

# What's up,

# OITA!

2020 April

No. 47

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



## International Policy Division's FY2020 Staff Profile



Fujii Masanao,  
Director

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I am Fujii, the director to the division. I look forward to further connecting the legacy of last FY's RWC to international exchange activities, cultivating global human resources and a multicultural society.



Kawashima Eiichiro,  
Deputy Director

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- Promotion of overseas strategies (coordinator)
- Cultivating the division's global human resources



Fujiwara Yoshihiro,  
Section Manager

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- Promotion of overseas strategies
- Tobitate! (Leap for Tomorrow) Study Abroad Initiative
- Overseas promotions



Yamasaki Motohiro,  
Associate Section Manager

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- Employment and business start-up support for study-abroad students
- Asia Business Collegium
- Associations of people from Oita in Latin America



Sato Yoshika,  
Assistant Section Chief

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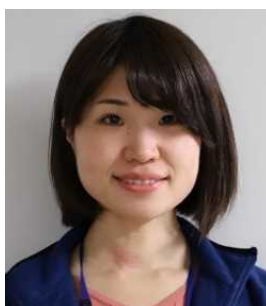
- Japanese language classroom volunteers
- Non-Japanese Disaster Prevention Monitors
- Nihongo Partners



Kawano Hiroki,  
Project General Manager

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- Overseas networks
- JET Programme
- Overseeing CIR activities



Shigeishi Mai,  
General Staff

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- Oita Information & Support Center
- Scholarship grants for study-abroad students
- Budgeting, financing and audits



## Farewell from Jina Kim, CIR from South Korea

How quickly time flies. While I can still vividly recall the day when I first arrived Oita, five years have already passed by. Oita has become such a second home to me, that I would even feel at ease every time I returned from my trips to Korea – I guess I have fully come to savour the expression 'Oita makes you cry twice'\*.

While there was initially a lot of confusion concerning how to become a functioning part of society, I had a great time thanks to everyone around me. Aside from translations and interpretation, I also introduced Korean culture and taught the Korean language to students ranging from preschool toddlers to high schoolers. I am extremely grateful to have realised my dream of becoming a bridge between Korea and Japan through works of international exchange here at Oita.

On the other hand, I was able to visit all of Oita's municipalities in the five years I spent collecting materials for the *What's Up, Oita!*. I was met with beautiful things and delicious food, not to mention wonderfully kind people, no matter where I went. While I do feel sad about leaving, I will not forget about all of my firsthand experiences of Oita's wonders even after I return to Korea – I will continue to spread word of these wonderful highlights to more people in future.

Thank you for looking after me in these past five years. I look forward to meeting you all again.

*\*The expression is a reference to the idea that Oita is little known by the other parts of Japan. It is said that people from other regions, especially those working in major cities, are often induced to tears once they find out that they would be transferred to a place as remote as Oita – thus resulting in the 'first cry'. However, those who come soon become enamoured with the prefecture once they know it better, and are sad to leave once their time here is over, hence the 'second cry'.*





## Farewell from Zhanting Miao, CIR from China

'Time flies like an arrow' – my year-long time as an CIR of Oita has come to an end, and I would like to use this occasion to deliver my words of farewell. During the past year, on top of interpreting for visiting Chinese regional governmental authorities and delegations from private entities such as Ctrip, I supported prefectural-run seminars and educational travel excursions, ran international understanding seminars, and conducted translation native-checks for a great variety of materials; once a month, I would edit and translate the *What's up, Oita!* – All my days in Oita were lived to their fullest and filled with fun.

On weekends and public holidays, I enjoyed the exhibits of the Oita Prefectural Museum of History and the Oita Prefectural Art Museum, participated in the Hita Sennen Akari and the Taketa Chikuraku, travelled to the Kokonoe Yume Suspension Bridge and Yabakei, not to mention experiencing many other activities. Through these experiences, I was able to fully appreciate Oita's history, traditions, nature and food. During my appointment ceremony as a Mejiron Overseas Supporter, I was also dubbed with the honourable title 'A Daughter of Oita'. Thanks to the help and thoughtfulness from the kind-hearted people around me, for which I am grateful, I was able to complete my term without incident.

To end my greetings, I hope that COVID-19's impact across the world will fall under control as soon as possible. I wish you every success in your daily life and work, and pray that you will all be in good health.



