on landing!



Before boarding, I heard that the hovercraft could be noisy and bumpy, but the sea was calm, and the ride was more comfortable than I expected. The most exciting moment was watching the air cushion inflate before departure. It made me look forward to riding it again. After experiencing that excitement and seeing how much everyone loves the hovercraft, I will support it from now on too!



Hover Drive
Homepage



Tsukumi City

Tsukumi Dolphin Island



Korean CIR
Suyoung Ahn

Home to 11 Bottlenose Dolphins

Amidst the picturesque scenery of Oita Prefecture's brilliant natural landscape, the dolphins swim around energetically each morning after their health check. I felt affinity towards the dolphins as they laughed almost like humans and play-fought, splashing water and swimming. Walking through the facility and interacting with the dolphins, I felt soothed and happy.

I also recommend talking a lap around Sensuijima Island at the back!



From interacting with us to the only "dolphin push" experience in Japan, you can do it all!

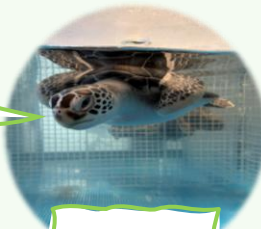
A kiss from Dan the dolphin ♡

Surrounded by mountains and the ocean, you can spend time relaxing alongside the dolphins 🐬

There's dolphin performances too!



You can meet penguins and fur seals too!



Sea Turtle



A plant growing in driftwood

Attractive Feature! 🐬

From sea turtle conservation to recycling initiatives growing plants in driftwood collected during daily coast clean-ups, this facility protects the environment while fostering harmony between people and nature!

【Opening Hours】 10:00 – 16:00

【Address】 2218 Oaza Youra, Tsukumi City

【Entrance Fee】 Adults ¥1300 Children ¥800 Infants ¥650

*For more information on experiences please see the home page.



This facility helped me discover a new charming side to Oita Prefecture, by stepping away from my busy daily life and interacting with the charming dolphins and sea creatures. Watching the staff smiling with such deep affection while caring for the marine life made me feel really glad that I came. With the interwoven green of the mountains and the blue of the ocean, I encountered an oasis here in Oita.



From Our Reporters



Health Is Wealth

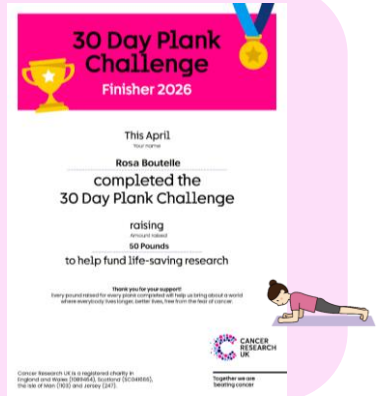


British CIR
Rosa Boutelle



Oita is full of green and its air is clean, so I find myself naturally wanting to live a healthy lifestyle. Inspired by this, I recently participated in Cancer Research UK's charity "Plank Challenge", in which I challenged myself to do a 2-minute plank every day for a month. Planking is a core-muscle training exercise in which you hold your body in a straight line while resting your forearms, elbows, and toes on the floor. It strengthens your whole body's muscles. While completing this challenge I could feel myself getting stronger not only physically but also mentally. It was a truly worthwhile challenge.

This Plank Challenge has been a great catalyst for me to mix exercise into my everyday life. As of late, whether its Kendo, Badminton, or these 2-minute planks, I've been squeezing exercise into the small gaps in my day. I've always known that "Health is Wealth", but after starting work, and while living in Oita, it's hit me quite how important health really is.



Ferry Debut!



