



# Monthly Glocal News

## February 2025



Local Partnership Cooperation Division Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

### Local Partnership Cooperation Forum



Lecture by Regional Policy Division,  
Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau of MOFA



Lecture by Toshie Hiraide, CEO of Coop Sachi Co., Ltd.



Panel discussion by panelists  
in the second session

**O**n December 3, 2024, Local Partnership Cooperation Forum was held online to support international activities of local governments. In the first part of the forum, Director, Regional Policy Division, Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, gave a lecture on “Japan-ASEAN Relations”. The second part, under the theme of “SAKE Tourism Saves Japan”, featured a panel discussion with the sake experts after the lecture.

### Diplomats' Study Tour in Yamaguchi Prefecture



Ambassadors together with the Governor of  
Yamaguchi Prefecture and Chairperson  
of the Yamaguchi Prefectural Assembly



Site visit at the Rurikoji Temple  
under major restoration



Experience Ouchi lacquer

**O**n November 7 and 8, 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan organized Diplomats' Study Tour in collaboration with Yamaguchi Prefecture with the participation of 18 ambassadors and spouses/partners from 13 countries and a regional organization. Participants visited facilities related to Yamaguchi Prefecture's history, culture, and industry, and exchanged views with people concerned under the theme of “Yamaguchi's Efforts Towards Passing Down Nature, Culture and Technology to the Next Generation”

### Exchange between Gifu Prefecture and the European Collectivity of Alsace, France



Greetings from Vice-Chairman Straumann  
at the departure Ceremony of ONSEN (hot springs)  
Gastronomy Walking



Exchange with students of Ogaki Minami  
High School Fencing Club



Visit to Gassho-style Houses of Shirakawa-go

**T**he exchange between Gifu Prefecture and the Alsace region began with the exchange of sake and wine between the two regions, and has been active in many areas including tourism, culture, and sports. 2023 saw the signing of a new cooperation agreement between Gifu Prefecture and European Collectivity of Alsace. In October 2024, a delegation led by Vice-Chairman Eric Straumann visited Gifu Prefecture.



An aerial photograph of the Old Town of Tallinn, Estonia. The image shows the city's medieval walls and towers, including the prominent spire of St. Nicholas Church. The town is built on a hill, with red-tiled roofs and stone buildings. The sea is visible in the background under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

A large group of students and faculty members are posing for a group photo in front of a yellow building with arched windows. The group is diverse in age and appearance, and many are waving or making celebratory gestures. The building behind them has a central arched entrance and two side windows with decorative frames. Two black lampposts are visible on either side of the entrance.