

Exchange Event Part 1

2023 Members' Exchange Event

On the afternoon of June 18th, following the General Meeting, the Members' Exchange Event was held on the 4th floor of Plaza Nanohana.

Executive Director Minoru Ito, in his opening remarks, reported that this year marked the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Chiba Wisconsin Association, introducing the five Steering Committee members in attendance who had been members since its establishment and lauding their contributions.

After a short speech by Director Ichiro Ryuno about the importance of international exchange, he proposed a toast, and a relaxed atmosphere settled over the gathering as participants began to eat.

After lunch, Maximilian Gumble, ALT Program Coordinator, gave a presentation on the Wisconsin ALT Program, followed by video messages from Nathaniel English and Josie Anderson, two Wisconsin ALTs who will be leaving this summer (see the following page for details).

Next, a video presentation of performances and messages from the five members of Isthmus Brass, members of the Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation scheduled to visit Chiba this December, was shown. Isthmus Brass, established in 2009, is a brass ensemble made up of five university professors of music. Everyone is looking forward to seeing what kind of international exchange will arise from their performance.

This June, a 50th anniversary celebration for the Wisconsin Kikkoman plant was held, and Kazuo Shimizu, Advisor to the Steering Committee reported on the event. He mentioned that Tommy Thompson, governor of Wisconsin at the time of the sister state agreement attended the speech and gave an energetic address, stating that the most important thing in international exchange is "friendship."

In closing, Steering Committee Vice Chairperson Mihoko Ohara thanked the participants for making the event a success, and a commemorative group photo was taken.

*A video of this event is available on the CWA website (<https://chiba-wisconsin.net/>).

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Commemorative group photo



Executive Director Minoru Ito



Director Ichiro Tatsuno



Isthmus Brass



The venue

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Members' Exchange Meeting Part 2

At the Members' Exchange Meeting on Sunday, June 18th, a presentation on ALTs was given by Max, a member of the Steering Committee, and video messages from two departing ALTs were shown. One other departing ALT also provided a message, which can be found below.

Maximilian Gumble (ALT Program Coordinator, Prefectural Board of Education)

Max's connection to Chiba Prefecture began with a homestay in high school and continued through the Wisconsin ALT Program, where he became an ALT (Assistant Language Teacher).

There are three sources of ALTs in Chiba Prefecture: The JET Programme, a government-sponsored program; private companies; and the Wisconsin ALT Program, with private companies having the overall largest number of ALTs.

The Wisconsin ALT Program began in 1991, the year after the sister state agreement was signed, and is implemented between the Prefectural Board of Education in Chiba and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The program is aimed at residents of Wisconsin and graduates from Wisconsin colleges and universities, and the number of ALTs hired has gradually increased from an initial hiring of 10, to 20 at present, with some slight fluctuations. The maximum length of service for Wisconsin ALTs is five years, with participants staying on average 2.4 years. Of the 171 total participants over the Program's history, 70% have served two years or more, and 44% served three years or more.

The 14 prefectural high schools that host ALTs from Wisconsin are called "English Education Flagship Schools" and are scattered throughout the prefecture, with the majority in the central and northern areas.

The CWA holds yearly exchange events for ALTs to socialize with each other and the CWA members, including a welcome party for new ALTs and a Thanksgiving Food Culture Exchange.

Messages from Departing ALTs

Nathaniel English (Chiba Prefectural Kashiwai High School)

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in the Wisconsin ALT Program and to attend events put on by the CWA. I especially enjoyed the welcome party where I got to experience the shamisen, a traditional Japanese musical instrument, for the first time.

This event also allowed me to build stronger bonds with the other ALTs.

I am also grateful for the chance to experience Thanksgiving dinner while in Japan through the Food Culture Exchange. I was happy to be able to make Thanksgiving food with the other ALTs while talking about our various family traditions.

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Through this exchange experience, I am now able to better understand the perspectives of people from other countries who have come to the United States.

Josie Anderson (Chiba Prefectural Sakura High School)

I would like to thank the CWA for the opportunity to experience various traditional Japanese instruments at the welcome party and for giving me the chance to introduce myself in Japanese at that time.

I have fond memories of trying my hand at making *futomaki matsurizushi* during the Food Culture Exchange, and I was thrilled to receive a gift of Wisconsin-grown cranberries from a CWA Steering Committee member. It was a joy to be able to celebrate Thanksgiving with friends and share Thanksgiving traditions and memories despite being so far from home.

Other activities I enjoyed while in Chiba included singing karaoke, visiting the beautiful Yoro Valley and Kujukuri Beach, and participating in local events such as the Narita Taiko Festival.

Drew Downie (Chiba Prefectural Matsudo Kokusai High School)

My time as a Chiba ALT went by in an instant. It's hard to believe that an entire year has passed since last year's crop of ALTs were preparing documents, waiting for their visas, and gearing up to make the fourteen+ hour flight overseas. Being so far away from home, it's hard not to learn a thing or two about yourself during your time here. Life in Japan constantly has me questioning what are my own thoughts and motivations, and what are those cultivated by my upbringing in the United States. Only after coming to Japan have I begun to wonder if we can truly separate ourselves from the cultures we grew up in at all. Above all, I think it is important for people to be aware of the biases they have and the way those biases affect our interpersonal relationships. My time in Japan has increased my capacity for empathy and understanding of people different to me, while at the same time solidifying some beliefs that I have carried over from my home.

