

CWA NEWS



New Year Greetings



Yuzaburo Mogi

**President
Chiba-Wisconsin Association**

Here at the beginning of 2009, I would like to welcome in the new year and share the joy of having it with every member of the Chiba-Wisconsin Association. I greatly appreciate the special support you always offer, not only for the management of the CWA, but also for carrying out exchange projects.

Since the establishment of the CWA in 2004, we have planned and carried out a variety of exchange programs with the state of Wisconsin. In May of last year, we had the privilege of having Governor Domoto of Chiba Prefecture, the special adviser for the CWA, attend a meeting of the board of directors. In addition, the September 5th issue of the "Chiba Prefecture Citizens Newsletter" featured a report on our CWA.

Last November, we welcomed 20
Special thanks to Ms. Terue Shinotsuka, Mr. Yoshikazu Sunata & Mr. Benjamin Davis for translation.

members of the Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation to Chiba Prefecture. The three delegation groups representing Art and Culture, Biomass, and the "Women of Wings", respectively, enjoyed exchanges with the people of Chiba Prefecture. These exchanges included visits to schools and businesses, experiences of homestays, *ikebana* (the Japanese traditional art of arranging cut flowers) and Japanese cooking. I hope everyone involved on both the Chiba and Wisconsin sides was able to make many wonderful memories, and I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to those who cooperated for welcoming them.

This year, the Year of the Ox in the Chinese zodiac, will mark the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the CWA. 2009 will also mark the 19th year since the sister-state relationship between Chiba Prefecture and the state of Wisconsin began. Accordingly, now it is our turn to send the Chiba Goodwill Delegation to Wisconsin. I hope that we will proceed strongly and yet steadily like the ox, with many participants, and achieve further development of our exchange with Wisconsin.

I look forward to seeing continued active involvement, and support and cooperation from the members of the CWA as our exchanges with Wisconsin, develop into the future. Thank you for all your help.

Goodwill Delegation from Wisconsin Visits Chiba

A 20-member goodwill delegation from the state of Wisconsin visited Chiba Prefecture for a week between November 9 (Sunday) and 15 (Saturday), 2008. The Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation was composed of three groups: Art and Culture, Biomass, and the “Women of Wings.” (A member list is on page 8.)

Upon its arrival, a welcome dinner party was held at a hotel in Narita City on the evening of Sunday, November 9. Including the first contacts between the delegation members and their host families, the occasion progressed in a friendly atmosphere. The presence of Mr. Toshio Honda, mayor of Kamogawa City, a sister city of Manitowoc, Wisconsin and advisor to the CWA, demonstrated the strong bond existing between the two cities.

For four days starting the following Monday, the delegation members in the three groups deepened their exchanges with people of Chiba by visiting various places in the prefecture. On Friday, November 14, they visited the Imperial Palace in Tokyo and enjoyed free time in the afternoon prior to their departure home the following day. (Reported by Shigeo Moriyama, chairman of the steering committee.)

Welcome dinner party held at Marroad International Hotel Narita on November 9



Members of the CWA steering committee welcoming the guests



Vice President Hideo Tsuchiya of CWA delivering a welcoming speech



“Kanpai” (Cheers!)
by Mr. Yoshimasa
Miyazaki, a board
member of CWA



Delegation members handling chopsticks dexterously



Mayor Honda and Ms. Wanda Le Clair (extreme right),
vice president of the Manitowoc International Relations Association



A reunion between Ms. Laurene Lins and the Japanese people
who once stayed at her home in Milwaukee

Art and Culture Group

Karl & Country Dutchmen, a band of polka musicians and dancers, was the group representing the art and culture field this time. They performed at schools mainly in Choshi City in eastern Chiba for three days from Monday, November 10. The schools welcomed the group, often as part of their academic events where the students introduced Japanese culture and the delegation group performed polka music as part of Wisconsin music culture. The group also toured a laboratory related to risk and crisis management at the Chiba Institute of Science and took part in an exchange session with Choshi citizens sponsored by the city. The group members enjoyed their short but pleasant homestays. *(Reported by Yasuko Aoki, a member of the steering committee. An itinerary is on page 8.)*

