

The 2018 Exchange Event (Part 1)

“Sanbanso” Performance

Following the General Meeting on June 2, an exchange event was held, where thirty-eight people participated. At the beginning of the exchange meeting, which was presided over by Teruo Abe of the Steering Committee, Ms. Ritsuyo Wazagoi, a dancer and a member of the Culture and Arts Group who visited Wisconsin last October, performed a Kabuki dance called *Shitadashi Sanbasō* (舌出三番叟).



Steering Committee member Abe



Vice President Oishi



Executive Director Akatsuka



Ms. Ritsuyo Wazagoi



Mr. Shohei Tachi and Ms. Miwa Watanabe

Accompanied by a shamisen and drum, the dance, performed as a prayer for a bountiful harvest and to dispel evil spirits by stamping of the feet, was quite impressive and was interspersed with enthusiastic shouts. Following the performance, opinions and impressions on the valuable opportunities offered by Wisconsin were shared.

Pleasant Conversation in a Friendly Atmosphere

Next, there was a greeting from Vice President Michio Oishi with a statement of appreciation expressed in English to the departing Wisconsin ALTs. Following this, there was a toast made by Executive Director Akatsuka. Following this the participants enjoyed friendly conversations in a relaxed atmosphere while having lunch.

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Pleasant Memories of a Homestay

After lunch, a slide presentation was given by Ms. Miwa Watanabe and Mr. Shohei Tachi, assistant professors at Chiba University's Graduate School of Nursing. Both were dispatched last year as members of the Educational Group, and the presentation focused on their observations of the facilities they visited, stating that they were comprehensive and large-scale.

There was also a statement from Mr. Tachi expressing his heartfelt appreciation for the gracious hospitality he received during his homestay, especially the tequila and nightly feasts that were prepared.

Next, one of the four departing Wisconsin ALTs gave a slide presentation along with the Chiba-Wisconsin ALT Program Coordinator and the Prefectural Advisor who were also leaving in August. The presentations recounted their experiences and memories during their stays in Chiba. [See Pages 3-4 for details]

Lastly, a commemorative photo of all the participants was taken. We wish them all future success.



On June 2 (Saturday) during an exchange event, one of the departing ALTs, the Chiba-Wisconsin ALT Program Coordinator, and the Prefectural Advisor gave presentations about their memories in Japan. The following is a brief summary of their presentations. In addition, we asked them various questions about their impressions of Japan.

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1. **Jacob Letter** (Toke High School, Chishirodai High School)



I've had many experiences in Japan which I could never have had in Wisconsin. I enjoyed visiting Hokkaido, Hakone, Osaka, and Kyoto. In addition, in the course of hiking Mt. Nokogiriyama and the mountains of Shinshu, I've developed an affinity for mountains. In the future, I hope to enjoy hiking in more places. While I am returning to Wisconsin, I would like to return to Chiba after a few years. From now, I will start my new position as a Spanish teacher in Wisconsin. I hope to see you all again soon.

2. **Zachary Krause** (Prefectural Advisor, International Affairs Division, Chiba Prefectural Government)



After graduating from the University of Minnesota in 2013, I was involved in exchange activities as the Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) for the city of Kamogawa. Kamogawa is near the sea with an abundance of nature, where I began surfing and also fishing. Marathon running is one of my hobbies. I have run on roads in the mountains and along the sea and participated in marathon races in Chiba Prefecture. Since July 2016, as a Chiba Prefectural Coordinator for International Relations (CIR), I have been engaged in international work, such as a consultative position for JET Program participants. In the future, I plan to work in Tokyo as an adviser to students from other countries.

3. **Zachary Price** (Chiba-Wisconsin ALT Program Coordinator, Chiba Prefectural Board of Education)



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I graduated from the university in 2010 and moved to Japan. I worked as an English teacher in three elementary schools in Kujukuri town for five years. During that time I interacted with other ALTs by participating in events attended by JET and Chiba-Wisconsin ALTs. And then I became the Chiba-Wisconsin ALT Program Coordinator to continue to support the ALTs within Chiba Prefecture. Later I got married and am now raising two daughters. From here on, I will begin teaching English at an elementary school in Tokyo; however, I will always consider Chiba my “Japanese hometown.”

Q and A interview in Japanese with Letter, Krause, and Price

(1- Letter, 2- Krause and 3-Price)

What Japan dishes do you want to make after you return home?

- 1: *Kinpira gobo* (a simple Japanese stir-fry vegetable dish with braised carrot & burdock root cooked in soy sauce)
- 2: *Oyakodon* (chicken and egg in seasoned broth over rice in a bowl), Sukiyaki
- 3: *Okonomiyaki* (Japanese pancake, made with flour, eggs, shredded cabbage, meat/ protein and topped with a variety of condiments)

What Japanese sweets impressed you the most?

