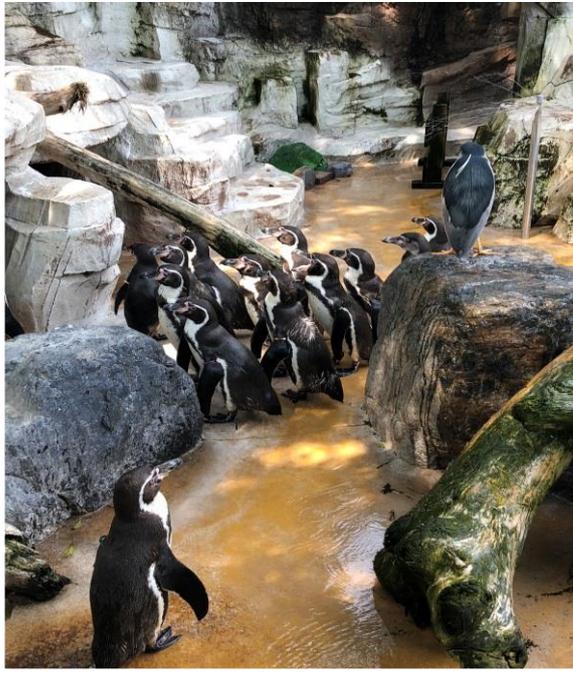


# Kinko Bay Tidings



夏号 2018

SUMMER 2018 Edition

Quarterly Newsletter of  
the Kagoshima International Exchange Foundation, Kagoshima, Japan  
Edition , summer 2018, ISBN 0919-6315

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## The 2018 Hearty Party

The Hearty Party is an annual event held by the Kagoshima International Exchange Foundation to welcome new foreign residents to Kagoshima City. Not only is it an opportunity for foreign residents to make local friends, but there are also cultural experience booths and a variety of activities to enjoy. This year the event was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April and Chuo Community Center was packed with people enjoying cultural exchange. There were national costume fittings, experiences such as flower arrangement, and a place where you could taste candy from all over the world. City and prefectural CIRs also ran interactive booths to introduce their respective cultures to attendees. The event ended with everyone dancing to the Ohara-style dance.



## New Koalas Move in to Hirakawa Zoo

As per the White Tigers and Koalas Exchanging Agreement, two koalas were introduced to Hirakawa Zoological Park on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March. One is a male called Bumburra and the other is a female called Jane. They are aged 5 and 3 respectively. It has been reported that Jane is friendly while Bumburra is a bit naughty. Through this exchanging initiative, Hirakawa Zoo and Kagoshima City are committed to conserving the koala species.



## Finland Exchange Visit

16 high school students from Rovaniemi in Finland visited Kagoshima for 6 days from April 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> and participated in a homestay program. While they were in Kagoshima they also toured the city and made a courtesy call to Mayor Mori. During their meeting with the Mayor they spoke about how much they were blown away by the friendliness of the people of Kagoshima. Two of the chaperones exchanged gifts with Mayor Mori, and after the ceremony the group performed a traditional folk song.



## The Taste the World Potluck Party

On Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of May KIEX and CIR Thea Dixon held the "Taste the World Potluck Party". Local and foreign residents gathered together for a cozy event. The night began with some icebreakers and then launched into the main event, sharing food from around the world cooked by members of the community including dishes from Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, South Korea, China and Australia. After everyone had gotten their fill of food, there was a group quiz to test attendee's knowledge of "food around the world". It was a great opportunity to exchange culture through the universal language of good food.

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## Farewell to Chinese CIR Jingting Huang and Welcome to Xingmin Ji!

At the beginning of April it was time to say farewell to Jingting Huang, who had worked for 5 years as the Chinese CIR for Kagoshima City. Ms. Huang made a considerable contribution to exchange between China and Kagoshima over the years and will be missed. To take her place, Xingmin Ji came to Kagoshima from Tai'an, China and was inaugurated into the position on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April. Only two months have passed and he has already been involved in various cultural exchange initiatives including visiting schools and community centers to share his culture, and participating in exchange events.



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## France Visit

A delegation from the Haut-Rhin in France visited Kagoshima in late May. They paid a courtesy visit to Mayor Mori on the 24<sup>th</sup>. During their discussions, they mutually agreed to strengthen their connections in tourism, culture and economics. They also had an opportunity to tour the city, notably the Senganen Japanese gardens.



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## Miami Sister City School Exchange Program

High school students from Miami came to Kagoshima for the annual exchange program from June 12<sup>th</sup> to June 20<sup>th</sup>. Three students and one chaperone visited, and the students experienced everyday life in Japan through a homestay and school exchange at Konan High School. In their short stay the students got close to their host families and made many friends. They were also able to experience facets of Japanese culture such as calligraphy and tea ceremony, saw Sakurajima up close, and paid a courtesy visit to Mayor Mori. During their farewell dinner, the students expressed that this was an opportunity they will never forget and that it was so amazing that words couldn't describe the experience. Their visit strengthened the relations between Kagoshima City and Miami and we hope they will come back and visit again

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## Chinese Language Classes

The annual Chinese language classes are coming up this summer and will be held by our new CIR Xingmin Ji. They will be held weekly from July 24<sup>th</sup> until the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. The class will involve a cultural component and discussion about everyday life in China.

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## Thai Rugby Exchange

Players from the Thai competitive rugby team "the Barbarians" played a friendly match against players from a local Top Kyushu A-league team, the "Kagoshima Bank" team, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May at Kenko no Mori park. These sports exchanges have been ongoing since 2014 and are an opportunity to deepen relations between Thailand and Kagoshima.

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## Springbok Holding Camp

Recently it was announced that the South African rugby team, Springbok, will be holding a holding camp in Kagoshima prior to the Rugby World Cup 2019. They will be practicing at Shiranami Stadium and while they are here they will hold open training sessions as well as a coaching class for the coaches of local teams. When making the decision to hold the camp in Kagoshima they commented on the quality of the facilities in Kagoshima, the climate and the ease of access.

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## Junior Chamber International ASPAC Conference

Every year Junior Chamber International (JCI) holds an area conference for the members located in the Asia-Pacific. This year the conference was held at Kagoshima City at Kagoshima Arena and Hotel Shiroyama. The city was full of life with an influx of foreign visitors, and the conference was a great success. 8405 people attended from 54 countries and regions, including 2131 foreign attendees.

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## Farewell Message

My name is Thea Dixon and I have been a CIR at Kagoshima City for the past two years. My invaluable experience working here is coming to an end and the next Kinko Bay Times you receive will be written by a new voice. I'd like to use the rest of this issue to reflect on my time in Kagoshima City.

Kagoshima City is such a unique place with so much to offer. I bet not too many people have had to check weather reports to make sure they can hang out their washing in case of volcanic ash! But beyond that, Kagoshima City is full of wonderful, kind people who will go above and beyond to help you. During my two years working for the city I have come to see how willing they are to welcome people from abroad, and how they are proactively involved in foreign exchange for the betterment of the community. It was a great privilege to be involved in facilitating international exchange in this beautiful city, and I hope more people from all around the world come here and experience the unique food, nature and culture. This is a place I'll never forget, and I'm sure for those of you who once lived here, you can say the same. Thank you for reading over the past 2 years.



## About Kinko Bay Tidings

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We welcome your comments for the improvement of future issues. Opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the foundation.

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