



JLGC NEWS LETTER

JAPAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER (CLAIR, NEW YORK) ISSUE NO. 64 SUMMER 2008

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the JET Alumni Association

SHANNAN SPISAK, OUTGOING JETAA USA COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE EAST 2006-08

The year 1987 marks the first year of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme.



The JET Programme contract runs for one year at a time (from July to July), which means that in July 1988, the very first alumni of the program were ready to experience the impact that their time in Japan had on the way their lives unfolded after they returned home. Almost exactly 20 years ago, the stage was set for carrying the JET experience beyond the initial one, two, or three year period that participants worked in Japan. Although the first formally established alumni chapter was not until 1989, 2008 is a milestone year for alumni, 45,000 of whom are located internationally. Membership in 15 countries within our 51 global chapters and multiple sub-chapters is growing annually. In the U.S. the JET Alumni Association (JETAA USA) celebrated this anniversary with two special initiatives: the Kintetsu-sponsored essay contest, and a special-invitation 2008 National Conference taking place in Seattle, WA.

The Kintetsu- sponsored essay contest represents a special partnership that has been forged between JETAA USA and Kintetsu Travel. This competition invited alumni to share narrative stories (1500 words or less) about their experiences in Japan with 15 winners selected from a panel of judges to receive round trip airfare from their

U.S. hometowns to their Japanese "hometowns" and four nights hotel accommodation including a Departure Awards Reception in Los Angeles, California and a Welcome Reception in Tokyo, Japan. Winners represented 11 different states from the span of 1987-2006, including a winner from the very first year of the program, David Flynn (Osaka, 1987-88). David had not returned to Japan in the 20 years since he had first arrived, and his daughter (whom he visited on his trip) is a current Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) on the JET Programme! The 15 winning essays are in the process of being compiled into a publication that will promote the program and assist in creating awareness and increased recruitment. Winning essays can be read here:

<http://www.jetaany.org/essays/2007%20Essay%20Contest.pdf>

Our 2008 JETAA USA Annual National Conference taking place in Seattle this August received a special CLAIR-sponsored grant to include delegates from our newly established sub-chapters. Each country / region that has JET alumni receives an annual grant for funding delegates to participate in a forum to meet each other, discuss growth and initiatives, and return to their chapters with a renewed sense of enthusiasm. These conference grants are a collaboration of funding from CLAIR and MOFA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The USA Alumni Association is unique in both its membership size (with over 22,000 participants selected from U.S.

applicants) as well as its geographic size. Although we have 19 established chapters, it still remains a challenge to involve our alumni in smaller, outlying areas. Therefore, we have undertaken an initiative to develop a stronger presence in such areas. To reflect their support and to honor the 20 years of our alumni, CLAIR is sponsoring 25 delegates from newly established sub-chapter locations to join the traditional two representatives from each of our 19 chapters (who are sponsored by MOFA). This year represents the first year we will have full representation from ALL of our chapters at this conference and, with the inclusion of sub-chapter delegates, also establishes a forum for building a stronger national network. We are proud of the impact that our alumni have in the U.S. and around the world to continue to strengthen positive relationships with Japan. www.jetalumni.org

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CANADA JETAA Representatives in Winnipeg

JETAA CANADA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The eighth annual JETAA Canada National Conference was held in Winnipeg from May 23rd to May 25th. This year JETAA is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Representatives in attendance included the seven Canadian JETAA chapters and two nascent sub-chapters. Also in attendance were representatives from the Consulate General of Japan in Calgary, CLAIR Tokyo, and the Japan Local Government Center as well as the new Canada Country Representative.

Discussion items included sub-chapter issues, the Canada National Action Plan (NAP) and strengthening marketing strategies. Each chapter and sub-chapter presented their activity reports which highlighted their fundraising and a diverse assortment of events. These events assist returned JETs obtain employment and facilitate

their assimilation back into their communities.

For the 20th anniversary celebration two guest speakers were invited. Art Miki, who received the Order of Canada in 1991, spoke on the history of the Japanese community in Canada and the effort to achieve a redress settlement for Japanese Canadians. Shannon Spisak, former Country Representative for the Eastern United States who was invited to the Canada JETAA conference as a positive first step to promote exchange among Canadian and American chapters talked about the New York chapter's ongoing effort.

The conference was adjourned after the new NAP, decided to incorporate the wording "20th Anniversary Reunion" as a way of creating more interest among current JETAA members and as a technique to reach out to old JETs and potential new recruits.

