

# KITAKYUSHU CITY NEWS LETTER



みらい  
つなぐ  
北九州 60<sup>th</sup>

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

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Kokura Castle



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*Kyohei Tsurushi*  
Mayor of Kitakyushu City

### A Message from the Mayor

In this issue you will learn about Kitakyushu's initiatives toward becoming a hydrogen-based society and our technology that is being developed to improve the water supply in developing nations. By reading this newsletter I truly hope that you will get to know more about the amazing city that is Kitakyushu.

60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the City's Founding ~Connecting Kitakyushu with the Future~

Kitakyushu City was born on February 10, 1963.

It was born from the unique merger of five cities the world had not seen before.

The merger was between the cities of **Moji, Kokura, Wakamatsu, Yahata,**

**and Tobata.** Since then, 60 years later, in this milestone year, in order to promote the bright future and development of our city, the slogan "Connecting Kitakyushu with the future", we are holding an anniversary project for one year. In the anniversary project, we will further promote advanced initiatives for SDGs and carbon neutrality, as well as the attractions our city has to offer through its nature, culture, and manufacturing industries. In addition to raising and disseminating information widely, we hope that young people and many other generations will deepen their attachment and civic pride toward the city, giving it a hopeful future. We will continue to work hard to connect to the future.

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# The Water Supply Field

~Kitakyushu's Water Technology Being Spread Across the World~

## Received the 25th Japan Water Awards

At the 25th Japan Water Awards sponsored by the Japan Water Awards Committee and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Kitakyushu City Waterworks and Sewerage Bureau won the Grand Prize in recognition of its international cooperation activities spanning more than 30 years. This is the first time that a local government has won the grand prize for an initiative implemented overseas.



〈What is the Japan Water Award?〉

Aiming to restore the healthy condition of the water circulation system, the aim is to contribute to the realization of a nation and society resilient to water disasters in through the richness of nature's beautiful water. Since 1998, the award has been given to individuals, NGOs/NPOs, schools, companies, etc. who work on water environment issues in Japan.

## Initiatives Across Asia

For more than 30 years, the Kitakyushu City Water and Sewerage Bureau has been dedicated to improve the infrastructure, construction, and operation capabilities of people involved in water supply and sewerage in developing countries through technical cooperation, such as dispatching experts and accepting trainees. Especially in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, as a result of international technical cooperation, the quality of tap water has improved dramatically, achieving "drinkable tap water," which is rare in Southeast Asia. This success has been praised as the "Phnom Penh Miracle" by waterworks officials around the world.



A child fetching water in rural areas



Children happy with the opening of the water supply

## Joint Completion Ceremony for Siem Reap and Kampong Thom

Along with the completion of the Siem Reap New Water Purification Plant, a joint completion ceremony was held in May 2023 with the Kampong Thom New Water Purification Plant completed in March 2022. The completion ceremony was held on the premises of the new water purification plant newly constructed in Siem Reap Province by JICA's loan aid project.



**Kitakyushu's First Overseas Water Business Orders**

### [Siem Reap Water Supply Expansion Project]

- 2007 Project Formation
- 2011 Kitakyushu City Waterworks and Sewerage Bureau receives the first order as a business project (feasibility study)
- 2017 Business start, Waterworks and Sewerage Bureau received an order for consulting services (basic services/detailed design/construction management)
- 2023 Project Completion



In Siem Reap province, a water purification plant with a daily capacity of 60,000 tons was recently constructed. This will contribute to the spread of safe and stable water supply services, the improvement of the living environment, and the promotion of the tourism industry. Siem Reap Province, home to the Angkor Wat ruins, a major tourist destination, is suffering from severe ground subsidence in ruins and temples due to the pumping up of underground water by many of the hotels for tourists. It is expected that this pumping up of groundwater will also contribute to the suppression of land subsidence.

The first project in Japan to be adopted as a water supply business that comprehensively handles overseas water intake, water purification, water distribution facility construction, operation, maintenance and management.

In Kampong Thom province, water demand is increasing due to population growth, and the existing water treatment plants are running out of water. After the new water purification plant started operation, it is now possible to supply water to about 18,000 people and 4,200 households by sending about 2,000 tons of water per day to the existing water purification plant.



### [Kampong Thom Water Supply Expansion Project]

- 2015 Formation of the first grant aid project for business and operating rights in Cambodia
- 2018 Business started. Water and Sewerage Bureau received an order for technical support and guidance work.
- 2022 Project completed.

## Completion of Advanced Water Treatment Equipment at a Large-scale Water Purification Plant

A ceremony was held to celebrate the completion of the advanced water treatment facility at An Duong Water Purification Plant in Hai Phong City. With a history of deteriorating water quality in rivers due to population growth and urbanization, Hai Phong City requested technical cooperation from Kitakyushu City, which once had the same problem. This led to the introduction of contact filtration equipment (Upward Biological Contact Filtration, commonly known as U-BCF). It is a large-scale facility with a processing capacity of 100,000 tons/day.

This project is a JICA grant aid project, and was developed by a joint venture consisting of members of the \* Kitakyushu Overseas Water Business Promotion Council.

