



# Monthly Glocal News

February 2026

Local Partnership Cooperation Division  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan



## Oita Prefecture's Visit to the San Francisco Bay Area: Promoting Oita's Appeal through "Experience Oita"



Meeting between Oita Governor Sato  
and San Francisco Mayor Lurie



Participants enjoying dishes prepared  
with ingredients from Oita Prefecture



Oita Sake Booth and Product/Tourism Booths

Last November, Governor Sato of Oita Prefecture visited the San Francisco Bay Area to promote global human resource development, attract tourism, and expand sales channels for Oita products. During the visit, the Governor met with the Mayor of San Francisco to strengthen future collaboration and promoted Oita's local food, sake, tourism, and other local products at the "Experience Oita" reception. This significantly contributed to deepening ties between Oita and the San Francisco Bay Area.

## Training Program at the Embassy of the Netherlands in Japan, for Officials from the Japanese Local Governments



Lecture



Group photo

On December 2, local government officials working at MOFA visited the Embassy of the Netherlands in Japan. They learned about the Netherlands and its 425-year history of exchange with Japan, gaining valuable insights for their future work.

## Exchanges between Kanra Town, Gunma Prefecture, and Nicaragua Gain Momentum Ahead of Centennial of Diplomatic Relations



Shoe Donation Ceremony  
by the Residents of Kanra Town



Fire Engine Donated by Kanra Town



Opening Ceremony of the Japan Karate Cup

Kanra Town in Gunma Prefecture and Nicaragua have fostered a relationship centered on sports and people-to-people exchanges, sparked by Kanra Town's registration as a host town for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The exchange between Kanra Town and Nicaragua, has now expanded into diverse fields and is gaining further momentum, as Japan and Nicaragua approach the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. This grass-roots international exchange is becoming a driving force supporting the future of relations between the two countries.



## Promoting Japan's "Small Cities" in Republic of Korea! Joint Promotion by the National Governors' Association



Promoting the appeal of Japan's "small cities" in an interview with Korean media



Commemorative photo with Ambassador Mizushima



A reception attended by many guests

In 2025, marking the 60th anniversary of the normalization of the Japan-Republic of Korea (ROK) relations, 12 prefectures in Japan jointly launched a promotional campaign themed "Small Cities of Japan." This initiative aimed to promote Japanese local governments in ROK and encouraged tourism to regional areas.

## Diplomats' Study Tour in Nara Prefecture



Ambassadors together with the Mayor of Asuka Village



Ambassadors together with the Governor of Nara Prefecture and other distinguished guests

On November 17 and 18, 2025, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan organized Diplomats' Study Tour in collaboration with Nara Prefecture with the participation of 19 ambassadors and spouses/partners from 14 countries. Participants visited facilities related to Nara Prefecture's history, culture, and industry, and exchanged views with people concerned under the theme of "From the Origins of Japan to Now, and into the Future".



Warm Welcome from High School Students