JET PRE-DEPARTURE SEMINAR

The JET pre-departure seminar was held on June 21st, at the Nippon Club in New York. Seventy-two new JETs within the jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Japan in New York joined this seminar. The first session was entitled "JET JOB SKILLS WORKSHOP." The participants broke down into three categories: Elementary/ Junior High School, Senior High School and CIR, and received explanations about their jobs from JETAA New York representatives. A second session called "LIFE AS A JET WORKSHOP," also contained three categories: Suburban, Rural and Urban, in accordance with where they would live and work in Japan. They received information about what they need to know to live in Japan. The last session called "SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS," allowed each participant to choose two themes, such as "Japan Etiquette" and "What to Pack," and then discussed the topic with JETAANY and other participants. A huge thanks to the members of JETAANY for a successful event.



A SNAPSHOT OF THE HISTORY OF JET WORLDWIDE

We have welcomed 4,682 JET Program participants from 38 countries. This year, the number of NEW participants is 2,014, 1,169 from US and 210 from Canada.

Glocalize Your Community

TIM HONEY / PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, BEGLOBAL.NET

As the former city manager of Portland, Maine and Boulder, Colorado, and as past Executive Director of Sister Cities International, I have had the privilege of working with the Japan Local Government Center (JLGC) for nearly two decades. JLGC has played a critical role in developing and sustaining international partnerships, and professional local government exchanges, between communities in Japan and the US.

It is with great pride that I am able to announce that the JLGC has joined with me to help launch a new a "state of the art" Internet based global platform called BeGlobal.net (www.BeGlobal.net). JLGC is one of our Inaugural Partners, and we want to extend a special invitation to everyone affiliated with JLGC to join BeGlobal.net. It is easy to access, and it is 100% free to all users. Just go to www.BeGlobal.net and participate.

BeGlobal.net has been designed to empower individuals, organizations and communities to connect and explore globally, and to focus upon tangible solutions to 21st century global challenges. BeGlobal provides communities and their citizens with

opportunities to think globally and act locally. We call the unique confluence of global and local "glocalization". When successful, "glocalization" combines a global perspective with local action - fostering global citizenship, and globally engaged and responsible communities.

BeGlobal.net also provides a new platform for cities around the world to be recognized as Global Cities. We have presented a new definition of what it means to be a Global City. No longer are Global Cities limited to centers of international trade and commerce. Instead, the Global Cities of the 21st century are about global connections, global partnerships, and bringing a global perspective to all aspects of community life.

Global Cities use their rich and diverse global assets to increase the quality of life for their citizens. They use their global assets, which include individuals, businesses, non-profits, schools, and the arts to channel the positive forces of globalization to benefit their communities. They practice "glocalization" - finding local solutions to global challenges. And they celebrate their global connections and their diverse international heritage and civic life.

Global Cities are not a function of size of



Tim Honey in South Africa

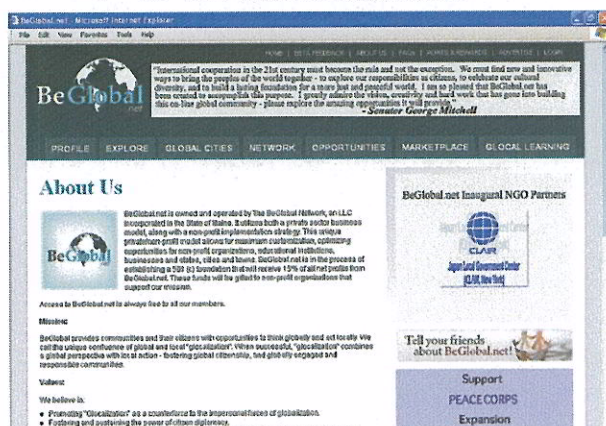
location - they can exist anywhere, and in any country. But they share a common commitment of promoting a community ethic of global engagement and international understanding.

Please help your community be recognized as a Global City. You can take the first step towards this designation by going to:
http://beta.beglobal.net/?page=global_city_registration

Finally, BeGlobal.net can provide U.S./Japan sister city partnerships an immediate web presence, without any costs or maintenance fees. You can go on the site and register your partnership as a NGO, and tell your sister city story. You can use this site for forming alumni groups, and networking for all who have been involved in your sister city program.

