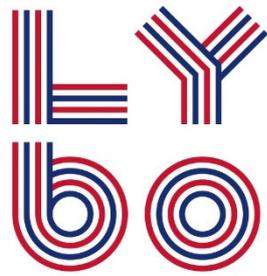


[Main visual for 60th anniversary of Lyon-Yokohama sister city relations]



横浜・リヨン
姉妹都市提携
60周年

Reporting Yokohama's Major
International Projects

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Editor's Desk: 045-671-4710
ki-somu@city.yokohama.jp

Yokohama & Lyon, France: 60 years as sister cities in 2019

This year (2019), Yokohama and Lyon will mark the 60th anniversary of their sister city relations.

Yokohama and Lyon, France, became sister cities in 1959. As the final stop along the ancient Silk Road, Lyon long enjoyed a booming business in silk goods. However, in the 19th Century, an outbreak of a disease affecting silkworms spread throughout Europe, and acquiring silk became difficult. Raw silk exports from Japan out of the Port of Yokohama answered this crisis. It is through this historical bond of silk that the two cities established friendly relations and eventually a sister city agreement. Contemporary newspaper articles announced the new relationship under headlines that recognized the contribution of the small insect in bringing the cities together. From then on, Lyon and Yokohama have continued to build on their friendship.

The silk connection is the theme of the main visual selected for the 60th anniversary, and an ornate Japanese "mizuhiki" knot ties the cities together in celebration.



23rd CITYNET Japan Forum highlights cooperative disaster risk reduction initiatives

The 23rd CITYNET Japan Forum, presenting examples of CITYNET's collaborative international initiatives, was held on February 6 at the Yokohama International Center.



Under the theme of city-to-city partnerships in the field of disaster prevention, this year's forum presented examples of projects such as the Community-Based Adaptation and Resilience Against Disasters (CBARAD) program promoting local disaster prevention and response undertaken by the City of Yokohama and Iloilo City, the Philippines from 2012 to 2017. The project to establish the Disaster Risk Reduction Academy in Makati City, the Philippines, and disaster prevention efforts in Nepal were also shared.

Many of those involved with various international cooperation efforts attended the forum, and contributed to stimulating discussions about the initiatives presented.



Mozambique Minister of Land, Environment and Rural Development tours local facilities, meets with Deputy Mayor

Mr. Celso Ismael Correia, the Minister of Land, Environment and Rural



Development of the Republic of Mozambique and an accompanying high-level delegation visited Japan from February 25 through 28. On the 26, the Minister came to Yokohama, where he toured the Tsurumi Incineration Plant and the Tsurumi Recycling Center before meeting with Deputy Mayor Kobayashi.



Sakuragaoka High School students study abroad in Frankfurt

Sakuragaoka High School in Yokohama and Schule am Ried, a comprehensive high school in Yokohama's partner city of Frankfurt, Germany, became sister schools through an agreement signed in November 2017.

As part of this agreement, the very first group of Schule am Ried students visited Yokohama in autumn 2018 and took part in exchange with the students of Sakuragaoka High School.



In February of this year (2019), it was 15 Sakuragaoka students and two faculty who traveled to Schule am Ried. Prior to the study abroad experience, the students actively engaged in cross-cultural communication, learning about Germany and diving into studying the German language.