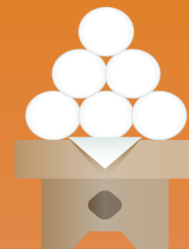


Monthly Glocal News

September 2026

Local Partnership Cooperation Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Of Japan



Celebrating the 15th Anniversary of a Sister-City Partnership

Connected by Historic Preservation and a Spirit of Hospitality



Exchange through a Japanese tea experience



Children from Uchiko and Rothenburg confidently performing Kyogen together



Mayor Onoe and Mayor Rösch holding the confirmation document

Uchiko Town and Rothenburg, Germany, have fostered exchanges based on their shared features such as preserving historic townscapes, and became sister cities in 2011. In 2026, marking the 15th anniversary of their sister-city partnership, a delegation from Uchiko visited Rothenburg to attend a commemorative ceremony. Through activities including a joint Kyogen performance by children from both municipalities and a Japanese tea experience, the two communities deepened their ties. They will continue to promote lasting exchanges while passing their traditions and cultures on to the next generation.

Ambassador Hitoshi Tojima's Visit to Takaishi City, Osaka Prefecture



Commemorative photo during the courtesy call on the mayor



A lecture at Konan Junior High School



Visit to the factory of Forest Bank Co., Ltd.

Building on the 2025 Osaka-Kansai Expo, exchanges between Takaishi City, Osaka Prefecture, and Madagascar have strengthened. H.E. Mr. Hitoshi Tojima, Ambassador of Japan to Madagascar, visited Takaishi City and, through an exchange of views with the mayor and visits to a junior high school and companies, promoted grassroots exchanges in the fields of local government, education, and industry. As part of the Expo's legacy, it is hoped that ties of friendship will be further deepened and passed on to future generations.

Sister-City Exchange Linked by Wine

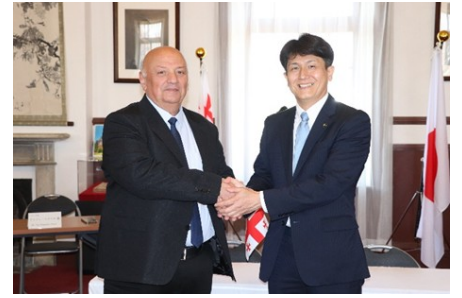
— Telavi, Georgia and Ushiku City, Ibaraki Prefecture —



Scenes from the exchange program at Ushiku Eishin Prefectural High School



Scenes from an exchange event during a practice observation at the Ushiku City Judo Association



Scenes from the sister-city agreement signing ceremony

Ushiku City in Ibaraki Prefecture and Telavi City in Georgia have fostered ongoing exchanges centered on “wine,” a subject deeply connected to both cities. Through reciprocal visits between mayors, and tours of wineries and sports facilities, the two cities have deepened their collaboration across a wide range of fields, including culture and sports. This article outlines the process by which the two cities deepened their ties, leading up to the signing of a sister-city agreement in April 2026.

Forging Friendship Ties among the Ancient City of Luang Prabang, Takayama City, and Moriya City



Introducing a message from Takayama City



Introducing a video message from the Moriya International Friendship Association



Group photo (front-row center: fifth from the left is Bounleuam, Secretary of the Luang Prabang Provincial Party Committee; sixth is Ambassador Koizumi)

On June 25, 2026, the Embassy of Japan in Laos held a roundtable discussion in Luang Prabang aimed at promoting exchanges between Japan and Luang Prabang. This article introduces the history of exchanges that Takayama City in Gifu Prefecture and Moriya City in Ibaraki Prefecture have long maintained with Luang Prabang and provides an overview of the roundtable.