- 1: *Dango* (a Japanese dumpling and sweet) with *koshian* (red bean paste)
- 2: Meiji chocolate, traditional Japanese tea cakes
- 3: Kit Kats

What places in Japan impressed you the most?

- 1: The mountain snow scenes from the window of the train from Chitose to Sapporo
- 2: The total serenity of Kyoto's Fushimi Inari Taisha at 5:00 AM
- 3: The Inage Skate Ring, Otaki Campground

Has your impression of Japanese changed compared to before you came?

- 1: I understood nothing before I came. Now, I don't wish to return.
- 2: Before, I had no real impression. But now I feel the Japanese are extremely thoughtful.
- 3: When I was a child, we were a host family for an individual from Osaka.

What is the best thing about the Japanese?

- 1: Even if you can't speak or understand Japanese, you can get by.
- 2: The hospitality provided when staying at hotels.
- 3: Everyone is friendly and the hospitable.

Conversely, what would you like to see the Japanese change?

- 1: I would like the students to have more confidence.
- 2: Don't treat foreigners specially just because they are foreigners. Instead treat them as normal human beings.
- 3: When I taught at elementary schools, even if I asked teachers about their opinions, I never got a clear answer.

What exchange events have left an impression?

- 1: The 2016 Farewell party at Hotel Port Plaza Chiba
- 2: The Thanksgiving event is the most appropriate way to express the concept of the CWA - sharing and thankfulness.
- 3: The Thanksgiving party and Yuzen Dyeing event.

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Exhibition at the International Festa Chiba

On Sunday, May 27, the "International Festa Chiba" was held at Kanda University of Foreign Studies (Mihama-ku, Chiba City), and like the previous year, the 14th Makuhari Charity Flea Market was held at the same time. In the Hall No. 1 and the surrounding square, preparations by exhibitors began before nine o'clock under a blue sky.

There were a variety of activities underway, such as fair trade products and international food sales, Central and Latin American music, Japanese Taiko performance and a hands-on virtual experience. CWA's exhibition included the annual bratwurst cook-out and PR about our Wisconsin exchange activities. The bratwursts sold were genuine Johnsonville bratwursts, in cooperation with the Johnsonville Company, headquartered in Wisconsin.

We were ready with "cheeseheads" used to support the Wisconsin National Football League team, the Green Bay Packers and the CWA specially designed "happi" coats. We worked untiringly to sell many bratwurst and raise the awareness of the sister state exchange activities between Chiba and Wisconsin.



Ms. Kim and her husband Jose helping out.



Customers first!



We had many customers.



PR on exchange activities and stamp rally sticker

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In the booth, just like pros, we would put the bratwursts in a warm roll and spread ketchup, mustard or relish, according to the wishes of the customers, and carefully handed them over.

Meanwhile, outside the booth, we steadfastly advertised our bratwursts, actively introduced our exchange activities with Wisconsin, and gave out stamp rally stickers. About this time, Ms. Kim, a former CWA Steering Committee member, and her husband Jose, rushed in from Madison to give us support and made a tremendous contribution to increasing sales. Every year, the number of dining booths increases, and this year there was fierce competition. However, thanks to the efforts of the staff, this year's sales exceeded last year's.

In the extreme summer heat, there were some problems, such as the peeling of curing tape used to fasten the sales flyers. But thanks to the teamwork of the entire staff, we were able to safely finish everything. We also saw challenges for the next year, so we would like to create more fulfilling activities next year.

Update from a Former ALT



Najja Gay

I have returned to the United States about five months ago, but it feels like a year. A few days after I flew from Narita airport to my grandmother's house in South Carolina, I traveled 8 hours to Orlando, Florida to job hunt with my mother. Then a week later, my mother, little brother, sister and I moved to Orlando, Florida. I did not unpack my suitcases from Japan. After moving to Orlando, my family and I got into a car accident but no one was hurt. It was a rocky start in a new city, but my family was very happy to see me.

I missed my family a lot during my stay in Chiba because I did not visit home for two years. I am very grateful that I can now see them every day. While I was living in Chiba, my mom got a new dog. During Thanksgiving, I saw my nephew for the first time. He is almost two years old! I still have cousins, aunts and uncles that I want to visit, so I cannot wait to see them.

I am currently working at Epcot, a Disney World theme park as a theater scientist. The show is called SpectacuLab presented by Murata. It is an educational show that uses technology created by Murata, a Japanese technology company. It is very different from the Chiba-Wisconsin ALT job, but I like it a lot because I get to teach kids while on stage. I never went to Tokyo Disney while I was in Japan, but now I go to Disney World every week. My old Japanese students would laugh.

