



KITAKYUSHU CITY NEWSLETTER

A Green Growth City Full of Pure Richness Ready to be Shared with the World

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Kitakyushu

Fukuoka

JAPAN **Kitakyushu, Fukuoka**

~1 million people

492 Km²

GDP: ¥ 3.7 Trillion

Location : Hiraodai (one of the most famous karst plateaus in Japan)

Gateway to Asia

Kitakyushu is a cosmopolitan city with a population of 1 million residents, located at the northernmost tip of Kyushu, adjacent to Honshu across the Kanmon Straits. Due to its proximity to other Asian countries and its favorable geographical location as a halfway point between Tokyo and Shanghai, the city has prospered as a gateway to Asia and as an industrial center of Japan.



Industrial City

In the latter half of the 19th century, the geographical advantages of Kitakyushu area gained popularity, resulting in railroads and port facilities quickly being developed. In the industrial field as well, Kitakyushu, was a leader in Japan's modern steel industry, and had developed as an industrial city.



Overcoming Pollution

In the 1960s, the city faced serious pollution problems regarding the air quality and water. However, the city overcame these pollution problems through the jointed efforts between citizens, universities, local businesses, and the government.



Model World City in the Promotion of SDGs

The experience gained from over-coming pollution has been used to promote international environmental cooperation with other Asian countries. In recognition of these efforts, Kitakyushu was the first city in Asia to be selected by the OECD as a "Global Model City for Promoting the SDGs," and has received high praise both domestically and internationally.



A Key in Transportation: Connecting Japan and the World

Kitakyushu City lays on the border between Honshu (main island of Japan) and Kyushu (southern island of Japan) and is conveniently located in close proximity to the rest of the Asian continent. For the Kyushu area, Kitakyushu is the starting point for east and west Kyushu and serves as a transportation hub with expressways, railways, ports, airports making it a key in the logistical infrastructure of land, sea and air transport. Going forward the city will continue to strengthen its logistics infrastructure and will accumulate logistics-related facilities, with the aim of becoming a stronger logistics hub.

Kitakyushu: Connecting the World

Kyushu/West Chugoku Logistics Airport

Kitakyushu Airport is the only airport in the Kyushu/Chugoku/Shikoku region that has regular international air cargo flights. The volume of international air cargo, handled in the fiscal year of 2021, reached a record high of 19,605 tons (approximately 1.4 times more than that of the previous fiscal year), making a leap forward and ranking 6th in Japan in terms of international transport by volume. Korean Air's scheduled cargo flights to and from Incheon International Airport (South Korea) had increased from 3 flights a week to 4 flights a week in November 2021. Furthermore, in the same month, the Antonov AN-124-100 super-large transport aircraft began importing satellites through sea-and-air (ship and aircraft) transport, making the most of the airport's advantages as a sea airport. Kitakyushu Airport is being promoted as a distribution base for Kyushu and the West Chugoku regions of Japan.



Aiming to Enhance the Functionality of Kitakyushu Airport

In order to become a better distribution base airport for Kyushu and West Chugoku, the runway has been extended by 500 meters to enable long-distance operations of large freighters and more. Ideally, these efforts will help to strengthen the airport's functions, such as building warehouses to accept 100,000 tons of air cargo.



When Transporting to Kyushu You Must Connect to Kitakyushu

The Cornerstone of Kyushu Railway Logistics

Kitakyushu Freight Terminal Station is the cornerstone of railway logistics in Kyushu. Not only does it have services to Fukuoka, Kumamoto, Kagoshima, Oita and Miyazaki, but the Kansai, Kanto, Hokkaido and other regions of Japan also receive shipments from the terminal. The amount of freights at the terminal is the largest in Kyushu and it is a base station for railway logistics where all freight trains from Kyushu en route to Honshu must make a stop.



An Extensive Highway Network

Kitakyushu City, which is a junction of the Kyushu Expressway, Higashi-Kyushu Expressway and Chugoku Expressway, offers exceptionally smooth access to Honshu as well as to the other prefectures in Kyushu. In addition, the Kitakyushu Urban Expressway crisscrosses the city and a network of arterial roads connects these with facilities such as port and airports resulting in efficient logistics.