We invite you to explore the possibilities of BeGlobal.net. We invite you to tell your story of international engagement between the United States and Japan. We urge you to provide feedback to us to make BeGlobal.net the premier international website for cities and their citizens.

 URL: <http://www.beglobal.net>



A CLAIR Fellow's Japan Experiences

CLAY PEARSON / CITI MANAGER, THE CITY OF NOVI, MICHIGAN

In October 2007, I visited Tokyo and Sendai (Miyagi Prefecture), as part of a two-week study fellowship. My wife, Jennifer and I represented the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) in comprising the 2007 11-member delegation from the U.S.A. and Canada. The Japan trip is hosted under the auspices of an internationalization effort of Japanese prefecture governments. Active with organizations around the world, our host, the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) provides education and exchanges from Japanese government and schools to and from Japan.

A major theme of the study tour was quality economic development a universal worldwide goal amongst communities. At each stop in Japan with government and business leaders, I distributed materials (all in Japanese) about the State of Michigan and the City of Novi. These items were always enthusiastically and graciously received. With Novi being a strong center of Japanese culture and with the expatriates and Japanese-Americans we host, the experience was particularly beneficial. We look forward to further strengthening our cultural and economic ties between Novi and Japan. Recently, the Executive Director of JLGC (CLAIR, NY), Mr. Hiroshi Sasaki led a group of several of his incoming New York staff members to Novi in March 2008.

The experience provided a wealth of knowledge about Japanese state and local governments, as well as its culture and people. Our itinerary was filled with official lectures, site visits, and a home stay weekend with a most gracious Japanese family in Sendai City. We were warmly welcomed and met with the Governor of Miyagi, the Mayor of Sendai City (population 1.2 million), several entrepreneurs from business incubators, the president of the Toyota Tohoku Plant,



engineers from a jet propulsion lab, the president of a local food processing plant, and leaders of Tohoku University. There was entertainment and site-seeing tours; including one karaoke bar excursion, and trips to incredible temples, and natural areas, such as the gorgeous Matsushima Bay.

Japan and its cities are amazing places of "Ultras": Ultra-friendly, -clean, -safe, -industrious, -organized, and -focused. The experience was invaluable as a first-hand tour which will help me better serve our Novi-area's Japanese residents and businesses.

There were many clear opportunities in Miyagi Prefecture. Japan's industry and investment is focused on the area from Tokyo south to Nagoya. Miyagi Prefecture is an up-and-coming area to the north of Tokyo, an efficient 90-minute commute from Tokyo via one of the 60 bullet trains scheduled daily. The recipe for success in Miyagi is a large skilled population base surrounded by open space and beauty with excellent ports and transportation links. Toyota has opened a key parts operation there.

Tohoku University in Sendai is a national university with 18,000 students, and features advanced research institutes focused on materials and nanotechnology. Tohoku University helps give Sendai a youthful demographic profile (1/3 of the population is between 20 and 30 years old), especially compared to the rest of the country. Our delegation toured their Industry Creation Hatchery Center which was newly commissioned and is scaled for immediate future growth.

There is tremendous focus and cooperation between citizens, their government, and business in Japan for many things, including economic development. Japanese government officials portrayed a definite openness and desire to host and send investment. The cooperation of the private and public sectors is not the same thing as the Ministry of

Trade and Industry which up until 2001 created an iron interdependence directing private business. Japanese economic policy today seems relatively more flexible and less stringent than past history. In fact, a recent edition of *The Economist* (November 29, 2007) devotes a special section to the Japanese hybrid policy of incorporating the energy of American enterprises with a consensus culture. In Tokyo, we heard lectures from Federal government officials describing a national government strategy which focuses public research support and dollars towards leading areas for different technologies.

The northern Tohoku region is purposefully prioritizing nanotechnology, semiconductors, and food production. The Miyagi Prefecture government and the Sendai City government are closely linked and are cooperating partners in all of their public service delivery. The Governor of Miyagi Prefecture and the Mayor of Sendai City are friends who describe their working relationship as "older and younger brothers." There was serious policy discussion about the aging population demographics and about welcoming foreign workers into their communities. There was engagement and partnership facing the tune, familiar to U.S. local government ears, about decreased federal assistance and increased autonomy. There was no evidence of elected officials, once elected, of continuing to position for partisan points. There was also no evidence on our brief visit of competition for credit /results between their city, prefecture, and national governments.



