

YOKOHAMA INTERNATIONAL DIGEST

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【Frankfurt exchange students visit Deputy Mayor Watanabe】

Exchange students from Schule am Ried in Frankfurt visit Yokohama

The first student exchange has begun between Schule am Ried, a comprehensive high school in Frankfurt, Germany, and Sakuragaoka High School in Yokohama, who became sister schools through an agreement signed in November 2017.

Fifteen students from Schule am Ried eagerly traveled to Yokohama as the first wave of exchange. They took part in homestays at the homes of Sakuragaoka students, observed the school's classes, shared in discussions with local students, joined extracurricular activities, and visited famous landmarks in Yokohama. Through these experiences, the students developed new friendships and deepened their understanding of Japanese culture.



On November 2, the exchange students paid a courtesy visit to Deputy Mayor Watanabe at City Hall. While they looked nervous before the meeting, once the topic of conversation turned to school life and their homestay experiences, they enthusiastically shared their thoughts. "Even after you return home," Deputy Mayor Watanabe requested, "treasure the kinships you found here, and become a bridge between Germany and Japan; and between Frankfurt and Yokohama."

54th Session of International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) held in Yokohama, 16 city personnel provide support

The International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC), governing body of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), held its 54th Session on November 5 through 8 in the Pacifico-Yokohama International Conference Center. ITTO, located in the same complex, is the only organization created under the UN to have its headquarters in Japan. Comprised of 74 member countries around the world, this meeting is held annually, alternating between cities in other member countries and Yokohama.



Additionally, 16 people from various city Ward Offices and Bureaus were selected among many applicants to act as support staff during the ITTC. While the schedule went through a number of changes, the support staff were much appreciated as they adapted quickly and made the most of their language skills in guiding the representatives.



Members visit Doshi water catchment area following 54th Session of ITTC in Yokohama

Following the ITTC meeting of the ITTO on November 5 through 8, members visited Doshi in neighboring Yamanashi Prefecture, where a forest that provides water for Yokohama is located. The field trip came about from a request from ITTO to reveal how to provide high-quality tap water, and the Yokohama Waterworks Bureau enthusiastically offered to assist. This was the first such site visit arranged during an ITTC meeting held in Yokohama.



Around 70 representatives took part in the trip and heard explanations of the city's regional partnership regarding the water supply and its efforts in conservation. In particular, a demonstration by the Bureau using equipment it had developed to demonstrate the effectiveness of the watershed in producing clean water elicited an impressed reaction across the group.

