

CWA NEWS



Memorial Party for 20th Anniversary of Sister State Exchanges *Sharing Memories and Emotions*



On Saturday, May 29th 2010, a memorial party to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Sister State Relationship between Wisconsin and Chiba was held at Hotel Port Plaza Chiba, Chiba City. The party was cosponsored by both the CWA and the Chiba Prefectural Government. The party, with 68 participants, who have all been involved in the sister state exchange programs, turned out to be a lively, friendly event. At the hall, photos and documents on hitherto exchange programs were displayed on panels which also attracted the attention of those who were present.



At the beginning of the party, Mr. Michio Ohishi, Vice-President of CWA and Mr. Hideyuki Ohtake, Executive Director of the Policy and Planning Department of the Chiba Prefectural Government, made speeches. Both of them expressed their gratitude for all those who have supported economic, educational, and cultural exchanges for the past 20 years, as well as their expectations for further exchange development. Ms. Kimiko Miyazaki from Wisconsin Chiba Inc. read out a letter of congratulation on behalf of Ms. Barbara Rothwell, President of Wisconsin Chiba Inc.

Following a toast was a photo show of Governor Morita's recent visit to Wisconsin and then a moment of chitchat among participants. The party gradually got livelier, while Mr. Akio Asanuma's group, the "Chiba Prefecture Folk Song Association," performed the shamisen.

It was Mr. Harumi Kashima who came onstage next. He had dedicated himself to the establishment of a Kikkoman Foods, Inc. plant in Wisconsin. Looking back on his eight-years in Wisconsin, Mr. Kashima, a current member of CWA, referred to the attraction of the state of Wisconsin: For example, there lies a vast expanse of nature in an area thirty-three times larger than Chiba prefecture. There are more cows there than people – so he heard before he went there. He further said that his Wisconsin neighbors were all cheerful, and too kind to the extent that often bothered him, just like old-time Japanese people. Thanks to Mr. Kashima's witty talk, the whole atmosphere of the party became relaxed and happy all at once.

Next number in the program was a puppet performance by Ms. Mariko Itoh and Ms. Kouke Satomi, who were both delegated to Wisconsin as members of the 2003 culture delegation. They presented a sword-fight play using the puppets in the same way they had shown to senior high students in Wisconsin. They manipulated the pair of puppets dressed up like samurai claiming to each other, "I am number one, I tell you!" meaning, "I am the greatest swordsman!" They were talking fondly of the memory that they made a huge hit with their show in Wisconsin.

Next was a gymnastic exercise named "edamame taiso" or "green soybean exercise,"* guided by the Women of Wings Group. This further helped enliven the whole atmosphere of the party, involving all the participants.





Chicken Dance

The exercise is getting popular as Noda City's promotional program of preventive exercise. To the accompaniment of rhythmical music every participant became relaxed both mentally and physically.

During the following raffle, a variety of generous gifts without any blank offered by Johnsonville International LLC., Kikkoman Corp., Juridical Agricultural Union Wagoen, as well as the expressive voice of the emcee helped fill the entire hall with excitement.

Finally, the atmosphere of the party reached a climax while all the participants were dancing "Chicken Dance," as was customary. The entire hall was filled with a friendly atmosphere and everybody felt happy to be there.

The party came to an end after all of them had a great time dancing freely with any partner standing nearby. After the party, various comments were heard from the participants: "It was good as it was like a class reunion." "If it were less expensive, I could have brought more people." "More young ones should have joined it as well." "We enjoyed meeting various kinds of people and sharing memories with them." The most impressive comment was murmured by a member of a group, who joined it for the first time: "I'm glad I could come and join it!"

* Green soybeans are specialties of Noda City, Chiba. The exercise simulates farmer's gestures in the process of growing and picking them.

— 姉妹交流 20 周年記念に寄せて — ウィスコンシン千葉委員会委員長からのメッセージ 20th Anniversary Message from the President of Wisconsin Chiba Inc.

It is hard to believe that twenty years have passed, since May 21, 1990.

