Monthly Glocal News

November 2026

Local Partnership Cooperation Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

The 61st Diplomats' Study Tour in Kyoto Prefecture: Experiencing Traditional Culture and International Exchange in Kyoto



Commemorative photo at the dinner reception hosted by Kyoto Prefecture



Members of the diplomatic corps learning how to brew tea from tea farmers



Members of the diplomatic corps learning ikebana from the Grand Master

On September 14 and 15, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan co-hosted a Diplomats' Study Tour with Kyoto Prefecture under the theme of "Experience Traditional Culture and International Exchange in Kyoto," attended by 16 participants, including ambassadors, from 11 countries. During this tour, the participants deepened their understanding of Kyoto Prefecture's MICE, traditional culture, and industries, and interacted with local stakeholders.

35th Anniversary of the Toyama Prefecture-Oregon Friendship Partnership: Building on 35 Years of Exchange to Carry the Partnership into the Future



The "Toyama Cup" Japanese speech contest, which marked its 30th edition this year.



The international abacus competition held in Portland (Governor Nitta of Toyama Prefecture at the center).



The reception commemorating the 35th anniversary of the Toyama Prefecture-Oregon friendly relationship (The sixth person from the left is Governor Nitta of Toyama Prefecture, and the seventh is Governor Kotek of Oregon.).

Toyama Prefecture and the U.S. State of Oregon celebrated the 35th anniversary of their friendship partnership. In August 2026, a delegation from Toyama visited Oregon, where they met with the Governor of Oregon, interacted with representatives from the economic, educational, and cultural sectors, and hosted a commemorative reception. Youth exchanges, such as the world abacus championship and a Japanese speech contest, were also held, and the friendly relations between the two regions are expected to develop further.

One Love! Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Sister Region Cooperation between Tottori and Westmoreland, Jamaica



Scene from the Sister Region Agreement Signing Ceremony



Collaborative Performance by Japanese and Jamaican Youth

Tottori Prefecture and Westmoreland Parish, Jamaica, celebrated the 10th anniversary of their sister region cooperation in 2026. The ties between the two regions –nurtured through collaborative performances by young people at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai and pottery exchange programs, and other activities– are expected to continue serving as a bridge of friendship between Japan and Jamaica.



Scene from the 10th Anniversary Ceremony

A New Symbol of Friendship Born Out of Sister-City Exchange: "Shibuya Park" Opens in Miraflores, Peru



Mayor Ken Hasebe (Shibuya) and Mayor Carlos Canales (Miraflores) posing in front of the "Shibuya Park" monument.



The opening ceremony of "Shibuya Park."

In August 2026, "Shibuya Park," featuring a statue of Hachiko, opened in the Miraflores District of Lima, the Republic of Peru. Since establishing sister-city relations in 2024, Shibuya City, Tokyo, and the Miraflores District have deepened their ties through various initiatives, including school lunch programs and student exchanges. This article highlights the newly created park of friendship spanning the ocean, tracing the history of exchange between the two municipalities and exploring their future prospects.



Conceptual rendering of the Miraflores-inspired park planned for Shibuya City.