

Monthly Glocal News

April 2021

Local Partnership Cooperation Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan



Aiming to be Host Families beyond the Host Town –Noshiro City in Akita Prefecture and Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan–



Jordanian athletes tried calligraphy with a help of high school students in Noshiro city (September 2019)



Special support school students worked on promoting local food at the Gourmet Fair (February 2021)

Noshiro City and Jordan have common policies such as promoting renewable energy and tourism, and also they both have world heritage sites in their territories. This is why Noshiro City became a Host Town of Jordan. The city has been engaged in various activities in cooperation with the Embassy of Jordan in Japan including hosting pre-games training camps for Jordanian Karate or Taekwondo athletes, promoting cultural exchanges between the athletes and local citizens, organizing events to introduce their tourist spots and local specialties, holding a film screening, and other online exchanges. Recently, “Noshiro x Jordan “Bonds” Gourmet Fair” was held in February. The city is aiming to build a close relationship with Jordan toward and beyond the Tokyo 2020 so that they will be able to welcome each other as a host family.

Creating forestry innovation in cooperation with overseas countries (Nagano Prefecture)



Forestry site in Austria



Conclusion of the Memorandum with North Karelia in Finland

Nagano is a prominent "forest prefecture" where about 80% of its area is covered with forest. By taking advantage of the salient feature, the Prefecture is making various efforts to increase the production of wood materials and trying to turn into "forestry prefecture".

As part of these challenges, Nagano has been collaborating and interacting with Austria and Finland. Austria is famous as an advanced forestry country, and Finnish forest-related industry is highly competitive in the international market.

Reception of "Promotion of Fukushima, Yamanashi and Oita Prefecture" at the official residence of the Consul General of Japan in Ho Chi Minh



Drink booth by Fukushima Prefecture



Presentation by Yamanashi Prefecture



Local products booth of Oita Prefecture

Reception for spreading attractiveness of Fukushima, Yamanashi, Oita Prefectures was held on January 29 at the official residence of the Consul General of Japan in Ho Chi Minh. This reception is aiming for introducing local charms and delicious local foods in various areas of Japan to Viet Nam, where the interest in Japanese food is increasing in recent years. Participants learned the charms and characteristics of these prefectures at the seminar, and enjoyed sake, shochu, yellowtail and mushrooms and so on. It is expected to expand sales channels of Japanese local products to Viet Nam and promote Japanese tourism.

Training program for officials of the local governments by MOFA



Listening to the lecture



Trainees listening enthusiastically to the lecturer

M OFA continues personnel exchange program with local governments of Japan for many years. In this program, officials of local governments work OJT at MOFA in Tokyo and Embassies or Consulates abroad for several years. On Feb 26, trainees currently working at MOFA visited JR East Japan Railway Company in Shinjuku and attended lectures on the company's initiatives related to "Tokyo 2020 Games", "Regional Revitalization", "Inbound Tourism", "ESG", and "Overseas Expansion."

They learned that JR East is determined to develop diversified businesses not only in local regions but also overseas beyond their mission as a railway company, and challenges sustainable revitalization of local areas together with local people from the perspective of coexistence and co-prosperity. In addition, the officials were greatly inspired by innovative efforts of the company to extend the creation of values in all directions even in the era of Covid-19.

Local Partnership Cooperation Forum



Live video streaming of Local Partnership Cooperation Forum



Panel discussion by specialists in the second session

On March 2, Local Partnership Cooperation Forum was held online to support international activities of local governments and municipalities. In the foreign policy briefing session, a MOFA official gave a lecture on Japan-China relations. In the second session, specialists gave presentations about overseas promotion strategy under COVID-19, and panel discussion about the theme was held afterwards.

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【#SisterCity】🎬 Movie-like #Happy ValentinesDay messages from 🇺🇸 #Concord to 🇯🇵 #Nanae @PrefHokkaido 🥰 A hearty chorus symbolizes their good memories! @usembassytokyo 米コンコードから北海道 #七飯町へ映画のようなメッセージ 🎤 合唱の響きは交流の思い出を象徴するよう!



Happy Valentine's Day from Concord to Nanae! This is "Happy Valentine's Day from Concord to Nanae!" by G.L.O.B.E. Consortium on Vimeo, the ...
vimeo.com

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Happy Valentine's Day! Have an important day with everyone in Nanae Town!" A short video of the congratulatory message delivered from Concord, Massachusetts to the sister city of Nanae Town, Hokkaido gained the most attention this month. In the first half of the video, a warm message that they, thinking of every person they know in Nanae Town, look forward to getting together, and in the second half, local high school students delivered a beautiful singing voice as if in the scenes of a movie. It's really impressive that they are connected at the 42 degrees north latitude!

The unprecedented challenge for nonstop trans-Pacific flight ties two cities together until now!—Misawa City in Aomori Prefecture and Wenatchee and East Wenatchee, Washington in the United States—



The Miss Veedol



The good will mission from Wenatchee Valley

Misawa City, which locates south east side of Aomori Prefecture in Japan is a sister city of Wenatchee City and East Wenatchee City in Washington State of the US. Misawa City has been in touch with the cities for a long time, especially in terms of people-to-people relations. There is a story of an adventure flying over the Pacific Ocean between Japan and the US in the background of becoming sister cities.