Kitakyushu City is a transportation hub located at the junction of Honshu and Kyushu. When going from Kyushu to Honshu by land, it is easy to collect cargo loads from Kitakyushu because the city is always in route. Geographically speaking it is also superior as a distribution base because it is close to the rapidly developing Asian market.

Supporting the Regional Economy: Kitakyushu Port

Western Japan's Largest Coastal Ferry Base

Kitakyushu Port is the birthplace of long-distance ferries. In particular, Shin-Moji is one of the largest ferry terminals in western Japan, connecting Tokyo, Yokosuka, Osaka, Kobe and Tokushima. It is also a base for automobile transportation by RORO ships, which are cargo ships that transport trailers.



Ranked 5th in the Nation for the Volume of Incoming and Outgoing Sea Cargo

Tachinoura (Moji) is abundant in international routes and Hibiki (Wakamatsu) accommodates for large ships. These two container terminals in the eastern and western areas of the city, have regular container ships with 36 routes and 156 voyages per month (as of October 2022) bound for South Korea, China, Taiwan, and Southeast Asian countries.





Becoming the Environmental Capital of the World

With the knowledge and experience on how to overcome severe issues in environmental pollution, Kitakyushu has consistently been promoting and spreading this cultivated information on an international scale. Moving forward the city has expanded this by putting their efforts toward promoting global warming countermeasures, the ideals of a low-carbon society and aiming to become a zero-carbon city itself. These are just of the few steps Kitakyushu has been taking to become the environmental capital of the world.

The Strategies for Kitakyushu's Green Growth

Aiming for new growth through a beneficial cycle between the environment and the economy, Kitakyushu plans to work on the decarbonization of energy and the promotion of innovation as an industrial city. The city plans on working on community development as well as overseas business development. By implementing the measures shown on the right, the city expects a direct investment of approximately 590 to 680 billion yen in addition to CO₂ reduction of approximately 930,000 tons by 2030.

Chosen as an Advanced Decarbonization Area

Selected as an advanced decarbonization area in April 2022, the Kitakyushu City region (including 17 surrounding municipalities), was selected as an advanced decarbonization area. In the future the city will work together in urban areas to introduce solar power generation and storage batteries in public facilities, foster new industries, and promote decarbonized city development.



- The introduction of wind, solar, and hydrogen power generation through a third-party ownership system. By establishing, promoting, and utilizing a system of stable decarbonized energy it will result in the decarbonization of industries in the city.
- The construction of a comprehensive base for wind power-related industries, such as the reuse and recycling of solar cells.
- Implementation of corporate support for the creation of innovation, etc.

The First Initiative in the Country: EV Sharing Demonstration Project between Municipality and Company

Kitakyushu has started a demonstrative project for sharing EVs (electric vehicles) between the local governments and companies. Through this we aim to build a low-cost introduction model for electric vehicles



Introduction of the Promotion of Renewable Energy (Offshore wind power generation, human resources development, etc)



High school students observing the base

By promoting the construction of an off-shore base for wind power generation-related industries, Kitakyushu hopes to achieve its goal of becoming a zero carbon city by the year 2050. In addition, a feasibility study on the introduction of offshore wind power generation in water is being conducted. In order to properly develop human resources that would support this industry, the city is promoting the development of human resources for the “Kitakyushu Off-shore Wind Power Camp x SDGs” .

Kitakyushu Eco-town Project

Kitakyushu’s Eco-town project is Japan’s largest and most unique regional center that integrates environmental conservation polices and industry to create an resource-recycling society. In the Hibikinada-area of Wakamatsu (Western Kitakyushu), various recycling-related companies are working together to further develop Kitakyushu’s Eco-town from basic research to commercialization.