\* **Kitakyushu Overseas Water Business Promotion Association (KOWBA):** Public-private partnership organization for the purpose of developing water business overseas

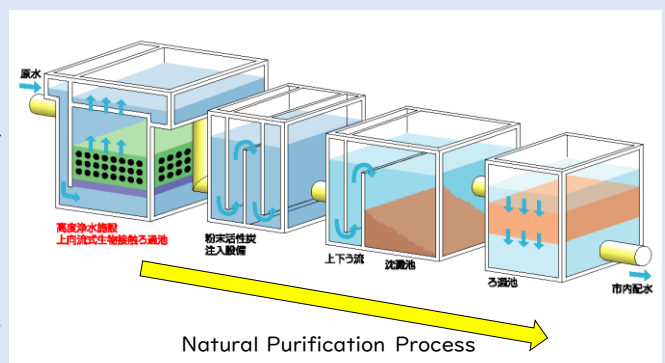


### [An Duong Water Purification Plant Development Project]

- 2009 Kitakyushu City and Hai Phong City sign-off on an friendship and cooperation agreement
- 2010 Implemented U-BCF demonstration experiment in JICA grassroots technical cooperation project
- 2013 Introduced U-BCF to small-scale water purification plants (treatment capacity: 5,000 tons/day)
- 2014 Kitakyushu City and Hai Phong City sign-off on a sister city agreement
- 2014 Cooperation preparatory examination is conducted
- 2016 Design details are planned out
- 2018 (August) An Duong Water Purification Plant U-BCF construction started
- 2022 (March) An Duong Water purification plant U-BCF construction completed

### What is U-BCF?

An advanced piece of water treatment equipment, consisting of an up flow biological contact filtration facility that uses granular activated carbon as a filter medium. This facility utilizes the natural purification action of microorganisms to efficiently remove contaminants and create safer, better-quality water.





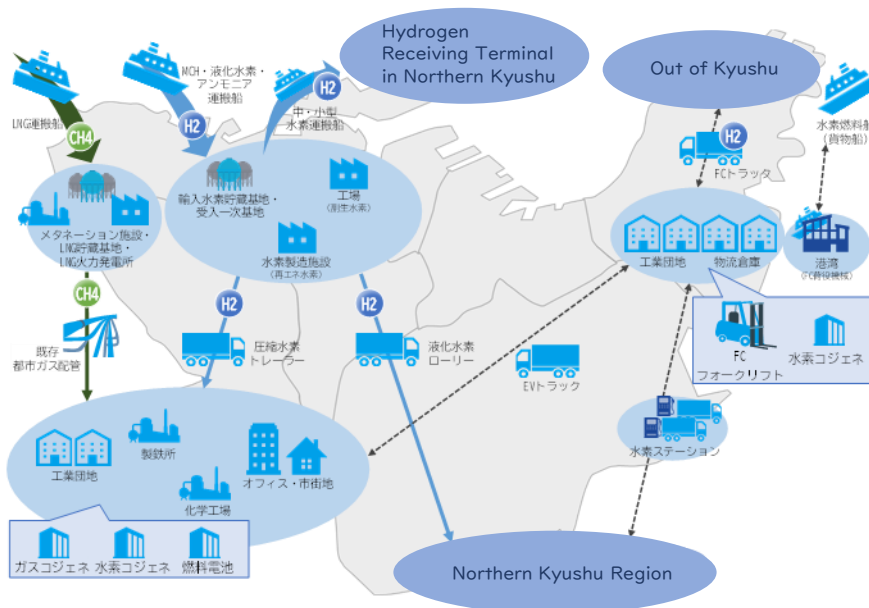
Kitakyushu  
SDGs

# Becoming a Hydrogen-based Society

## Kitakyushu City Green Growth Strategy (Hydrogen Supply/Utilization Base City)

By 2050, we aim to form a "hydrogen supply and utilization base city" that supplies highly economical hydrogen and utilizes it for decarbonization in fields where electrification is difficult.

- Formation of international supply chain such as production of hydrogen in the city and import of large amounts of hydrogen from overseas with high economic efficiency.
- Decarbonization and economic feasibility of the city's industries using hydrogen, in areas where electrification is difficult, such as locations with high-temperature heat demand, will result in further accumulation of industry due to high hydrogen supply.



## Fukuoka Prefecture Hydrogen Base Promotion Council is established

As the movement towards carbon neutrality accelerates worldwide, it is important to promote the carbon neutralization of industry and strengthen competitiveness in order to develop this city, where the manufacturing industry is concentrated. Hydrogen is a new energy alternative to fossil fuels, and in order to promote its spread, it is necessary to develop infrastructure and build a supply chain that can be stably and inexpensively supplied and utilized.

The "Fukuoka Prefecture Hydrogen Base Promotion Council" was established in order for industry, academia, and government to work together to envision the future of the region, and to realize the formation of a hydrogen hub centered in the Hibikinada coastal area and the construction of a supply chain.





