

# What's up, OITA! 2020 August No. 51



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

## Seminar for support for foreigners during times of disaster

The seminar for support for foreigners during times of disaster convened on July 31 and August 1.

Due to factors such as language barriers and cultural differences, foreigners are prone to being at a disadvantage during times of disaster. Aside from the 14,000 foreign residents living across the prefecture, the availability of appropriate support is also essential to visitors from overseas. Consequently, the seminar was geared at affiliates based in municipal governments and various regions across Oita whose work are relevant to the fields of disaster awareness and support for foreigners.

Professor Honda Akiko of the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University offered a description on 'Simple Japanese' ('*Yasashii Nihongo*'), a version of the Japanese language devised to deliver information to foreigners in an easily understandable manner during times of disaster. The seminar also featured several case study presentations from Ms. Taniguchi Satomi, the supervisor for the aforementioned specialised fields based at the Saiki City Amabe Commerce and Industry Association.



▲ Prof. Honda and APU students presenting on 'Simple Japanese'

▼ Seminar on Jul 31.



## July 2020 torrential rains

When torrential rains swept across Japan in early July, Oita was among one of the nation's affected regions. Caused by repeated areas of rain, known as 'training' in meteorological terms, heavy rainfall continued for extended periods of time. The prefecture's western regions, Hita, Kusu, Kokonoe and Yufu were among the worst affected areas, with five deaths reported and one individual still missing from the disaster. Buildings were severely damaged, and up to 1,331 individuals had evacuated at one point in time (all have returned to safety at the time of writing). For purposes of COVID-19 infection control, the Oita Prefecture is conducting various measures in disaster recovery, such as limiting volunteering vacancies to local residents.

*For more information on the July 2020 torrential rains, please visit the Oita Prefecture's website:*  
<https://www.pref.oita.jp/site/bosaiportal/ooame0706.htm>

Nagasakibana is a cape located in Bungo-takada, on the tip of the Kunisaki Peninsula. Nicknamed 'the cape of flowers', it is covered in a breathtaking carpet of sunflowers every summer. Normally, over a million sunflowers bloom in unison onsite, but due to the effects of the torrential rains that swept across Kyushu earlier this year, the seeds were washed away in the storms. While efforts were placed into replanting the flowers, only around five hundred thousand sunflowers can be seen this year.

Although there is an air of forlornness about the sparsely spaced fields this year, the annual Sunflower Festa continues to open from Aug 22 ~ Sep 13 this year. When my friends and I visited the cape in late August, the sunflowers were already nearing harvest. Heavy with seeds, their heads drooped lightly as if in a perpetual bow. Around us, other groups of visitors could be seen moving around slowly under the sun, their silhouettes skewing as the air above the sea and the asphalt paths twisted in the scorching heat. Coupled with the pristine blue skies, the setting paints a perfect picture for the last moments of summer.

## Sunflower Festa at Nagasakibana

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Nagasaki Resort Camping Ground  
4060 Mime, Bungotakada, Oita 872-1207

**Access by car**  
Around 90 minutes from Oita City  
Around 40 minutes from Usa