I want to thank the Chiba-Wisconsin Association for all they have done to make my and my fellow ALTs' dreams of coming to Japan a reality. This experience was instrumental to my own development, and though my time as an ALT is done, I will be pursuing another career path in Japan. I wish the incoming ALTs luck in the year to come and congratulate the returning ALTs on a year well done! お疲れ様でした!

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Maximilian Gumble



Nathaniel English (right)



Josie Anderson (right)



Drew Downie (left)

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Fiscal Year 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

The FY2023 Board of Directors Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 23 at Hotel Port Plaza Chiba (Chuo-ku, Chiba City). In attendance were Chiba Governor Toshihito Kumagai, who is a special advisor to the association, one advisor (proxy), 10 directors (including one proxy), and two auditors.

At the beginning of the meeting, President Yuzaburo Mogi opened by stating, “Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to have face-to-face exchanges for the past three years, but this December we will welcome a Goodwill Delegation from Wisconsin. As we mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of our association, I would like to ask you for your input on how to further develop our exchange.”

Governor Kumagai then remarked, *Since our exchange with Wisconsin is so long-standing, I would like to continue to carry on the legacy of our predecessors and further promote goodwill through international exchange, which is more necessary now than ever.”

Thereafter, five agenda items were discussed, including a business report and income/expenditure account settlement for FY2022, and a draft of a business plan and income/expenditure budget for FY2023, all of which will be up for discussion at the General Meeting. Following this, the secretariat reported on the status of exchange with Wisconsin, and the meeting closed with a lively exchange of opinions by the attendees.

Please see below for an excerpt of the opinions exchanged at the Board of Directors meeting.

Fiscal Year 2023 General Meeting

The FY2023 General Meeting was held on Saturday, June 18th at Hotel Plaza Nanohana (Chuo-ku, Chiba City), and was attended by 19 regular members (in addition to 56 members who submitted proxy forms).

At the beginning of the meeting, Association Vice President Osawa made a speech, stating that the Association would welcome a Goodwill Delegation from Wisconsin in December, which had been postponed until now, to mark the 20th anniversary of the Association's establishment.

The business report and income/expenditure accounts for FY2022, the draft of the business plan and income/expenditure budget for FY2023, and a draft of the assignment of

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directors and auditors were then discussed, with Kenji Saso, a Steering Committee member, serving as chairperson. All drafts were approved as proposed.



Board of Directors Meeting



Annual General Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting Exchange of Opinions (Excerpts)

- Chiba and Wisconsin have a lot in common, so I hope that this Association can continue well into the future.
- I have heard from many people that it is difficult to conduct deeper international exchange without meeting face-to-face. I hope that this year's meeting can be successful in this respect, as it is the first time that we have been able to meet in person in a long time.
- During the pandemic, we tried to strengthen our friendship with foreign universities via Zoom, but we found it difficult. I think the most important thing for these purposes is to talk face-to-face and be able to see one another's facial expressions and movements.
- In the case of business, it is possible to build trust with clients by meeting in person and demonstrating products. I believe that this principle can also apply when it comes to increasing trust in international exchanges.
- In my work in the tourism industry, I was taught the phrase "off the beaten track." I would like for Chiba and Wisconsin to be able to mutually promote tourism by introducing tourists to "off the beaten track" locations in our two regions.
- As one of the 15 participants in the 1993 Sister State Teachers Exchange Program, I feel a strong sense of connection in having come to be a board member of this organization.
- It is wonderful to see the younger generation going abroad, coming into contact with different cultures, and broadening their worldviews. I believe that continuing these grassroots activities steadily over a long period of time will be the foundation for fostering personnel with broad perspectives in the future.

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- As many artists will be coming to Chiba from overseas this year, I would like to hold international exchange and other events in various parts of the prefecture.
- When we receive the delegation from Wisconsin in December, I think that they might be happy to see Yoro Ravine, which has the latest fall foliage in the Tokyo area. We can also show them the nearby marker of the “Chibanian” geological era.
- One of the deciding factors in locating the soy sauce factory in Wisconsin was the fact that the state is known for its hard-working people.

Fiscal Year 2023 Plan of Activities

[Activities Policy]

Based on the results of the previous fiscal year, we will further enhance the content of our activities in all fields so that even more people can learn about the charms of Wisconsin. In addition, we will take appropriate measures, such as changing the content of activities, while keeping an eye on trends in the government's measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19, and will continue to implement them primarily through the Steering Committee.

[Activities Contents]

1 Regular Meetings

- Board of Directors Meeting and Annual General Meeting (held once a year)
- As a rule, the Steering Committee meets on the second Saturday of every month, with each Planning Group convening prior to the meeting.