As we look back at that day in May, there are a wide range of memories among the participants. Some of those memories involve the travel of the delegation to and from Wisconsin, their stay here, and the actual signing ceremony. Other participants may have memories of getting ready for the signing ceremony, or memories that encompass the rush of last minute details. However, the greatest memory of that event in May is the memory of the beginning of a long lasting friendship that has fostered a sister-state relationship promoting educational, cultural, science, and technological exchanges, while creating bonds of friendship and understanding between the people of Chiba, Japan and Wisconsin, USA.

As we move forward into the next twenty years, let us remember the foundation upon which we originated our sister state relationship, moving forward to expand our horizons and understanding of our backgrounds and similarities.

From our first exchange of music, followed by the Women of Wings exchange which recognized the volunteer and public service efforts of women in Chiba, our exchanges have grown. We were pleasantly surprised by members of these delegations, both from Chiba and Wisconsin, who were impressed by the similarities between Chiba and Wisconsin, their issues, struggles, and goals. Through the years, there have been many of these exchanges, often with home stay providers having the opportunity to visit their home stay delegation members in Chiba or Wisconsin.

Let us remember our cultural exchanges, through music, dance, art, and appreciation of our differences and our similarities. Let us take what we have learned through our educational exchanges to increase our awareness of our backgrounds and further our development of language and teaching skills. Let us explore what we have learned through our science and technological exchanges to further develop our ability to reach for the stars, find new ways to use our resources and expand the horizons of those that will follow in our footsteps. And finally, let us continue to expand our bonds of friendship to reach beyond our physical boundaries and break down the barriers that fail to understand the uniqueness that we bring out in each other to create these strong bonds of friendship.

May our union remain strong and steadfast through the coming years. With fond memories as a participant at the May 21, 1990 signing ceremony in Madison Wisconsin, and as a member of the first Women of Wings delegation from Wisconsin to Chiba, I wish all of you, a happy 20th anniversary.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Kelly Rothwell, President
Wisconsin Chiba Inc.

(ウィスコンシン州と千葉県の姉妹県州協定が調印された)

1990年5月21日から20年が過ぎたととはとても信じられないことでもあります。

調印式当日を振り返ってみますと、式に参加された人々に様々な思い出がございます。ウィスコンシン州と千葉県を使命団が行き来し、ウィスコンシン州に滞在され、そして現に調印式が行われました。参加者の中には調印式の準備をした思い出を持つ人々、また最後の最後まで細部にわたって慌しく作業をした思い出を持つ人々がいらっしゃいます。しかし、なんと言っても長期に亘って続く友情の始まりであるということが一番の思い出となっております。そして、それは教育、文化、科学、技術分野の交流を促進する両県州の関係を育み、また一方では千葉県とウィスコンシン州の人々の友情と理解の絆を創りあげています。

次の20年に向かって、私達の視野を広げ、お互いのバックグラウンドや類似点の理解を深め、姉妹県州関係の礎を思い起こしましょう。最初は音楽の交流、そして女性のつばさの交流が始まりました。この交流から千葉県の女性のヴォランティアや公共活動の努力が認められ、私達の交流が成長してまいりました。私達はそういう彼女達から心地よい驚きをいただきました。千葉県やウィスコンシン州の使命団員はお互いの類似点、問題点、苦労、そして目標に感銘を受けました。年月を通して、こういった沢山の交流があり、ホストファミリーとホームステイした方々がお互いに訪問し合う機会もございました。

音楽、ダンスそして芸術を通して私達の相違点や類似点を認識し評価した文化交流を思い出しましょう。私達のバックグラウンドを自覚する気持ちを促し、さらには言葉や指導技術を一層発展させるために教育交流で学んだことを実践しましょう。星に到達できる私達の能力をさらに発展させ、また私達の資源を活用する新しい方法を見出し、その志を継ぐ人々の視野を広げるために科学や技術交流から学んだことを探査しましょう。そして最後に、私達の物理的な隔たりを越え、強い友情の絆を創造するために私達が夫々に持っているユニークさを理解しそしてシェアして、その障害となるものを取り除いて絆を広げ続けましょう。