The Governor of Miyagi Prefecture and the CLAIR 2007 Fellows

JLGC Staff Visit The City of Novi, Michigan



Detroit Consul General of Japan, Executive Director of JLGC and staff with Mayor David Landry

At the invitation of Clay Pearson, Novi's City Manager, Executive Director Hiroshi Sasaki and six JLGC Assistant Directors including new arrivals from CLAIR, Tokyo visited the city of Novi, Michigan to experience the workings of local government and culture.

A participant of last year's CLAIR Fellowship Program, Mr. Pearson learned about Japanese public administration during his stay in Tokyo and Miyagi Prefecture. As a reciprocal gesture, Mr. Pearson afforded the JLGC staff the opportunity to learn about local government policies and practices in the city of Novi. For the newer members of the JLGC staff who had just arrived from Japan to begin their two year stay in the United States it was an early introduction to the study of American local government and perhaps a bit of culture shock as well.

A reception was held for JLGC and citizens of Novi, including Mayor David Landry and members of the city council greeted the group. Mayor Landry's welcome message included a brief introduction of the city and how it functions.

The city of Novi is located in

southeastern Michigan and has a population of about 52,000. Thirty percent of Novi's population are Japanese, and there are quite a few Japanese companies doing business in Novi. Mr. Tamotsu Shinotsuka, Detroit Consul General of Japan and Mr. Shotaro Nakahama, Executive Director of Japan Business Society of Detroit attended the reception, too. The city of Novi has strong relationship with Japan.

The staff was kept busy visiting and inspecting various organizations and companies, an elementary school, and a hospital. I personally inspected each administrative department and division; including the police department, fire department, a public school and the office of public works. It was refreshing to discover similarities and differences between the American and Japanese systems of local administration. I quickly realized the value of being in Novi and learned early on that studying and comparing local government administration would help me be a better public servant.

Perhaps the highlight of our stay in Novi was our

groups' appearance on Novi's Cable Television station. Executive Director Sasaki and one member of the JLGC staff spoke with Mr. Ara Topouzian, Economic Development Manager of Novi City and exchanged their views and opinions regarding the differences in local government administration between Japan and the United States.

Our hosts arranged visits for us with companies such as Toyota Boshoku, Retail ITC and the construction site of an emergency room at Providence hospital. We also toured the Ford Factory in the City of Dearborn and sat in on a meeting of the Engineering Society of Detroit to learn about economic development and medical care measures.

Mayor Landry, City Manager Pearson and other hospitable Novi residents graciously opened up their homes providing many JLGC staff members with a valuable home stay experience where we could observe and participate in American family life.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the people of Novi and their elected representatives for their good will and hospitality. Our visit to Novi will always occupy a special place in our memories of living and working in the United States.



Novi TV appearance of JLGC staff

Who are the Shimane-Kenjin-Kai?



The members of Shimane-Kenjin-Kai

They are neither ninja nor members of a secret society, but simply an association of people from Shimane Prefecture in Japan who live in various sectors of the United States. Organized in 1986, the New York Chapter is one of the oldest Japanese associations in New York City.

The eighty members of the New York group attend specially arranged social functions and gatherings so that they may be able to reminisce about Shimane and build long term friendships amongst themselves. Some of the groups' activities include an annual New Years party held every January. Also, another

popular social event is the twice per year golf outings that may someday be called the Chugoku Open because the participants are people from the five prefectures that make up the Chugoku Region in Japan. Those prefectures are Shimane, Tottori, Okayama, Hiroshima and Yamaguchi.

Despite being far away from their home land and families and friends still in Japan, the Shimane-kenjin-kai places a strong emphasis on cultural identity by introducing activities to its members so that they may continue feeling the charm of being a Shimanean.

The Shimane-kenjin-kai's existence in New York and other cities in the United States are very important because fellow members often host home stays for students from Shimane Prefecture and cultural events such as the "Iwami Kagura", a Noh dance

originating in Shimane and recently performed at the Japan Club in New York City.

The people of Shimane that come to visit New York generously share their culture often volunteering their time and donating artifacts from Shimane Prefecture. After September 11, 2001, members of the New York Chapter presented peonies grown in the fertile ground of Yatsuko-cho, a small town in Shimane Prefecture to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden and the Rockefeller State Park. It is said that the peony brings happiness and comfort to humans. The Shimane-kenjin-kai hopes that the introduction of these peonies will bring the same comfort and peace of mind to the people of the United States and New York City. Every year since 2002 those same peonies bloom and their large petals bring joy and peace to those who view them.