2 Planning and Management of Exchange Activities with Wisconsin

Reception of Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation

- Hosting Period: Scheduled from 2nd to December 9th, 2023
- Number of Delegation Members: approximately 10

3 Exchange Activities for Members, Etc.

- Members Exchange Event & Farewell Party (Sunday, June 18th)
- Welcome Party for New ALTs (Saturday, September 30th)
- Food Culture Collaboration (scheduled to be held around November)

4 Public Relations Projects Regarding CWA Activities and Wisconsin

- CWA NEWS (published three times a year)
- Providing a variety of information on the CWA homepage
- Participation in events
- Gathering of information on Wisconsin and exchanges with Wisconsin

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FY 2023 Revenue · Expenditure Budget

Revenue				Units: 1,000 yen
Item	FY 2023 (A)	FY 2022 (B)	A-B	Comment
Membership Fees	598	608	△10	
Subsidy	1,150	1,150	0	
• Subsidy from Chiba Prefectural Government for administrative expenses	150	150	0	
• Subsidy from Chiba Prefectural Government for business expenses	1,000	1,000	0	
Participation Fees of Exchange Activities, etc.	255	255	0	Food Culture Collaboration Goodwill Delegation Farewell Party
Carryover	3,504	3,018	486	
Total	5,507	5,031	476	

Expenditures				Units: 1,000 yen
Item	FY 2023 (A)	FY 2022 (B)	A-B	Comment
Operating Expenses	297	297	0	Printing, disposable expenses, etc.
Activities Expenses	2,777	2,862	△85	
• Meetings	150	150	0	Board of Directors, General Meeting
• Dispatch and Acceptance of Goodwill Delegations	1,900	1,900	0	Goodwill Delegation Acceptance from Wisconsin
• Member Exchanges	255	255	0	Exchange Activities
• Public Relations	472	557	△85	Publication of CWA NEWS
Reserve Funds	2,433	1,872	561	
Total	5,507	5,031	476	

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**FY 2023 Board of Directors and Steering Committee Members of the
Chiba-Wisconsin Association (as of August 1st, 2023)
[Board Members]**

Title	Name	Affiliation
Special Advisor	Toshihito Kumagai	Governor, Chiba Prefecture
Advisor	Takao Hasegawa	Mayor of Kamogawa City (Sister City of Manitowoc, WI)
	Hiroshi Ota	Mayor, Isumi City (Sister City of Waupun, WI)
President	Yuzaburo Mogi	Honorary CEO and Chairman of the Board, Kikkoman Corporation Honorary Ambassador to Wisconsin
Vice President	Michio Oishi	Chairman, Kazusa DNA Research Institute
	Katsunosuke Osawa	President, Chiba Nippo Co., Ltd.
	Hidetoshi Sakuma	President, Chiba Prefecture Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry
	Ikuya Shimizu	President, Chiba Prefectural Cultural Promotion Foundation
Executive Director	Kazuhiko Yoshida	President, Chiba Convention Bureau and International Center
Director	Yozi Aoyagi	President, Chiba Television Broadcasting Corporation
	Hiroyuki Ito	Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, Tokyo University of Science
	Shokichi Kaneko	President, Chiba Economic Council
	Norio Saegusa	President, Chiba Prefectural Employer's Association
	Youhei Kobayashi	Professor, University of Tokyo
	Hidetoshi Sakuma	Chief Secretary, Chiba Association of Corporate Executives
	Ichiro Tatsuno	Chancellor, Chiba Prefectural University of Health Sciences
	Toshinori Nakayama	President, Chiba University
	Yoshimasa Miyazaki	President, Chiba Taiko Foundation
	Hideyuki Takahashi	Chief Director, Chiba Dairy and Agriculture Organization
	Katutoshi Hukumizu	Principal, Narita Kokusai High School
	Akira Mikami	Executive Director, Policy and Planning Department Chiba Prefectural Government
Auditor	Kotaro Nakamura	President, Chiba Industry Advancement Center
	Kazunori Okuizumi	Chief Director, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Chiba

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[Steering Committee]

Delegation Planning Group

Kazuo Shimizu (Advisor)

Shigeo Moriyama (Chairperson of Steering Committee)

Tadao Ando (Secretary General)

❖ Yasuko Aoki

Tetsuji Ogawa

Akio Asanuma

Kenzi Saso

Exchange Program Planning Group

❖ Teruo Abe

Takako Ishii

Sanae Mitsuhashi

Shizue Yamazaki

Publicity Working Group

Mihoko Ohara (Vice Chairperson of Steering Committee)

❖ Tadao Miyazaki

Maximilian Gumble

Secretariat

Masaki Miyazaki

Yukihiro Kashida

❖ *(Indicates Group Head)*

Event Staff: Tomiko Kakuta, Satoko Keigo, Madoka Usui, Yoshie Kato,

Tomoko Ogawa

PR Staff: Naomi Sakakida

[Editor's Note]

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the CWA, as well as our welcoming a Goodwill Delegation from Wisconsin in December after a long postponement. The Delegations five members, the Isthmus Brass ensemble, were introduced in a video during this year's Members' Exchange Event. We will continue to make preparations to ensure that our hosting them can be a chance to share our excitement with the people of the prefecture.

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<http://chiba-wisconsin.net/>

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