これからも私達の結びつきが強く不動のものとなりますように。

1990年5月21日にウィスコンシン州マディソンで行われた調印式に参列した懐かしい思い出と共に、またウィスコンシン州から千葉県に初めて派遣された女性のつばさのメンバーとして、私は皆様と20周年記念おめでとうでございます、を申し上げます。

敬具

バーバラ L. ケリー・ロスウェル
ウィスコンシン千葉委員会委員長

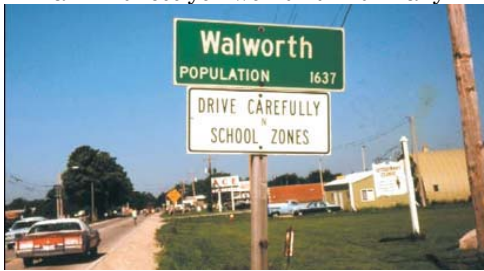
Feature Issue 20 Years of Sister State Advancement. One of 3 articles to be published as a look back celebrating 20 years as sister states.

1970 A time when nearly all Wisconsin residents had never seen a Japanese person.

[Harumi Kashima's Contribution as the first generation of factory managers for Kikkoman in Wisconsin.]

When I came to Wisconsin in 1972, there were no direct flights from Japan to Chicago yet. The only way to get to Wisconsin was by changing planes in San Francisco. The countryside we lived in was so low in crime that local residents used to boast it was, "the safest place in all the world." Is was a place in America full of a human kindness you wouldn't find in any metropolis.

In Walworth, Wisconsin, the location of the factory, a survey of the land showed endless corn fields and soybean fields dotted with silos.



In Japan I lived in a place that had absolutely no corn fields, and no cows, so prior to my new placement in Walworth I was warned to be careful about hitting cows while driving. There certainly were a lot of cows in the vicinity. It was a place where you could see a green pheasant strolling across the yard in front of the factory. And the summer nights were full of fireflies. It was blessed with an abundance of nature.

Most of the local employees were of either German, Swedish, Norwegian, Dutch, English, Irish or Mexican decent. The vast majority living in the area were of German descent. The area was full of simple, diligent people who were passionate about hard work. Maybe it was because this area of America, the Midwest, was the heart of American agriculture. As was often said, the workers weren't in a rush to go home right when their shifts were about to end. They'd often work without thinking about taking a break, put in overtime, and come in on days off. Always with a positive attitude and a willingness to cooperate. Truly all the workers were diligent.

In general Americans are cheerful, and extremely kind people. Sometimes so kind that it can become a bit annoying. They offer friendships you can believe and trust in. Also, the west believes in a service for self benefit and they believe that helping others helps themselves. It seems that those kind people around us, that lived near us, were exactly like that.

When I moved to Lake Geneva, WI, it had a population of 5,000 with 4 Japanese families in the area. Promptly upon my arrival all the Japanese in the area, including my family, received an invitation from the Episcopalian Church of America, a branch of the Church of England. There began a friendship between the pastors household and mine that continued until my return to Japan. Week after week I participated in worship, and week after week the people I knew began to grow in numbers. Soon my circle of friends began to grow wider and I quickly began to fit in to American society.

In American society religion is greatly connected to the way you live and behave. For that reason the local women, through lively volunteer activities, tutored our wives one by one as they thought there would be trouble in their coming to America. They taught them necessary things for life such as English, how to shop, how to cook and so on. The pastor introduced us to the Kimura's, an American family of Japanese descent that lived in a town 30 kilometers away from us. I remember how reassuring it was that Mr. Kimura was only a phone call away should there be any trouble. He'd often visit with Daikon and Chinese cabbage from his father (who is 90 years old now).

I invited the Kimura's to the opening ceremony of the factory and Mr. Kimura shed a tear remarking that he was, "so happy soy sauce could be made in America, and especially in Lake Geneva." Before the war Japanese families in America were never able to use what Americans considered an unfamiliar

stinky liquid flavoring that they often called bug juice.

Specifically the juice of a spider or a cockroach. It was held in contempt by most Americans, but would later come to be known as the popular "soy sauce". Father used to tell stories about how his dream was to manufacture soy sauce in America in order for Americans to use it as well.