The Shimane-kenjin-kai will continue introducing their historical heritage. Shimanseans want to remind us that there is more to Shimane Prefecture including their delectable cuisine and traditional handicrafts. For more information about Shimane Prefecture, please visit www.pref.shimane.lg.jp



Peonies in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden

The Practice of Kendo at Kenshinkai, New York City



Kendo, the way of the sword is Japanese fencing based on the techniques of the two-handed sword of the samurai. Known as kenjutsu before the Showa Period, Kendo is more than physical sword fighting. It is also a way in which to train the shin-gi-tai (shin is the mind, gi is technique and tai is physical strength).

Introduced by the Chinese during the Sui and early T'ang Dynasties, single blade sword fighting became two handed sword fighting during Japan's Kamakura Period in the late 12th century. Current Kendo practitioners called Ken-shi wear the armor and fight with the bamboo blade introduced during the Edo Period. Modern Kendo is no longer used as military training but has evolved into a popular sport.

Those who practice Kendo, including women and children can train for long periods of time. Age is not a factor because the faithful practice of Kendo makes you strong and disciplined. A good partner makes Kendo more effective. Strong ken-shi demand strong partners to become stronger, and weak ken-shi need the teaching of a strong ken-shi to become stronger. The spiritual discipline offered by the practice of Kendo is world renowned and it is well represented in New York City at the New York Kenshinkai Dojo where you



Practicing form and technique

can hear the ki-ai shout that is both used for the ken-shi's encouragement and to threaten his opponent.

Owned and operated by Sensei's Ken Kishino and Keiko Umemura, the Kenshinkai holds training lessons twice a week in Manhattan. The pupils are a mixed group of enthusiasts from all over the world representing Brazil, China, South Korea, France and the Ukraine and they yearn to acquire the mindset of their Japanese colleagues. Sensei Kishino arrived in New York as an accomplished Ken-shi winning third place in the All Japan High School Kendo Championship. Sensei Umemura was past champion of the U.S. eastern region ladies championship. Kenshinkai teaches "tsuyoku", to be strong; "tadashiku", to be true and; "utsukushiku", to be beautiful. Shortly after being established Kenshinkai's reputation grew especially with non-Japanese and women due to the influence of Sensei Umemura.

Japanese tradition and professional courtesy are the mainstays of the training sessions, and the intense atmosphere is similar to the dojos in Japan. Sensei Kishino was asked whether it was difficult to teach the Japanese mindset to non-Japanese students. He said that: "Language is not a problem. I can instruct in both English and Japanese. The words we use are a call to action whether spoken in English or Japanese.

Sensei Joshua Carroll understands this. As an American teacher at the dojo he is an accomplished Kendo practitioner who trains with a serious mind and shows perfect technique. He was a former Japan Exchange Teacher (JET) participant, who lived and worked in Japan, and studied Kendo. He has continued his study of Kendo in America at the Kenshinkai.

According to Sensei's Kishino and Umemura: "We value encounters. The keiko serves this purpose. The keiko of the kendo is hard and strict. But our fellowship rises because we can share the arduousness. Therefore we are close."

Their words mirror the value of international understanding and exchange. The Japanese mind is active and present at the Kenshinkai as the quiet is shattered by the bellowing ki-ai and the clash of bamboo blade.



Disciplining the mind

Greeting of JLGC's New Director

My name is Toshiyuki Uemura

and I have been appointed the new deputy director of the Japan Local Government Center (JLGC), Toronto, Canada, effective June 23, 2008.



I have the honor of taking over from Junichi Sawada who served for four years. I am very pleased to be given the opportunity to work in such an energetic and distinctive country as Canada.

I look forward to living and working in Toronto, an engaging

international city.

I have worked at the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications in Japan for more than two decades. During this period, I was assigned to work for Kawaguchi City Hall in Saitama Prefecture. Recently, I also served as Deputy Director for the Japan Finance Corporation For Municipal Enterprises in Tokyo. I was assigned to the departments of internal audit and system management.

The JLGC performs many important tasks. The center's main mission is to promote the exchange and

cooperation of activities between Japanese and Canadian local authorities, supporting the JET Programme and conducting research on local governments in Canada.

I look forward to visiting a variety of wonderful places and meeting many different people in Canada while cultivating international exchange and mutual understanding. Even though these tasks can be challenging, I know they will be rewarding.

