

# Monthly Glocal News

March 2026

Local Partnership Cooperation Division  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

## Reception Co-hosted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Governor of Fukushima Prefecture



Opening remarks by State Minister HORII



State Minister HORII visited a booth of reconstruction efforts



Photo of State Minister HORII with Governor Uchibori of Fukushima Prefecture

**O**n January 29, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Governor of Fukushima Prefecture co-hosted a reception “Fukushima: Winds of Happiness: Revitalising towards an Innovative Future” at the Iikura Guest House, attended by approximately 160 people, including diplomatic corps to Japan. The reception featured booths introducing local food, Japanese sake, tourism, traditional crafts such as Akabeko and recovery and reconstruction efforts following the Great East Japan Earthquake, as well as Koto performance on stage to promote diverse charms of Fukushima Prefecture.

## Diplomats’ Study Tour in Okinawa Prefecture



Welcome Dinner hosted by the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture



Group photo of diplomats in front of Shureimon Gate at Shuri Castle



Okinawa Peace Memorial Park – Flame of Peace and Cornerstone of Peace

**O**n January 14 and 15, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan conducted a Diplomats’ Study Tour together with Okinawa Prefecture, with the participation of 18 ambassadors and their spouses from 13 countries. Under the theme of “Explore Okinawa, from the Ryukyu Kingdom to the Present,” the program introduced the diverse attractions of Okinawa to the diplomatic corps including history, culture, traditional crafts, cutting-edge academic research, and various industries.

## Promoting Nishio City's Charm in Bangkok!! Hosting “Nishio Matcha Moments”



Tourism Content Presentation



A tea ceremony featuring matcha from Nishio



Matcha Tea Ceremony Experience

**I**n December last year, Nishio City, Aichi Prefecture, held “Nishio Matcha Moments” at the Reception Hall of the Embassy of Japan in Bangkok, Thailand. The event introduced Nishio City’s tourism offerings and promoted Nishio’s specialty matcha.

## The exchange between Tomakomai City, Hokkaido, and Napier, New Zealand – considering a sister-city relationship that adapts to changes of the times –



Participants to the 45th anniversary commemoration ceremony



A member of "Tomakomai Upopo" playing the "Mukkuri" at the ceremony



Members of the Tomakomai Upopo and Mr. Sasaki, who is the representative of the group, introducing the Ainu culture

**T**omakomai City, Hokkaido, and Napier, New Zealand marked the 45th anniversary of their sister-city relationship in 2025. This article introduces the overview of the commemoration held last November and considers a new perspective on exchange that may offer insights into shaping sister-city relationships for a changing era.

## Progress of the exchange project between Tama City, Tokyo, and Iceland



Welcome party for the President of Iceland



Tasting of school lunch by the Icelandic Ambassador to Japan

**T**ama City, Tokyo, has been deepening exchanges with Iceland since welcoming the Icelandic national team delegation at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We will introduce the exchanges between Tama City and Iceland, which continue to work on the development of friendly relations even after the Olympics.



Visit of the Mayor of Reykjavik