In America there were no experienced manufacturers of soy sauce, so we picked 30 talented young workers from the local fields and spent nearly a year training them. They were training under technical instructors that would prepare them for work in the factory. In 1972 I came as a new employee, the following year in February we employed 8 out of the 30 workers that were trained. Those who were hired were like giants who could touch the clouds. This made the instructors uneasy and nervous at first, but soon they built relationships of mutual trust and friendship.

The American employees were physically strong, and confident they could do any job they were given. They were sure that they could do things that Japanese people could not. It's so nostalgic to think about the technical instructors and the things that the American workers were able to do so easily. The clashes of American mentality and Japanese spirit. And even the spirit of rivalry during the job and lessons.

Near the end of February, before the factory had been in operation very long, and only two weeks after the employee training had begun, there was an incident where a pipe was blocked. It happened on a day that was minus 15 degrees centigrade with a light snow and frigid fierce wind. Even though the repairs were difficult and inevitably it had to be resolved, the Japanese and American workers worked together as a group to quickly fix the problem. The American attitude to be cheerful in the face of a difficult job was wonderful. I still have the image in my mind of a man in a t-shirt, in minus 15 degree open-air which would make most people shudder, saying he wasn't cold and just continuing to work. I remember that after the incident thinking as a general manager, the factory would operate well. In 1978, for the first time in decades, there was a massive blizzard. I experienced the entire factory closing down in preparation for the large blizzard. Because of the deteriorating weather conditions 25 people had to stay overnight in the factory. By dinner almost all the food was gone from the vending machines. At about 6 o'clock the next morning, the local farmers brought all of us homemade, freshly baked bread, scrambled eggs made from their own fresh farm eggs, and warm ham. They brought enough food for 25 people on

snowmobiles, all the way to the factory. I had never had such a delicious breakfast made with such heart before. It's a breakfast I'll never forget as long as I live. I asked later only to find out that my wife and two others had stayed up all night baking the bread for us.



This "ability to get things done when they must be done" mentality of American's opened my eyes. I thought it was wonderful.

It was with the help of people like those at the factory, and their proactive attitudes, that my short time starting up and managing the American factory went well and stayed on track.

1 Chiba and Wisconsin signed their sister-state relationship to the chorus of Chiba's prefectural song (1990)

One of the reasons for our sister-state exchanges was the proposal of sister-state relationship from the State of Wisconsin in 1987, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At 4pm on May 21st 1990, a signing ceremony to commemorate the sister-state relationship was held in Madison, Wisconsin. It took place in the Rotunda located on the first floor of the Wisconsin State Capitol building. Attendees included; the Governor of Chiba Prefecture at that time, Takeshi Numata, other delegation members of the Chiba Prefectural Government and the Governor of Wisconsin State at that time, Tommy G. Thompson, and other members from Wisconsin.



At the beginning of the ceremony, the wonderful chorus of Chiba's prefectural folk song rang in the hall. As a matter of fact, the score for it was requested from the Wisconsin side, before the ceremony. But the attendees from Chiba were surprised, touched and impressed by the skill of the musicians, because no one had expected this kind of thing, even though they had sent the score.

At the signing ceremony, Governor Numata remarked that "Chiba and Wisconsin have many similarities. He spoke of strengthening the bond between Chiba and Wisconsin and contributing to the further deepening of international exchanges between Japan and United States."

Meanwhile Governor Thompson stated with great certainty that "The goal of this sister-state relationship is to deepen our friendship and to bring global cooperation to our region. I would like to assure our Chiba guests that our sister state relationship is the centerpiece of what the Japanese call the KOKORO, guiding concept or heart of Wisconsin's approach to Japan"

The delegation members from Chiba were impressed by the remarkable work of volunteers in Wisconsin, such as driving the delegation to its destinations by limousine.

2 Chiba's 120 Goodwill Wing Delegation Shares Joy and Emotion (1993)

On August 1993, in commemoration of Chiba Prefecture's 120th anniversary, the "Chiba 120 Goodwill Wing Delegation" visited Wisconsin. The delegation was composed of as many as 70 members including performers of Choshi Jumping Taiko, folksongs, folkdances and instructors for big sushi rolls, and Boshu round fans.