Finally, I would like to thank you for welcoming me and for the assistance I know I will be given during my stay here.

Introduction of New JLGC Staff

<p>Shimane prefecture (Junji Imada, Assistant Director)</p> <p>Population: About 726,000 Area Size: 6,707.56km² Transportation from Major City: One and a half hours by airplane from Tokyo. Three hours by train from Osaka. Two and a half hours by car from Hiroshima.</p>  <p>Shimane simply exudes history. Matsue-Jo castle which is one of the original castles in Japan is 400 years. Tamatsukuri-Onsen is the oldest hot spring in Japan. Izumo-Taisha shrine is the place where all the gods in Japan gather in October. Iwami-Ginzan a silver mine listed as a World Heritage site supported world economy in the 16th and 17th centuries. Shimane is north of Hiroshima. It faces the Japan Sea. Unfortunately, perhaps due to this location Shimane is still a bit of a mystery to the world. Shimane's importance as a historic prefecture will make it more popular.</p> <p>Sister City: New Orleans, LA (City of Matsue) Santa Clara, CA (City of Izumo)</p>		<p>Miyagi Prefecture (Taichi Hanzawa, Assistant Director)</p> <p>Population: 2,348,977 Area Size: 7,285.74km² Transportation from Major City: One hour and 40 minutes by Tohoku Shinkansen from Tokyo station.</p>  <p>Miyagi Prefecture is blessed with a wealth of natural resources. We are proud of our Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery industries. In addition, we have been making an effort toward establishing new industries. Technological development through collaboration with academic research institutes has also been very active. Miyagi has delicious foods and is often branded as the "Food Kingdom". If you visit Miyagi, you can eat real sushi!</p> <p>Sister City: Delaware (US), Rome (Italy), Jilin (China)</p>	
<p>City of Kawasaki (Ryoko Kobayashi, Assistant Director)</p> <p>Population: 1,370,000 Area Size: 144.35km² Transportation from Major City: 18 minutes by local train from Tokyo station.</p>  <p>Kawasaki City was an old industrial city which supported Japanese rapid economic growth. Currently the city is undergoing a metamorphosis as research and development companies of worldwide companies are headquartered here. Today, the city is a blend of the old and the new.</p> <p>Kawasaki is the home to many creative talented artists such as Kyu Sakamoto, famous for his smash hit song "SUKIYAKI". There is the Okamoto Museum of Art named for artist Taro Okamoto. Kawasaki citizens love cultural activities and actively enjoy music, art, film and sports every day!</p> <p>Sister City: Baltimore (USA), Wollongong (Australia), Rijeka (Croatia), Shenyang (China)</p>		<p>City of Chiba (Koki Kimoto, Assistant Director)</p> <p>Population: 937,000 Area Size: 272.08km² Transportation from Major City: Chiba City is located within one hour by train to Tokyo Metropolis, Haneda Airport and Narita International Airport.</p>  <p>The city of Chiba is an exciting place to live with abundant nature and a mild climate that allows for the blooming of flowers throughout the four seasons. Chiba City is developing its unique characteristics and forwarding thinking policies that will support young parents raising children, preserve nature and co-exist harmoniously with its global neighbors. Chiba serves as a gateway to the ocean and sky. As a port city that is near Narita International Airport, industry and commerce are thriving.</p> <p>Sister City: Houston, TX (USA), North Vancouver, BC (Canada)</p>	<p>City of Tome, Miyagi Prefecture (Fumitake Sajo, Assistant Director)</p> <p>Population: About 88,000 Area Size: 536.38km² Transportation from Major City: 3 hours by bullet train and bus from Tokyo.</p>  <p>Tome is a new city comprised of nine towns which merged in April, 2005. Tome is located in northeastern Miyagi Prefecture. Tome's primary industry is agriculture. The city is known as the center of production for Sasanishiki and Hitomobore rice types of rice. Tome has a natural and rich environment. In winter, swan and wild goose migrate to Izu Lake. Tome is the home to celebrity artists Shotaro Ishinomori known as the author of KAMAN RIDER and CYBORG 009 and Katsuhiko Otomo known as the author and animation director of AKIRA. There is a memorial for Shotaro Ishinomori located in Tome City.</p> <p>Sister City: City of Southlake, Texas, U.S.A., City of Vernon, British Columbia, CANADA</p>

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