



What's up,

OITA! 2021 January No. 56

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

New Year Greetings from the Director General to the Planning Promotion Department

Happy New Year.

Last year was a year of many challenges with the presence of COVID-19 and the 2020 July Floods. Nonetheless, we also saw many occasions that posed great opportunities for the future.

OPAM just welcomed its 5th opening anniversary, and hosted the Shigeru Ban* exhibition in commemoration of the landmark. The exhibition saw many guests, and the museum tallied a remarkable 3 million visitors by the end of last year.



On another note, the prefecture is working towards implementing hovercraft services to better connect transport between Oita Airport and central Oita, and have finalised DAIICHI KOUTSU SANGYO Co.,Ltd. as its service operator. Service operations will tentatively come into place in FY2023.

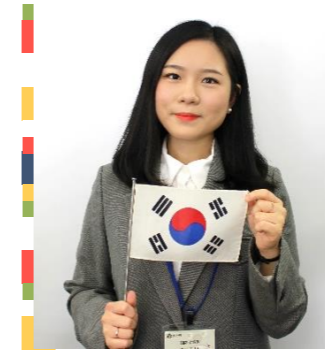
Moving on to sports – with Oita becoming the second host area for the Canon Eagles and local junior high school rugby clubs made into training hubs, the prefecture is building upon the foundation of the Rugby World Cup 2019 legacy.

In line with our continuous efforts on COVID-19 infection control and regional revitalisation, we strive to proceed with international communication in the post-COVID-19 world. I greatly look forward to working with you all for the development of my home, Oita.

Last but not least, I wish you all the best of health and every success in your endeavours. May 2021 be a wonderful year for us all.

Takaya Hiroshi
Director General to the Planning Promotion Department
Oita Prefectural Government

**Shigeru Ban is a Pritzker Architecture Prize laureate; OPAM was designed by the Shigeru Ban Architects.



盧 知榮
(Noh Jiyoung)

Annyeonghaseyo yeorobun! / Hello everyone!

Hi everyone, I am Noh Jiyoung from Busan, South Korea. While I was meant to say hello to you all in April last year, I couldn't do so in time since I had only managed to enter Japan last month because of COVID-19 – I will do my best to make up for what I've missed so far!

My first impression of Oita is that it is a very laidback place. Since my hometown Busan is densely packed with buildings on both flat ground and on the mountains, I find the abundant nature of Oita quite endearing.

Greetings from Ms. Noh Jiyoung, CIR from South Korea



At Gwangalli Beach with friends. The Gwangandaegyo can be seen in the background.



Busan

As someone who is a big fan of chicken, nothing beats working at a place that is home to *karaage* and *toriten*. Nonetheless, there are times when I feel like eating Korean food – if you have a good Korean restaurant in mind, please recommend it to me so we can visit it together!

If you happen to meet me around town, do feel free to say hi with 'Hey Nohji!' Thank you.