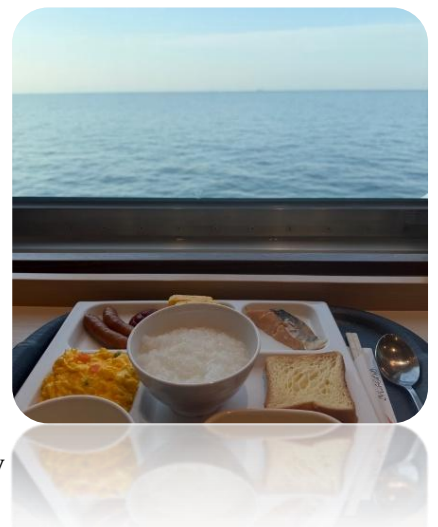
America CIR
Aliciana Lin



In May, I went on my first overnight ferry from Beppu to Osaka. I rushed to the port right after work and headed straight for the dinner buffet after boarding. There was a variety of food including sashimi and a chocolate fountain. After eating, I went to the place that I was looking forward to the most: the large bath. It felt amazing to relax in a hot bath after a busy week.

The room was quiet and came with a TV. Somehow, there was even TV service in the middle of the ocean, and it felt like my own mini movie theater. 😊 In the morning, I woke up early to catch the breakfast buffet and enjoy the ocean view while eating. Soon after, we arrived in Osaka.

The ferry terminal connects directly to the train station, so it was very convenient to get into the city. Next time you're thinking of going to Kansai, try taking the ferry!





From Our Reporters



The Community Bonds I Felt At The Festival



Chinese CIR
Man Liao



I love festivals. When I first arrived in Oita, hoping to quickly become a part of the local community, I went alone to the spring festival at Nosaka Shrine in Oita City.

Although I had seen many festivals in China and Japan, this was my first time seeing a festival float. The streets echoed with cries of “Yoisa, Yoisa”, perfectly timed to the rhythm of drums and gongs, as spectators came together cheering and applauding. Watching this, I felt deeply moved by the strong bonds within the community.

I spoke with someone from Fukuoka who first became connected to the spring festival through interviews he conducted for his club activities. Our conversation reminded me that these festivals are supported by the tireless efforts of the local community. Going forward, without forgetting my gratitude for their support, I’d like to continue enjoying various festivals and cherish the connections I make here in Oita.



Why My Commute Is So Fun Each Morning



Korean CIR
Suyoung Ahn



I used to commute alone, but now I finally have a friend to go with me! My Brazilian friend and I have workplaces close to each other, so when I suggested we go to work together, she cheerfully accepted. Now we commute together each morning. Since then, I can’t wait to going to work each day. While chatting about our everyday and laughing till our hearts content, we arrive at work in the blink of an eye.

We have been close since university, and as we’re both working adults now, we have a lot in common to talk about. We support each other, and she’s an important friend to me. Thanks to her, I was able to start my second year at work in April full of happiness and gratitude.

Who would have thought that commuting to work together could be so enjoyable, rain or shine! It truly feels like a special time. I hope I can become someone she can rely on too!





What's Up, OITA!

Cir Dispatch Available!

The International Policy Division is providing opportunities to learn about different countries' culture and daily life through dispatching **Coordinators for International Relations (CIR)** as lecturers! Do you want to learn more about cultures and lifestyles from around the world?

Possible CIRs for Dispatch: British, American, Chinese, Korean

Overview

- Target Audience: Oita Prefecture Schools · Regional Organizations · Community Centers etc.
- Time: Weekdays 9:00 ~ 17:00 (flexible upon request)
- Contents: CIRs will introduce culture, tourism, food, pastimes and more of their home countries!
- Cost: Dispatch is free of charge! (Excluding transport/material costs)

Application Process

- ① First consult via phone!
- ② Confirm the date and contents, then submit the application form at least one month in advance.
- ③ Coordinate with the CIR by email, etc.
- ④ On the day of, the CIR will visit! Enjoy learning together.

Things to note

Depending on the date/time and content of the dispatch, there may be cases where we cannot accept the request. Please feel free to inquire for more details!

[Request a CIR here](#)



Want to introduce your initiatives to the world?

From Kenjinkai initiatives to updates from exchange student alumni, if you've got something you want to tell the world about Oita, let us know! (Any format is accepted)

募集中



【Submissions/Inquiries】

International Policy Division
c/o Eguma, Nakayama

【E-mail】 a10140@pref.oita.lg.jp