



# Monthly Glocal News

## December 2022

Local Partnership Cooperation Division  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan



### Diplomats' Study Tour in Niigata



Nishikigoi release ceremony



Commemorative Photo in the World  
Nishikigoi Summit



Terraced Rice Fields and Ponds with  
Nagaoka's Fireworks

On November 5 and 6, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Niigata Prefecture, Nagaoka City, and Ojiya City jointly organized a Diplomats' Study Tour in conjunction with the World Nishikigoi Summit. 36 Ambassadors and others from 21 countries (including countries participating only in the World Nishikigoi Summit) attended the tour. In addition to participating in the summit, diplomats toured Nagaoka City and Ojiya City, which are the birthplace of Nishikigoi, and enjoyed the diverse attractiveness including Nishikigoi, fireworks and food culture, which are the pride of Niigata. It is expected that this tour will provide a good opportunity for the participants to deepen their understanding of Niigata's diverse attractiveness, also expand the exchanges between the participants' countries and Niigata.

### Diplomats' Study Tour in Shiga Prefecture



the reception hosted by Governor MIKAZUKI



Shigataki "tanuki" (raccoon)  
pottery experience at the Shigaraki High School



Visiting the organic tea plantation  
farming at Katagikoukaen

On November 10 and 11, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Shiga Prefecture organized a Diplomats' Study Tour in Shiga Prefecture under the theme of "Revel in the beauty of Lake Biwa and travel across history, from the heights of Mount Hiei to the valleys of the pottery town of Shigaraki". 15 participants including Ambassadors and other representatives from 13 countries visited various sites and facilities, such as Mount Hiei Enryaku-ji Temple and Shigaraki High School etc. It is expected that this tour will provide a good opportunity for the participants to deepen their understanding of Shiga's attractiveness, and expand the exchanges between the participants' countries and Shiga.

### New Sister City was established! Nara City & Samarkand City -The ancient Silk Road exchange to these days and to the future-



Sister City Establishment ceremony with  
Mayor UMAROV and Mayor NAKAGAWA



Welcome Dinner reception hosted  
by Samarkand city



Visiting the SILK ROAD International  
University of Tourism

Nara City and Samarkand city, Uzbekistan have inherited deep and long historical ties connected by the Silk Road to these day. They have been continuing various interregional exchanges, and the recent invitation to a local event by Samarkand city has finally led to the establishment of the Sister City Relationship on October 18. Now, two cities shake hands for expanding their exchanges more. It is expected that both cities will make a new era of friendship for the future!

**Celebrating half a century of exchanges  
Okayama City & Plovdiv city, Republic of Bulgaria**



Cultural Delegation of Okayama dispatched to  
"European Capital of Culture 2019"



Seminar on Yogurt in the photo  
exhibition in Plovdiv City



Unveiling ceremony of the statue of  
Hristo Botev

Okayama City and Plovdiv City have steadily continued their exchange, including the installation of a statue of "Momotaro" (famous character of Japanese fairy tale), the symbol of Okayama, in a park in Plovdiv on the 20th anniversary of establishment of Sister City relationship. In addition, Okayama city became Host Town of Bulgaria for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This year, the two cities have celebrated the 50th anniversary of their sister city relationship, with various exchanges and events. Okayama City hopes to have further opportunities for face-to-face exchanges from next year.

**Beautiful Japanese Culture "Chado"  
~My "roots" for the Tea Ceremony~**



Budo training



Tea Ceremony



Macha Tea he brewed

Mr. Randy Channell Soei from Canada currently lives in Kyoto where he has been teaching traditional tea ceremony (Urasenke chado) for over 25 years. He has not only been hosting the tea ceremony, but also involved in a wide variety of activities, including writing books and organizing a café. Through his current activities, you can find his passion for Japanese culture "Chanoyu", the reason why he started the tea ceremony, and his relationship with Kyoto!