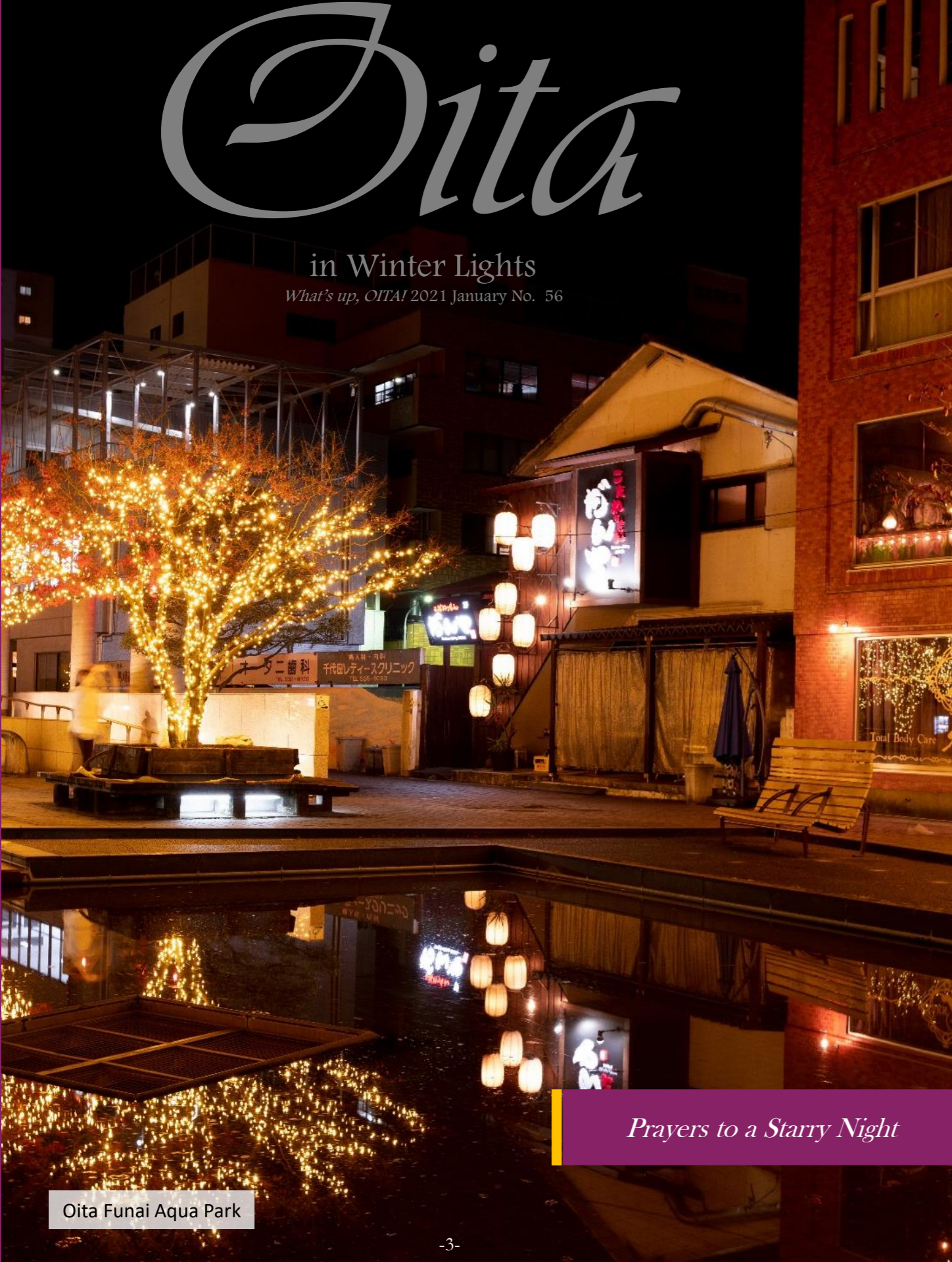


karaage

Oita

in Winter Lights

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Prayers to a Starry Night

Oita Funai Aqua Park

The weather in Oita City is usually mild and temperate, but come mid-December, and a cold gust of air sweeps across the city to take away the last traces of autumn. On a sunny day, snow-capped peak of Mt. Tsurumi can be seen from a distance.



The trees stand bare and forlorn as the days grow shorter. While the cold may be cheerless, this time of the year is the perfect season to show off festive lights.

Along those lines, the much loved Oita Light Fantasia [おおいた光のファンタジー] is convening once again starting from the end of last year. The theme to the Oita Light Fantasia 2020 is

'Prayers to a Starry Sky' [おおいた光のファンタジー2020～星空への祈り～], and features around 370,000 LED bulbs that adorn the trees planted within Oita City. Though the night may be dark and the wind cold, one cannot help but feel warm inside when bathed in the sight of champagne coloured lights. The light up is convening across various locations across the city, and can be enjoyed from the period of Nov 13, 2020 ~ Feb 14, 2021.

2020.11.13 - 2021.2.14

17:00-24:00 daily

**Lights on from 18:00 on Nov 13

Locations:

Chuodori / Funai Aqua Park / JR Oita Station vicinity / Galleria Takemachi Dome Square / Wakakusa Park / Funai Sun Sun Dori

<https://hikarioita.net/>