Exchanges in Choshi City



Brrrr! At Inubosaki Lighthouse



Paying a courtesy call to Mayor Okano



Performing at Choshi Municipal Shimizu Elementary School



Performing at Choshi Municipal Fourth Junior High School



Performing at Chiba Institute of Science



An exchange with students at Choshi Municipal High School



An exchange party with Choshi citizens at Chiba Institute of Science

Biomass Group

The Biomass Group visited and inspected the facilities of various biomass enterprises and research organizations. On Tuesday, November 11, the group exchanged opinions with its Japanese counterparts on biomass at the Kazusa DNA Research Institute in Kisarazu City. Besides business talks, the group was given chances to enjoy Japanese food culture through *sushi* and *sake*. (Reported by Kenichirou Watanabe, a member of the steering committee.)

Itinerary

Nov. 10 (Mon)	Yamada Biomass Plant (Katori City)
Nov. 11 (Tue)	NITE (National Institute of Technology and Evaluation) Biological Resource Center Kazusa DNA Research Institute (Kisarazu City)
Nov. 12 (Wed)	NEDO (New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization) Ichihara Hydrogen Station (Ichihara City)
	Green Power Ichihara Co., Ltd. (Ichihara City)
	Japan Recycling Corporation Co., Ltd. Chiba Biogas Center (Chiba City)
Nov. 13 (Thu)	Agri Gaia System Co., Ltd. (Sakura City)
	Sapporo Breweries Ltd. Chiba Brewery (Funabashi City)



At Yamada Biomass Plant



Inspecting NITE's Biological Resource Center



At NEDO Ichihara Hydrogen Station



Inspecting wood chip power generation at
Green Power Ichihara Co., Ltd.



Observing facility of waste food disposal at Agri Gaia System



An exchange of opinions at Kazusa DNA Research Institute

Women of Wings Group

On Monday, November 10, the members of the “Women of Wings”, a group of women active in the fields of business and volunteers in education, exchanged opinions on the situations surrounding women both in Japan and the United States at Josai International University (JIU) in Togane City while they inspected the Institute for Gender and Women’s Studies and other places.

On the following day, the group members were given explanations on the Makuhari New City Development in the Makuhari district of Chiba City by officials of the Makuhari New City Development Division in the Chiba Prefectural Public Enterprises Agency. They also inspected up-to-date technology at Sharp High Technology Hall and visited a Japanese garden called Mihama-en, both at Makuhari.

On Wednesday, November 12, the group visited Sawayaka Chiba Kenmin Plaza (Plaza for Citizens of Chiba Prefecture), a center of lifelong learning and gender equality activities. Through *ikebana* flower arrangement and Japanese cooking, the members exchanged culture with Japanese women who had visited Wisconsin. *(Reported by Kyoko Oura, a member of the steering committee.)*

Itinerary

Nov.10(Mon)	Josai International University (Togane City)
Nov.11(Tue)	Sharp High Technology Hall, Briefing on the development of Makuhari New City, Mihama-en Japanese garden (Makuhari, Chiba City)
Nov.12(Wed)	Sapporo Breweries Ltd. Chiba Brewery (Funabashi City)
	Sawayaka Chiba Kenmin Plaza for cultural exchanges with women living in northwestern area of Chiba Prefecture (Kashiwa City)



JIU Vice President Masumi Ishida welcoming the group



In front of a monument of Wisconsin limestone, a symbol of friendship between Chiba and Wisconsin, at Friendship Square in Makuhari



An exchange of opinion at JIU



← Ms. Doris Laufenberg and Ms. Barbara Borde all in smiles

The group poses for a picture with food they cooked together →



Visit to Noda by Art & Culture and Women of Wings Groups

On Thursday, November 13, the members of the Art and Culture and the “Women of Wings” Groups jointly visited Noda City in northern Chiba Prefecture. After a lunch was provided at the Noda Factory of Kikkoman Corporation, the visitors first toured Monoshiri Shoyukan (a museum on soy sauce) and the Kikkoman Institute for International Food Culture. They also visited the Mogi Head Family’s Residence, Inari Soy Sauce Brewery, the Noda Civic Hall converted from the former residence of Mr. Saheiji Mogi (locally called Mogi-Sa), and the Noda Folk Museum, with President Satoshi Someya of the Noda Sightseeing Guides Association providing explanations and Mr. Hideo Nakada of the Noda International Association offering interpreting services.

