



Monthly Glocal News

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Local Partnership Cooperation Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Of Japan



36 Years of Friendship and Ties: The Exchange Program

between Tsuchiura, a Historic Castle Town, and Palo Alto, a Global IT Hub



Visit to Yosemite National Park



Zen meditation experience

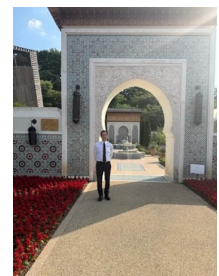


Farewell reception

Tsuchiura, a historic castle town, and Palo Alto, the heart of Silicon Valley, have developed a friendship over 36 years. Through junior high school student exchanges, students have learned about each other's cultures and values, and have built bonds that transcend borders. This article introduces stories of friendship and exchange that will shape the future.

Moroccan Culture Spreading from Gifu

In May 2026, Ambassador Nakata, Japan's Ambassador to Morocco, visited Gifu Prefecture, and met the governor and the Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Morocco in Gifu to discuss ways to further strengthen Gifu Prefecture's relations with Morocco. This article introduces an overview of Ambassador Nakata's visit and the exchanges between Gifu Prefecture and Morocco.



Ambassador Nakata visiting the "Moroccan Garden" in the "Gifu World Rose Garden"

Promoting Business Opportunities in Hokkaido to Hawaii! Seminar Held in Honolulu



Remarks by Vice Governor Hamasaka of Hokkaido Prefecture



Scenes from the networking session at the seminar



Publicity for the rice cooked with pickled corn, developed in collaboration with Hokkaido University

Since signing a friendship and partnership agreement in 2017, Hokkaido and the State of Hawaii have been deepening their exchanges across a wide range of fields, including education, the economy, and culture. In May of this year, the "Hokkaido Business Seminar" was held in Honolulu to showcase Hokkaido's investment environment and business appeal in areas such as renewable energy, AI, and semiconductors. The seminar also highlighted Hokkaido's food and industry-academia collaboration through the first-ever introduction of "Hokudai Brand" certified products in Hawaii, featuring products developed using Hokkaido University's research achievements and regional resources.

Sagae City's Visit to Its Sister City Giresun, Republic of Türkiye



Unveiling ceremony of the Sagae monument



Opening ceremony of the 49th International Giresun Aksu Festival



Search and rescue vehicle donated to Giresun by the Embassy of Japan in Türkiye

Sagae City, Yamagata Prefecture, which is twinned with Giresun in the Republic of Türkiye—the birthplace of cherries—visited the city for the first time in 13 years following the COVID-19 pandemic. The visit marked the resumption and strengthening of exchanges through a meeting between the two mayors, the unveiling of a cherry-themed commemorative monument, and participation in an international cultural festival. The delegation also monitored a search and rescue vehicle donated to Giresun by the Embassy of Japan in Türkiye, highlighting new opportunities for sister-city cooperation.

The History of Friendship City Exchange between Yaizu City and Chingeltei District, Ulaanbaatar City, Mongolia: Eleven Years of Deepening Bonds from Host Town Relationships, and Grassroots Face-to-Face Exchange Connecting to the Future



Mayor Hiromichi Nakano of Yaizu City receives the Mongolian order



Youth exchange: high school boys' basketball friendship match



Naming ceremony for "Chingeltei-dori Avenue" in Yaizu City

Through the Host Town exchange program for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Yaizu City in Shizuoka Prefecture and Mongolia have been building their relationship. In 2024, Yaizu City established a friendship city partnership with Chingeltei District of Ulaanbaatar and has been promoting exchanges across a wide range of fields, including youth exchange programs and sports.

