

## **Kagoshima Marathon**

Kagoshima Marathon 2019 was held in Kagoshima City and Aira City in early spring on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Approximately 12,500 Runners who came from all over the country received lots of cheers and warm support as they ran towards their goal of reaching the finish line.

This year marking the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the Kagoshima Marathon, 9889 people participated in the full marathon and 2634 people participated in the 8.9km fun run. The runners gathered at the Dolphin Port in Kagoshima City at 8:30am, before beginning the run at the sound of the starting gun. Some participants even created a lively atmosphere by running dressed as anime or manga characters.

Participation in the Full Marathon costed 10,000 yen and 3,000 yen for the Fun Run.

Both the Full Marathon and Fun Run course started at Dolphin port, whereby the course headed south and made a right turn passing the Kagoshima Citizen's Culture Hall. From there the course headed north. The Fun Run finished after 8.9km at the Yamakataya Department Store, while the Full Marathon participants continued to head north for a further 16km alongside the Kinko Bay coastline. Approximately 25km into the marathon, participants reached the turning point at Shigetomi Station in Aira City. From there, the Runners headed south back down the same road along the coastline before finishing the grueling 42.196km at the front of the Kagoshima City Hall.

In various places along the course, voices of encouragement could be heard as people called out things like "do your best" and "fight". Food like

Pork Miso Soup and Rice Balls were provided at Chuo Central Park in Kagoshima City, as were footbaths to warm the exhausted legs of people who finished the marathon. Local Kagoshima celebrities even met with runners at the finishing line of the marathon.

According to the Kagoshima Local Meteorological Observatory, Kagoshima was expected to have a high temperature of 18 degrees and a 90% probability of rain. Due to the possibility of heavy rain, information regarding whether the marathon would still be held or cancelled was to be published on the Kagoshima Marathon Home Page by 4:30 in the morning of the event. Although it did start to rain heavily, by that time it was after 3:30 when the majority of the runners had already finished the race.

## **119 Emergency Call Centre now offers bilingual services.**

In response to the number of foreign tourists and residents coming to Japan, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency has aimed to introduce a system whereby all Fire Bureau Headquarters can readily communicate with foreigners in 17 different languages via a third-party interpreting telecommunications centre, of which the Kagoshima City Fire Bureaus will also adopt.

With this adoption, foreigners can now promptly contact the 119 Emergency Telephone Number without language barriers. The introduction of the system this year was considered as particularly necessary, taking into consideration the amount of foreign tourists coming to Kagoshima is expected to greatly increase during the 2020 Tokyo

Olympics/Paralympics.

According to Junichi Ogura of the Information Management Office in the Kagoshima City Fire Bureau, until now if a foreigner had called the 119 Emergency Telephone Number in Kagoshima City, dealing with language barriers generally entailed asking foreign callers to pass the phone to a nearby Japanese person. Unfortunately this often led to communication problems.

Even if the caller's location could be roughly specified, it could be difficult to find nearby people who could speak the foreign language in question. Furthermore, it was often the case that the nature of the emergency could not be accurately reported, and required a great deal of time to convey. As a consequence, there was a fear that this would lead to the worsening of the situation or health condition.

With the implementation of the new system, when foreign people call the 119 Emergency Number they will be connected a multilingual support centre through a command system. Once connected, bilingual staff can interpret for both parties.

In short, the multilingual support system was designed so foreign people living or travelling in Kagoshima City would have a safe experience without any problems. This was considered to be all the more important when taking into consideration the increase of foreign tourists visiting Kagoshima in recent years, a trend which is likely to continue leading up to and beyond the Tokyo Olympics.

The multilingual support system is offered in 17 languages, 24 hours a day 365 days a week. The languages include English, Chinese, Korean, Thai,

Vietnamese, Tagalog, Indonesian, Nepalese, Portuguese, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Russian, Malay, Burmese and Cambodian.

### **International students learn about the Kagoshima City Integrated Community Care System.**

On Thursday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of January, 2019 the Longevity Assistance Division hosted an inspection seminar for students and teaching staff from the Korean Red Cross College of Nursing, Kagoshima University and the Berea College of Kentucky, USA. The seminar, which was held at the Kagoshima City Hall, introduced the Role of the Longevity Assistance Division. The topics focused on:

- Providing diverse services for elderly people in order to minimise nursing care and support independent living.
- Promoting cooperation between home health care and nursing care
- Dementia preventative and counter measures.
- Prevention of abuse against the elderly.

Taking into consideration that the percentage of the population over the age of 65 is expected to reach almost 30% in 2025, countermeasures for these demographic changes are becoming more relevant than ever before. The integrated Community Care System, a key component of the Longevity Assistance Division aims to counter the aging population by means of medicine, nursing care and where possible minimisation of nursing care, housing and life support.

Students and faculty members from both colleges listened with great interest, and asked many questions for the Division staff after the seminar finished. They described the seminar as informative

and relevant to their respective studies and research.