The delegation participated in the "Wisconsin State Fair" in West Allis in the suburbs of Milwaukee, Appleton and other cities. At the State Fair, stage performances were given by Choshi Jumping Taiko artists, folksingers and folkdancers. The goodwill ceremony by both governors of Chiba Prefecture and Wisconsin State was also held.

In other exhibition sites, performances were given by the groups of Boshu Round Fan makers, a traditional craft art of Chiba Prefecture, and big sushi rolls, a local specialty cuisine in Chiba. Participants in the sushi-making struggled to make the rose-shaped big Sushi roll, but they were very pleased to have made them and enjoyed eating what they had created.



Choshi Jumping Taiko members perform on the State Fair stage

In the State Fair, the delegation also participated in the parade, becoming the center of public attention because of their beautiful Kimonos and heroic Happi uniforms. For the purposes of tourist PR, the profits of all products sold were donated to the flood-damaged areas in the southwest of Mississippi.



Folksong performance at the nursing home

In addition, the delegation visited two nursing homes. In Appleton, they performed at the University of Lawrence. At the nursing homes, performances were given by the Jumping Taiko artists, folkdancers and instructors gave instructions on how to make Boshu round fans. The residents enjoyed the performances from the bottom of their hearts, as it was a rare opportunity for them to watch such traditional Japanese cultural performances and crafts arts.

At the last performance at the University of Lawrence, all of the audience gave a standing ovation at the climax of the event. Having finished all of their performances, many of the delegation members shed tears of joy, and remarked, "We are happy to have shared so much with so many people," "It was worthwhile to do it, although the schedule was tight," "We could demonstrate the cheerfulness and strength of Chiba Prefecture." Everyone was happy to have had such a wonderfully successful trip.

3 CHIBA FRIENDSHIP WING '95 DELEGATION (1995) 1500km TRAVEL BY BUS

By Yasuto Ohara

It's already been 16 years since I went to the U.S. as a member of the Chiba Friendship Wing '95 Delegation. Thinking back to that trip, a scene of our bus and a large truck with all of our clothes and instruments running together comes to mind, and I remember how fun it actually was travelling over 1500 km that way.



Even though I hadn't changed over to an international license, they let me drive "Convoy". I remember feeling how being impressed both by the size of the country and the generosity of the people living in it.

I remember being surprised by that fact that even though I had heard almost everyone in Wisconsin was either white or Native American, all of the workers we met at a chocolate factory in Milwaukee were black.



Although I myself hardly ever touch computers, I also have fond memories of how the 8 year old boy in my home stay family drew me a picture on his.

I also remember a couple who lived on a farm over 4 km from the next house over, surrounded by horses, roosters, cows, and corn fields, and how comical it was to me that the husband would have to smoke outside because his wife hated cigarettes.

I hear this is the 20th anniversary of the friendship relation. I hope it continues to grow and thrive.

Governor Morita Visits Wisconsin, to Reaffirm Our Sister-State Friendship



Wednesday, May 5

Visit to the Kikkoman Foods, Inc

In 1973, Kikkoman, a leading company in Chiba, founded its Wisconsin plant in Walworth and started operations there. This served as moving force behind the new friendship between the two states. On 20th anniversary of the sister-state relationship, Governor Morita visited the site of what would be the beginning of many new things to come. Governor Morita was told how the mechanization of the plant saves on labor and how 100% of the excess oil and lees (the left over sediment after fermentation) are used for domestic animal feed. This creates an incredibly efficient system.



In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the sister-state relationship, Kensaku Morita, Governor of Chiba Prefecture visited Wisconsin from May 5th to May 7th, 2010.

He visited the Wisconsin Kikkoman Foods Factory before meeting with Governor Jim Doyle of Wisconsin to reaffirm the continuation of our sister-state relationship. This was the first visit for Governor Morita, who was enchanted by the rich nature and beautiful streets and moved by the warm hospitality of Wisconsinites. He became a big fan of the Badger State before he returned home.

