



Monthly Glocal News

September 2023

Local Partnership Cooperation Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan



Sister city relationship between Willich, Germany and Marugame, Kagawa Prefecture

In July of this year, the City of Willich in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, and the City of Marugame in Kagawa Prefecture established a Sister City relationship. Since then, the two cities have been building a friendly relationship through exchanges at the student and citizen levels. This report provides the background and future prospects of the relationship between two cities.



Signing by the mayors



Commemorative tree planting of friendship tree
(Japanese pagoda tree)

Legacy of the 30th anniversary of the Sister City relationship, collaboration through “lavender” for healing citizens (Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture and Digne-les-Bains City, France).



Offering flowers in Kamaishi City
by French visiting delegations



Citizens planting lavenders on the last day of the event, and planting ceremony by local students



Kamaishi City and Digne-les-Bains City will celebrate the 30th anniversary of their Sister City relationship next year. Since the beginning of this relationship, both cities have continued their exchange through lavender in cooperation with several companies, including L'OCCITANE JAPON K.K.



Students from Kasshi Primary School learning
how to prune lavenders

Diplomat's Study Tour in the City of Kitakyushu



Group photo at TOTO Museum



Group photo at dinner hosted by Mayor TAKEUCHI



Fishing experience in the Kanmon Straits

On July 18 and 19, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan conducted Diplomat's Study Tour together with the City of Kitakyushu. 10 participants including Ambassadors and other representatives from 8 countries visited various sites and facilities. Regional attractions such as history, culture, food, local products, and industries were fully introduced to the diplomats.

“Lusterware” revived by a Japanese potter, connects Iran and Japan



Inside the room to commemorate Takuo, Kato the Sixth generation's accomplishments in Reza Abbasi Museum



Ambassador Aikawa painting pottery



Ambassador Aikawa and Kobei Kato the Seventh at the gallery of Kobeigama

Pottery originating from ancient Persia, known as Lusterware, was revived by a potter in Tajimi City, Gifu Prefecture. In July 2023, Ambassador Aikawa visited the city and exchanged views with Mayor Takagi of Tajimi City on exchange between Japan and Iran through the ceramic art.

Expanding the relationship between Japan and Queensland of Australia -Visit to Osaka by Premier Palaszczuk-



Mr. Hirofumi Yoshimura, Governor of Osaka Prefecture and Ms. Anastacia Palaszczuk, Premier of Queensland



Meeting between Governor Yoshimura and Premier Palaszczuk



Mr. Gomakubo, Consul-General of Japan in Brisbane and Premier Palaszczuk

In July, Premier Palaszczuk visited Japan. In Osaka, she exchanged views with Governor Yoshimura of Osaka Prefecture about the possibilities of expansion of relationships in trade, investment, culture and education. Consul General Gomakubo also visited Osaka to exchange views about economic and cultural exchange.