International Technical Cooperation

Kitakyushu has been making contributions toward sustainable development in developing countries by providing technical guidance and support that has been cultivated over many years as a industrial city. This makes use of our industrial and technological capabilities, as well as human resources, developed technology, and know-how cultivated in the process of overcoming pollution.



Technological support for tap water supply
(Cambodia)



Efforts in composting raw garbage
(Indonesia)



Creating Advanced Technology and a Rich Lifestyle: Aiming to be Asia's Most Technological Advanced City

With more than a century of history as one of Japan's most crucial industrial bases, many manufacturing industries, such as steel, machinery, and environmental energy, are concentrated in the Kitakyushu area. In addition, the services industry and IT companies in the area are also increasing with a wide number of active companies. Various support measures and a system to support startups are also available.

Industrial City

Since the start of its steel industry in 1901, Kitakyushu had contributed greatly to the modernization of Japan's industry as an industrial city. In addition, there are many manufacturing companies with unique technology that have been handed down through generations. The city is making various efforts for further industrial development that makes use of the areas resources, such as the enhancement of the logistical and intellectual infrastructure.



Robot Technology



In recent years the use of robot technology and the robot industry base in Japan has been strongly promoted through cooperation between companies with high technological and academic research institutes.

IT



Kitakyushu has been actively promoting IT jobs that are particularly popular amongst the younger generation. The recruitment for human resources for companies in the area has also increased.

Construction of a Comprehensive Base for Wind Power Generation-Related Industries

An offshore wind power generation is not only expected to be a trump card for decarbonizing Kitakyushu, but also has a wide range of related industries involved that are said to have economic benefits that will enrich future innovative ideas in the city and Japan. By promoting the formation of a comprehensive base for offshore wind power generation-related industries, we will strive to achieve carbon neutrality, revitalize the industry and logistics in the coastal area, and further revitalize the city's local economy.

The structure of Kitakyushu's comprehensive wind base?



Wind Turbine Shipping Dock

Functions as a final shipping base for wind turbine installation

Import/Export Base

Functions as an import/export base for wind turbine parts

O&M Base

Functions for wind turbine operation and maintenance

Industrial Base

Functions as an industrial base with wind turbine related industries in the water

Why Kitakyushu? Four Characteristics Suitable for Wind Power Generation

Substantial Harbor Facilities

Large Industrial Land Adjacent to the Port

Companies that Support the Manufacturing Aspect

Good Wind Conditions

Plan for Offshore Wind Farm in the Hibikinada Area of Wakamatsu (Western Kitakyushu)



Kitakyushu: A Start-up Friendly City

Kitakyushu considers creation and development of venture companies to be one of its most important policies, and aims to become the most entrepreneur-friendly city in Japan by supporting start-up companies.

The city provides one-stop support for people who are considering to start a business, such as by implementing a start-up support program and establishing a general consultation desk for those who need assistance in planning. COMPASS KOKURA strengthens the collection and transmission of information and associates related to a potential business and promotes business matching.





MICE International City

Below is an overview of Kitakyushu's features in relation to MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions). The Kitakyushu International Convention Zone is directly connected to Kokura Station, the main railway station of the city. With a concentration of international conference, exhibition centers and hotels, the zone is the ideal destination of choice for a number of international conferences because of the convenience it offers.



Destination of Choice for MICE

Some of the more prominent events that have been held in this zone include the G7 Kitakyushu Energy Ministerial Meeting in May 2016 and the Global Offshore Wind Summit 2021 held in October.

In October 2021, Kitakyushu hosted both the Artistic and Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships together for the first time ever, drawing attention from around the world. Kitakyushu has also hosted training camps for international-level sporting events, such as the Rugby World Cup in 2019 and the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and continues to actively promote itself as a destination for international sporting events.



G7 Kitakyushu Energy Ministerial Meeting(May 2016)



Enquiries

International Policy Division, Planning and Coordination Bureau, City of Kitakyushu

TEL : +81-(0)93-582-2162

Email : kikaku-kokusai@city.kitakyushu.lg.jp



Kitakyushu City
Promotion Movie