Thursday, May 6 Meeting with Governor Doyle

Governor Morita visited the Wisconsin State Capitol building to have exchange ideas with Governor Doyle. The two governors agreed that Chiba Prefecture and the State of Wisconsin have had very fruitful exchanges in such fields as business, education, and culture over the past 20 years, and they should work to develop this relationship even further. The two governors also discussed how to preserve for future generations the marvelous natural assets that have been passed down to us from the days of the pioneers. Governor Doyle spoke of challenges of maintaining the water quality of over 15,000 lakes in the state and about securing clean forms of energy like biomass and wind power.



Signing Reaffirmation Agreement

Witnessed by then-Chairperson Shigehide Sakai from the Chiba Prefectural Assembly and President Risser of the State Senate, Governor Morita and Governor Doyle signed a 20th anniversary sister-state re-affirmation agreement and renewed their pledge to continue and further build upon this relationship.

Governor Morita said, "this close relationship between Chiba Prefecture and the State of Wisconsin has continued for 20 years. Today's ceremony is like a Coming-of-Age ceremony in Japan."

FY2010 Board Meeting



The Board Meeting for fiscal year 2010 was held on Thursday, May 20, at Keisei Hotel Miramare, Chiba City, with eleven board members, two auditors, and Governor Morita as a special advisor to CWA in attendance.

President Yuzaburo Mogi made a remark that in this sixth year since the CWA's foundation, we need to work harder to develop the sister-state relationship between Chiba Prefecture and the State of Wisconsin even further.

Governor Morita talked about his visit to Wisconsin, commenting that "Wisconsin was beautiful, like a painting." "It was good to get to know a wonderful person like Governor Doyle." "The grassroots exchange is an important pillar of the significant Japan and U.S. relationship."

At the meeting, attendees deliberated and approved all drafts, including the results of activities and accounts for FY 2009, plans for projects and budgeting for FY 2010, the selection of board members and auditors, and the appointment of the steering committee members. Some of these drafts were forwarded to the General Meeting.

Then, the secretariat reported the results of the exchanges in various fields and governor's trip to Wisconsin.

In the opinion exchange that followed, some participants pointed out the importance of the Japan-U.S. relationship at the grassroots level, exchange with a sense of purpose and awareness, and the necessity of setting an exchange theme which is sustainable.

FY2010 General Meeting

The CWA's General Meeting for FY 2010 was held on Saturday, May 29, at Hotel Port Plaza Chiba with 30 members and 145 proxies in attendance.

Vice-President Michio Ohishi gave the opening remarks, saying "A great number of people have engaged in exchange activities at the grassroots level since CWA's foundation." He expressed his hope for deeper exchanges, his belief in CWA's commitment to promoting exchange with Wisconsin, and asked for the members' continued support and cooperation.

Then, attendees deliberated and approved all drafts, including the results of activities and accounts for FY 2009, the plans for projects and budgeting for FY 2010, and the selection of board members and auditors.



Chiba-Wisconsin Association Volunteer Staff in 2010

【 Steering Committee Members】

【Event Volunteer】

| Delegation Exchanges Department | Members Networking Projects Department | Public Relations Department | Secretariat | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Adviser Kazuya Hayashi | Teruo Abe | Sub-head of Steering Committee | Kotaro Nakamura | Takako Ishii | Naomi Sakakida |
| Head of Steering Committee Shigeo Moriyama | Tetsuji Ogawa | Mihoko Ohara | Mika Suzuki | Takahiro Ui | Teruko Tomita |
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| Ryoji Kase | | Mitsuhiro Mesuda | | | |
| Kenichiro Watanabe | | | | | |

“The message from Mr. Moriyama, head of steering committee”

We are the volunteers who will be supporting the activities of CWA in this year.

We will work to deepen and expand the exchange relationship between Chiba prefecture and state of Wisconsin.

We would like to ask for everyone's, especially the CWA members', support and cooperation.

“Editor's note”

The strong team-work of the Japanese team touched many Japanese hearts in the World Cup.

This CWA NEWS was also made with the team-work of our public relations department and many Steering Committee Members.

“Team PR” plans to work hard to keep our contents fresh and interesting.

We welcome our readers' suggestions and feedback.

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