At 5 p.m. a dinner party started at Restaurant Comesta under the sponsorship of Kikkoman Corporation. While Mayor Takashi Nemoto of Noda City was present, various programs including songs, dances, poem recitation and a magic show helped enhance the festivities of the occasion. The merry mood remained unabated in the bus returning to Chiba City. *(Reported by Yasuko Aoki, a member of the steering committee.)*



Members learned more info. about soy sauce than they dreamed existed at the Monoshiri Shoyukan



Guidance by Mr. Someya



Welcome speech by Mayor Nemoto



Smiling faces at the dinner party at Comesta



Merry dancing as the party gets warmed up

Farewell Party

More than 90 people, including the delegation members, took part in the farewell party held at the Hotel Port Plaza Chiba at 6 p.m. on Friday, November 14. The big gathering was an indication of how fruitful exchanges had been made during the visit by the delegation. The guests enjoyed various performances, beginning with folk songs by steering committee member Akio Asanuma's folk music group, getting more fired up as the delegation members performed polka dances, and culminating in a chicken dance by all the participants. A pleasant surprise was a lottery of souvenirs presented by the "Women of Wings" Group. Though the visit was short, thanks to the cooperation of everyone involved, the delegation achieved great results. I think the delegation members were able to make great memories in Chiba to bring home with them, surely marking one more step in the deepening of exchanges between Wisconsin and Chiba. (Reported by Shigeo Moriyama, chairman of the steering committee.)



Speech by CWA Vice President Toshiyuki Sudo



Japanese Folksong performance



Performance by delegation members



Dancing by all the participants



"We'll miss you. See you again!" (at Narita International Airport on November 15)

Art and Culture Group Members

Name	Title
Mr. Karl Hartwich	Band Leader Concertina Player
Mr. Anthony Kaminski	Tuba Player
Ms. Mollie Busta	Keyboardist
Ms. Crystal Malek	Drummer
Mr. Randy Thull	Polka Dancer
Ms. Marcia Thull	Polka Dancer
Mr. Adam Hembel	Polka Dancer
Ms. Kristin Lynn Kozial	Polka Dancer
Dr. Richard March	Delegation Leader

Biomass Group Members

Mr. John Piotrowski	Packaging Corporation of America Sr. Environmental Engineer
Mr. Herb Schweitzer	Schweitzer Energy President
Ms. Sandra Woerle	Northern Clearing, Inc. Director
Mr. Kenji Higashi	Interpreter (formerly with the Wisconsin Department of Commerce)

Women of Wings Group Members

Ms. Wanda LeClair	Manitowoc International Relations Association (MIRA) Vice President
Ms. Connie Loden	Heart of Wisconsin Business & Economic Alliance Executive Director
Ms. Julie Kamikawa	Assistant Library Director for Mount Mary College
Ms. Doris Laufenberg	Retired and also works part-time at Monona Terrace
Ms. Laurene Lins	Lori Lins Ltd. Talent Management President
Ms. Barbara Borde	Retiree
Ms. Fumiko Miyazaki	A member of Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc. Director

Itinerary of Art and Culture Group

Nov. 10 (Mon)	Narita-san Shinshoji Temple (Narita City)
	Courtesy call on the mayor of Choshi city and sightseeing (Choshi City)
Nov. 11 (Tue)	Performances and exchanges at Choshi Municipal Shimizu Elementary School and Chiba Institute of Science (Choshi City)
Nov. 12 (Wed)	Performances and exchanges at Choshi Municipal Fourth Junior High School and Choshi Municipal Choshi High School (Choshi City)