

# Monthly Glocal News

October 2025

Local Partnership Cooperation Division  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

## Kamikatsu Town's Zero-Waste Initiatives: Reaching the World



Kamikatsu Zero Waste Center:  
A public facility equipped with a waste sorting station,  
multi-purpose hall, and accommodation.



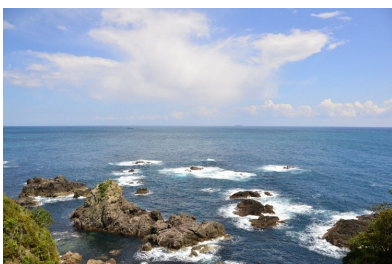
Diplomats' study tour: July 2025.  
Mayor Hanamoto (center) with eighteen ambassadors  
and diplomats from sixteen countries.

**K**amikatsu Town, located in the mountainous area of Tokushima Prefecture, became the first municipality in Japan to make a Zero-waste Declaration in 2003. Kamikatsu Town's advanced initiatives, including its zero-waste program, are being disseminated internationally in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This article features a written interview with Mayor HANAMOTO Yasushi, discussing the significance of international outreach and the future prospects for regional revitalization.



Tokushima Prefecture Kamikatsu Town × TOKYO TORCH FUTURE BEER GARDEN:  
An event designed to raise awareness of waste reduction.  
Approximately 10,000 people visited over two days, May 16th and 17th, 2025.

## Friendship Exchange between Wakayama Prefecture and the Republic of Türkiye



Off the coast of Kushimoto Town,  
Wakayama Prefecture,  
where the Ertuğrul Frigate sank



Signing Ceremony for the Memorandum  
of Understanding with the Turkish-Japanese  
Foundation Culture Center for Youth Exchange



Memorial Monument for the Martyrs of the Ertuğrul Frigate in Kushimoto Town,  
Wakayama Prefecture

**W**akayama Prefecture and the Republic of Türkiye have built a deep friendship through historical events. During the 1890 shipwreck of the Ertuğrul Frigate off the coast of Wakayama Prefecture, local residents carried out dedicated rescue efforts. Furthermore, Turkish Airlines prioritized the evacuation of Japanese nationals during the 1985 Iran-Iraq War, an act also regarded as a symbol of friendship between the two countries. In 2025, the Governor of Wakayama Prefecture and the Mayor of Kushimoto Town visited Türkiye and signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at promoting youth exchanges to foster disaster prevention and cultural understanding. These initiatives are expected to further strengthen the relationship between Wakayama Prefecture and the Republic of Türkiye.



## “Saku” City in Nagano and “Saku” City in the Republic of Estonia - Deepening Bonds of Friendship



Children's exchange activities



Türi Mixed Choir from Saku City, Republic of Estonia



During the official visit marking the 5th anniversary of the sister-city partnership

**S**aku City in Nagano Prefecture and Saku, a town along the distant Baltic coast in Estonia — Their connection began with the mere coincidence of sharing the same name. Over the past 25 years, it has blossomed into citizen exchanges in culture, sports, and education, evolving into a host town role for the Tokyo Olympics and even the awarding of decorations. This story of friendship, built across great distance, is now expanding from the local level to the global stage.

## On the Occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Sister City Relationship between Kushiro City and Burnaby, Canada



Renewal of Sister City Agreement held at Burnaby City Council Chamber



(Left) Alongside the Kamui Mintara Sculpture Park  
(Right) The opening ceremony for “Kushiro Lane”



(Left) Unveiling ceremony for the “Burnaby Path” sign  
(Right) Ice hockey team from Burnaby, Canada,  
paying a courtesy visit to Kushiro City

**T**he sister city relationship between Kushiro City and Burnaby, Canada, celebrated its 60th anniversary this year. Delegations from Burnaby visited Kushiro, and vice versa. This article introduces the wide range of exchanges between the two cities.