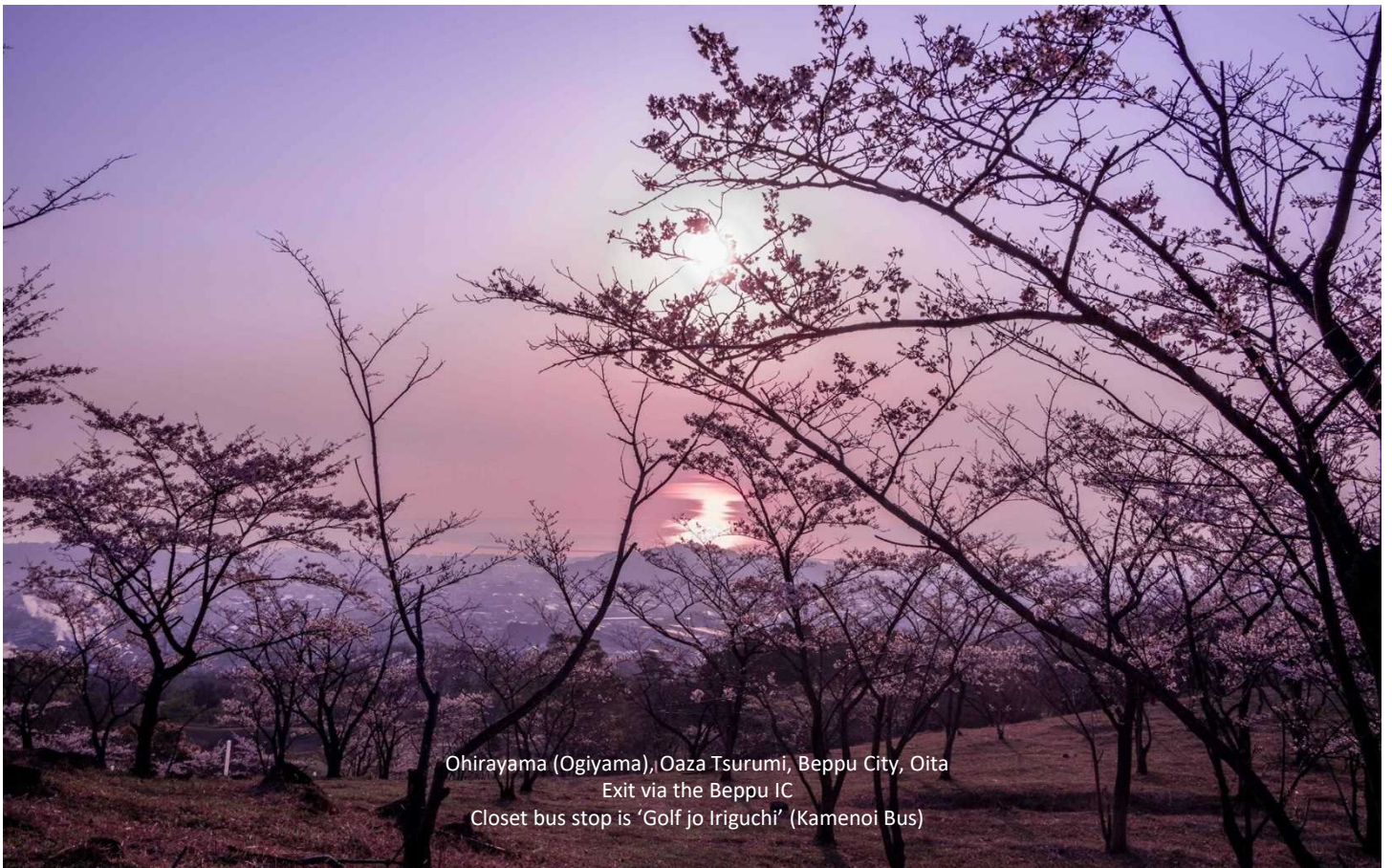
# New Beginnings

## Sunrise from Ogiyama Sakura no Sono, Beppu

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Japan has formally entered Spring, and with it comes the *sakura-zensen*, the 'cherry blossom front' that sweeps across the nation yearly from its southernmost to northernmost corners. Due to the impacts of the COVID-19, the seasonal hanami has been called off this year. While picnicking and partying under the blossoms is a no-go, I took the liberty of taking strolls around the neighbourhood, enjoying the warm sunlight and rejuvenating atmosphere brought in by the new season. Since the sakura season is brief, my friend and I decided to take a drive to the lesser explored corners of Oita to savour Spring at its best – this time, we decided to pay a visit to the Ogiyama Sakura no Sono, a cherry blossom garden situated at Beppu.

The hours for sunrise become earlier by the day as the weather turns warmer, with the sun emerging from the horizon around 06:04 in early April. To catch a glimpse of the rising sun, we shot out of our homes in Oita City at around 05:50. The drive took about 30 minutes, and the car crawled up a gently rolling hill. When we got out of the car, the sun was already showering its rays over around six thousand Somei Yoshino trees planted on the grounds. The garden is east-facing and situated 400m above sea level, offering a sweeping view of Beppu Bay bathed in the morning light. With the sun rising over thousands of cherry blossom trees and the ocean while birds chirp around us, I was in the very perfect picture of Spring. While it is one of the less-visited hanami spots in Oita prefecture, the Ogiyama Sakura no Sono offered one of my most unique hanami experiences.



Ohirayama (Ogiyama), Oaza Tsurumi, Beppu City, Oita  
Exit via the Beppu IC  
Closest bus stop is 'Golf jo Iriguchi' (Kamenoi Bus)