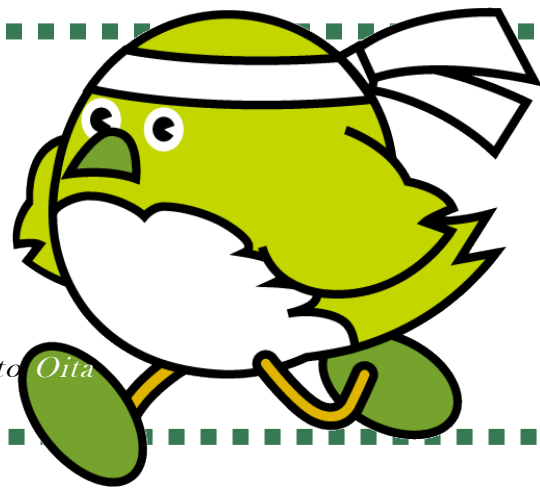


What's up,

OITA! 2020 February No. 45

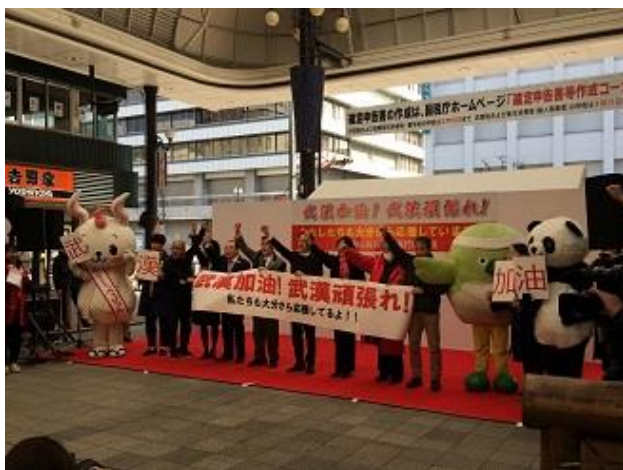
Bringing the latest from Oita, Japan to all those connected to Oita thriving all across the globe.



‘Jiayou Wuhan!’ – Convention of Lunar-New-Year-Related Event in Oita

On Feb 2, the Oita Overseas Chinese Association held an event at the Galleria Takemachi Dome Square in support of the city of Wuhan. While the association usually celebrates the Lunar Festival around this time of year, in light of the recent novel coronavirus outbreak across China, a charity event was held in place instead.

Mayor Sato of Oita delivered a few words of encouragement towards Wuhan on stage, and Mr. Kang Xiaolei, the Chinese acting consul general to Fukuoka, expressed his gratitude towards Oita City's assistance. Following this, all event participants yelled ‘jiayou wuhan! (‘Go Wuhan!’) in support of the city. *(content continued on following page)*





(Content continued from previous page) A donations corner was set up at the venue with participants supporting the collection process. The association plans to use the funds for purchasing surgical masks which will then be delivered to China.

On the same day, the Oita Japan-China Friendship Association ran a Lunar Festival event at Oita city. Association members, exchange students and Chinese residents living in Oita participated in the event and gave erhu performances and Shorinji Kempo demonstrations. In addition, a Chinese language speech contest for local students was held. Eager to support Wuhan, participants fundraised at the venue and a cry of 'jiayou wuhan' echoed at this event as well.

Support towards Wuhan have been expansive with private entities in Oita prefecture also engaging in the gathering of relief resources. The report will end on echoing the words of its title: 'jiayou wuhan!'



Hiji Made – Rebranding Products Made by the Residents of Hiji



'Hiji Made' is a project to rebrand products made by Hiji's residents while taking into account the locality's natural environment and regional narrative elements.

The first round of released products includes the eucalyptus antibacterial deodorizer made by the Kabushiki Gaisha Green Elm, a business based in Kawasaki, Hiji. The product was awarded with an honourable mention by the judging committee at the Japan's Central Federation of Societies of Commerce and Industry's *Mura-Okoshi Special Products Contest*.

The product is a tax-refundable item. In addition, there is also expectations that it will contribute positively to factors in regional revitalisation, such as promoting farmland restoration for eucalyptus plantation and creating work opportunities.

Policy Promotion Division, Hiji Town



Dog by the mountain

Art installation by Yoshitomo Nara at the COMICO ART MUSEUM YUFUIN

What's up, OITA! 2020 February, No. 45

Looking at the smart and dark Japanese cedar façade leading to the entrance, I once again step into the COMICO ART MUSEUM YUFUIN. The art museum was introduced in No. 35 of the English version of *What's up, Oita!*^{*}, and it is with great delight that I revisit the facility to enjoy an new exhibition.

With its doors formally opened in 2017, the history of the museum is still at its juvenile stage. The facility, nonetheless, holds an impressive collection – not counting the building itself, which was designed by Kengo Kuma and Associates, the museum houses works by well-respected names in the world of art and design including Takashi Murakami, Hiroshi Sugimoto and Kenya Hara. The collection grew from December last year, with *Your Dog* by Yoshitomo Nara joining the list.

Having received influence from both Eastern and Western popular culture, Nara's style is readily identifiable. His cartoonish works depicting

children and animals in particular exuberate a sense of eerie innocence and vulnerability that seems to have captivated audiences around the world. Though Nara's work is often spotted adorning items such as t-shirts and alarm-clocks, *Your Dog* is an installation of a much larger scale. Looking over the surrounding landscape with its drooping eyes and lips that seem to curve into a faint smile, *Your Dog* is a larger-than-life aluminium-casted installation reminiscent of a toy dog. Standing against the backdrop of Mt. Yufu, *Your Dog's* glossy and seamless form cries out for engagement. While the white puppy may trigger a sense of unease in some, others may just find it nostalgic or even endearing. The installation is currently set to be on display in the open gallery indefinitely, so make sure to pay *Your Dog* a visit at the museum the next time you are in Yufuin.

^{*}The volume in question can be accessed here:
<https://www.pref.oita.jp/uploaded/attachment/2069579.pdf>

Facility information

COMICO ART MUSEUM YUFUIN

2995-1 Yufuincho Kawakami, Yufu City, Oita Prefecture

Postal Code: 879-5102

<https://camy.oita.jp/>

9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Tours: 9:40 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Closed every second Monday * Please refer to calendar on the official website for further details.

Admissions

Spring Sale in progress

Adults : ¥1,500(JPY) - ¥1,200(JPY)

Students : ¥1,000(JPY) - ¥700(JPY)

Tours run for 1 hour and are by reservations only.

Available languages include Japanese and Korean, English pamphlets are provided upon request.