I miss my friends, teachers and students from my school in Matsudo. I miss Chiba dearly and hope to visit soon!

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Picture 1: A picture of my family. From left to right: Najja (me), Sandra (mother), Alexandria (little sister), Jelani (little brother), Dominique (older brother)



Picture 2: Advertisement picture for SpectacuLab at Epcot Disney. These are other cast members.

※This report was received in December of 2017.

2018 The Board of Directors Meeting



On May 30 (Wednesday) at the Hotel Port Plaza Chiba (Chuo Ward, Chiba City), the FY 2018 CWA Board of Directors meeting was held. In attendance were Governor Kensaku Morita, CWA Special Advisor, an Advisor (proxy), thirteen directors (including 4 proxies) and an auditor.

At the outset of the board meeting, Mr. Yuzaburo Mogi commented, "It has been twenty-nine years since Chiba Prefecture embarked on a sister-state relationship with Wisconsin, and currently there are numerous active exchanges in a wide range of fields. This is the result of the efforts of all the stakeholders."

Next, there were welcoming remarks from Governor Morita, who announced that in his meeting with Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, who visited Japan in 2017 to attend the 49th Annual Joint Meeting of the Japan-Midwest U.S. Association, they both assured one another that the sister-state exchange shall continue indefinitely.

The Board of Directors deliberated five topics, including the FY 2017 business report and the FY 2017 income and expenditure financial statement, the FY 2018 business plan (draft) and income and expenditure budgets (draft). These topics were submitted to the Annual General Meeting for approval.

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2018 Annual General Meeting

On Saturday, June 2nd, the 2018 General Meeting was held at the Hotel Plaza Nannohana (Chuo-ku, Chiba city), attended by twenty-nine regular members (in addition, 54 members submitted letters of proxy).



At the outset of the meeting, Vice-President Akada made an introductory remark, saying, “It’s now been over twenty-nine years since Chiba started its sister relationship with the state of Wisconsin, and as someone who attended the signing ceremony at that time, I have been deeply impressed (at the development of this relationship).”

After that, under the chairmanship of Mr. Kazuya Hayashi, deliberations were held on the FY 2017 Business Report and the FY 2017 financial statement on income and expenditures, the FY 2018 Business Plan (a draft), the FY 2018 income and expenditures budget (a draft), and the appointment of Directors and auditors. All topics were approved and the meeting adjourned.

Opinions exchanged by the Board of Directors (excerpts)

- In a year or two, two significant milestones of 15 and 30 years will have been reached, and I believe it’s important for CWA to publicize this to the mass media.
- There have been talks about the upcoming 30th anniversary. There is the Makuhari Friendship Plaza symbolizing the relationship with Wisconsin, and a monument made of Wisconsin dolomite limestone and also a yew plum pine, the Chiba Prefectural tree. Seeing these today really brought back memories and I resolutely decided that I want to be present at the 30th anniversary.
- In the future, I would like to see the Chiba Prefectural Government promote a much more cosmopolitan way of thinking among its citizens. We should continue to make the best use of our partnership with Wisconsin from the perspective of developing human resources. I feel that Chiba citizens are not very well informed about CWA’s activities; therefore, we should conduct a public relations campaign about the upcoming 30th anniversary milestone.
- I think that you can do various cultural exchanges using drums, so please, by all means, use them.
- I believe that young people and others have a desire to interact with people from other countries and I would like to see the CWA come up with something new for next year’s dispatch and encourage a dynamic exchange.

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- Four years ago, an Irish music band came to our school and had the experience of doing calligraphy and listening to a musical performance. It was an extremely wonderful memory. Please inform us if there are any more such opportunities.
- Three years ago I visited two universities and I would like to have an exchange that is slightly more substantial. Since exchanges between universities result in exchanges among young people themselves, hopefully, as the Chiba-Wisconsin relationship flourishes, it will encourage such exchanges.
- Considering the fact that many Chinese and others are studying at Chiba University, I feel there is a strong desire to study in Japan. On the other hand, I understand that the number of Japanese students studying abroad has been decreasing.
- We have been promoting the culture of the prefecture and are considering assorted stage events to promote momentum for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We also would like foreigners to understand Japanese culture and listen to Japanese traditional music and feel that this could be accomplished with the cooperation of members of the CWA.

FY 2018 Business Plan

[Business Policy]

Based on business results up to last fiscal year, we will strive to further enhance business activities in all fields so that more citizens are aware of the charm of Wisconsin.

