

佃市長並びに御列席の皆様，

本日，第 69 回按針祭が開催されますことを，心からお慶び申し上げます。また，主催者である伊東市の皆様がこの按針祭を通して地域の伝統や文化に根差した国際親善に長年取り組まれてきたことに敬意を表します。

三浦按針は，徳川家康の外交顧問として活躍し，ここ伊東市においては地元の船大工と共に日本最初の洋式帆船を建造しました。その帆船は，17世紀初頭，遭難したフィリピン諸島の総督を北米経由でメキシコに移送し，今日に至るまで拡大・深化してきた日本とアメリカ大陸の間のつながりの最初の一歩となりました。按針の時代から今日まで，海は，多くの人々の往来や貿易を繋ぎ，人類の繁栄を支えてきました。

三浦按針がもたらした交流は今も続いています。伊東市と三浦按針の出身地である，英国メドウエイ市との姉妹都市交流がその一例です。両市の交流が今後も継続され，それにより両市が益々発展することを願っています。安倍政権の重要課題でもある地方創生に資するこうした地方自治体間の友好交流を外務省としても応援してまいります。

また，国と国との交流も盛んです。三浦按針に縁のある英国，オランダ，米国，メキシコと日本の間

では、王室や政府首脳レベルの往来が活発に行われています。

このような人の往来を通じた国際親善は、人々の結びつきを更に強くしてくれると信じています。今後も、三浦按針を通じた親交が継続し、日本国内、そして日本と各国との交流がより一層進んでいくことを願っています。

最後に、伊東市の皆様と各国関係者との末永き友好、そして、御列席の皆様のますますの御発展を祈念して、私からのお祝いの言葉とさせていただきます。

平成 27 年 8 月 10 日

日本国外務大臣 岸田 文雄

(英訳)

Mayor Hiromi Tsukuda,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 69th Anjin Festival. I also would like to express my respect for the people of Ito City who have, over many years, contributed to international friendship

through this festival, rooted in the traditions and culture of the region.

Anjin played an active role as an advisor to Tokugawa Ieyasu on diplomatic issues. He also built the first western-style sailing ship in Japan with local shipwrights here in Ito City. The ship rescued the Governor-General of the Philippine islands from a shipwreck and took him to Mexico via North America. This marked the first step towards relations between Japan and the American Continents, which are expanding and deepening even today. From Anjin's day to the present, the sea has connected peoples and promoted trade, thus contributing to the prosperity of humanity.

The exchange brought by Anjin still continues today. Twin town exchange between Ito and the Medway Towns in the UK, the birthplace of Anjin, is one example. I hope that the exchanges between the two areas will continue and that both will further develop through this interaction. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will support such friendly exchanges between local governments to contribute to regional revitalization, one of the major agenda of the Abe Administration.

Exchanges between nations are also active. Imperial and Royal visits, as well as summit meetings, are frequent between Japan and the UK, the Netherlands, the US and Mexico.

I believe that the international goodwill growing from visits between countries will further strengthen the ties between people. I hope that Anjin will continue to be a guide to friendly relations, thus contributing to further promoting travel and new friendships within Japan, and between Japan and other countries.

I would like to conclude my remarks with my wishes for the further development of friendship between the people of Ito and people from other countries, and for continuing success for all of you.

Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Fumio Kishida