[Business Contents]

1. Regular Meetings
 - Board of Directors and General Meeting (held once a year)
 - As a general rule, the Steering Committee is held on the second Saturday of every month and each group meets prior to Steering Committee meeting.
2. Acceptance of Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation
 - Time: Scheduled from Sunday, October 7 to Saturday, October 13, 2018
 - Number of members: 20
3. Exchange programs for members, etc.
 - Exchange Event and Farewell Party
 - Welcoming Party for new ALTs (September 2)
 - Food and Culture Exchange (February 24, 2019)
4. Activities of CWA and public relations projects on Wisconsin
 - CWA Newsletter (published four times a year)
 - Variety of information provided by the CWA website
 - Participation in various events and gathering of information

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FY 2018 Income · Expenditure Budget

Income				Units: 1,000 Yen
Item	FY 2018 (A)	FY 2017 (B)	A-B	Comment
Membership Fees	589	608	-19	
Subsidy	1,150	1,150	0	
• Subsidy for Prefectural administrative expenses	150	150	0	
• Subsidy for Prefectural business expenses	1,000	1,000	0	
Participation Fees, exchange meetings, etc.	255	2,135	-1,880	Exchange Meetings, Welcoming Party, Food & Culture, Goodwill Delegation Farewell Party
Carryover	2,151	1,568	583	
Totals	4,145	5,461	-1,316	

Expenditures				Units: 1,000 Yen
Item	FY 2018 (A)	FY 2017 (B)	A-B	Comment
Operating Expenses	185	175	10	Disposable expenses etc.
Business Expenses	2,805	3,900	-1,095	
• Meetings	150	150	0	Board of Directors, General Meeting
• Dispatch and accepting Friendship Missions	1,900	3,140	-1,240	Acceptance of Goodwill Delegation
• Member Exchange	243	243	0	Exchange Program
• Public Relations	512	367	145	Publication CWA News
Reserve fund	1,155	1,386	-231	
Totals	4,145	5,461	-1,316	

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FY 2018 Executive and management volunteers of the Chiba-Wisconsin Association

Title	Name	Affiliation
Special Advisor	Kensaku Morita	Governor of Chiba Prefecture
Advisors	Ikuo Kameda	Mayor of Kamogawa City
	Hiroshi Ota	Mayor of Isumi City
President	Yuzaburo Mogi	Honorary CEO, Chairman of the Board, Kikkoman Corporation Honorary Ambassador to Wisconsin
Vice Presidents	Michio Oishi	Chairperson, Kazusa DNA Research Institute
	Toshihide Nagai	President, Chiba Prefectural Cultural Promotion Foundation
Executive Director	Tadanobu Sato	President, Chiba Convention Bureau and International Center
Directors	Yasushi Idemoto	Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, Tokyo University of Science
	Shinichi Ito	Professor, Tokyo University
	Mitsuyuki Imaizumi	Executive Director, Policy and Planning Department, Chiba Prefectural Government
	Izumi Shinoduka	President, Chiba Television Broadcasting Corporation
	Yasuo Onozawa	President, Chiba Economic Council
	Nobuo Kojima	President, Chiba Prefecture Association of Management
	Hidetoshi Sakuma	Chief Secretary, Chiba Prefecture Association of Corporate Executives
	Masahiro Tanabe	Chancellor, Chiba Prefectural University of Health Sciences
	Takeshi Tokuhisa	President, Chiba University
	Yoshimasa Miyazaki	President, Chiba Taiko Foundation
Shinji Watanabe	Principal, Narita Kokusai High School	
Managers	Masanori Itakura	Chief Director, Chiba Industry Advancement Center

[Management Staff]

Delegation Planning Group

Noboru Mimura (Advisor)

❖ Shigeo Moriyama (Head, Steering Committee)

Yasuko Aoki (Secretary General)

Tetsuji Ogawa

Tadao Ando

Akio Asanuma

Yoshie Kato (Secretariat)

Exchange Program Planning Group

❖ Kyoko Oura

Teruo Abe

Takako Ishii

Sanae Mitsuhashi

Shizue Yamazaki

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Publicity Working Group

❖ **Tadao Miyazaki**

Mihoko Ohara (Vice Chairman, Steering Committee)

Fumihiko Ono (Secretariat)

❖ *(Indicates Group Chief)*

Event Staff: Madoka Usui, Tomiko Kakuta, Satoko Keigo, Naomi Sakakida

[Editorial Note]

In this year's board meeting, there was considerable discussion concerning the 30th anniversary of the sister-state exchange in 2020. We would like to discuss how we will continue to expand our exchange activities in the future. This year, the Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation visits and the CWA will strive to promote and expand the level of exchange among Chiba citizens.

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