Kitakyushu  
SDGs

# Becoming a Hydrogen-based Society

## Kitakyushu Hydrogen Town

In the Higashida district of Yahata-Higashi Ward, we are supporting the demonstrations conducted by companies and entities that are embarking on the development of hydrogen-based businesses by utilizing the approximately 1.2km hydrogen pipeline that has been laid in the city.

### [Notable Points from the Demonstration]

- Supply of Hydrogen through a hydrogen pipeline.
- Development of a device that can detect impurities in hydrogen in real time.
- Development of hydrogen sensor.
- First in Japan! Demonstration of 100% hydrogen-combustion water heater, etc.



1<sup>st</sup> of its  
kind in  
Japan

## Demonstration of 100% Hydrogen Combustion Water Heater

At Kitakyushu Hydrogen Town, Iwatani Corporation and Rinnai Corporation have jointly started testing Japan's first 100% hydrogen-burning water heater. Installed in the hydrogen demonstration house, hot water is supplied through the heater which receives hydrogen supplied from the hydrogen pipeline. Performance evaluation of the water heater and long-term reliability evaluation operations are also being performed.

The hydrogen-burning water heater to be introduced this time is based on the specifications of conventional water heaters, but it is capable of safe and stable combustion even at low capacity, and can instantly respond to any water volume and temperature just as any other water heater would. The system will be operated under the actual usage environment at home throughout the year, verifying stable operation, complying with domestic standards, etc., and sorting out issues for commercialization.



Source: Iwatani Press Release

## CO<sub>2</sub>-free Hydrogen Production and Supply Demonstration Project

From 2020 to 2022, the Hibikinada district of Wakamatsu Ward has worked on a project with the Ministry of the Environment to build a low-cost supply chain that involves producing, transporting, and using CO<sub>2</sub>-free hydrogen derived from renewable energy.

We have developed an energy management system that efficiently uses surplus power derived from renewable energy, such as solar and wind power generation concentrated in the Hibikinada district of Wakamatsu Ward, as well as waste power generation in the city.

### [Business Entities]

- Kitakyushu Power, IHI, Fukuoka Oxygen, ENEOS





# The World's Next Environmental Capital

## Kitakyushu Hibikinada Offshore Wind Farm Groundbreaking Ceremony

Construction work for the Kitakyushu Hibikinada Offshore Wind Farm began on March 13, 2023 in the Hibikinada area of the Wakamatsu Ward in Kitakyushu City.

This project will install 25 wind turbines with a power output of 9,600 kW (maximum 220,000 kW) with the aim of realizing Kitakyushu City's "Green Energy Port Hibiki" project and "Zero Carbon City" and regional revitalization. When the operation is scheduled to start, in 2025, it will be the largest of its kind in Japan.



## Kitakyushu Offshore Wind Camp x SDGs

Kitakyushu City is promoting the introduction of wind power generation and the formation of a comprehensive base for wind power generation-related industries with the aim of achieving SDGs future city goals, and is working on developing and securing the human resources that would support it. The Kitakyushu City Offshore Wind Power Camp x SDGs initiative is aimed at people from students who will lead the next generation to people with a lot of experience. It is held intensively every month to promote the development of human resources.

### Activity Content

- Implementation of offshore wind power generation training for high school, technical college, and university students in cooperation with industries, academia, and the government.
- Holding a symposium where experts and companies in offshore wind power generation give lectures on the latest trends related to wind power generation.

### Initiatives for High School Student

For the continued growth of the offshore wind power generation and in anticipation of future changes in social and industrial structures, the development of creative human resources who possess cross-disciplinary knowledge and can form new frameworks has become an issue for Japan.

In order to combat this dilemma, Kitakyushu City visited offshore wind power generation companies and held a tour of a floating offshore wind power generation system demonstrator in order to raise interest in the offshore wind power generation industry amongst high school students in the city who will be responsible for the next generation.



## Zero Emission e-PARK Groundbreaking Ceremony Held

【Generated Image of Completed Facility】



Construction of Japan's first commercial electric vehicle (EV) mass production assembly factory Zero Emission e-PARK has begun in Koyomachi, Wakamatsu Ward.

"Zero Emission e-PARK" is a hands-on EV complex where you can enjoy not only EV production, but also EV experience (test drive), factory tour, EV museum, etc. Under the theme of "expanding EVs, feeling EVs, enjoying facilities" it is scheduled to operate with self-sustaining power generation by renewable energy utilizing wind power generation and solar power generation.

## Kitakyushu City Transportation Bureau Introduces I EV bus

The Kitakyushu Transportation Bureau purchased an EV bus manufactured by EV Motors Japan, which is working on the construction of the above-mentioned zero-emission e-PARK.

From June 30, 2023 (Friday), the "EV bus" will start operating.







# The Higashida Future City Project

東田・未来都市プロジェクト



## Demonstration on Municipal Buses using IoT Sensors Started

As part of the Higashida Future City Project, the City of Kitakyushu started a demonstration experiment in May in which they installed IoT sensors, linked to GPS, on municipal buses to count the number of people getting on and off the bus. By doing so this it would help the City to understand and visualize the interior environment of the bus and analyze the status of use by measuring CO2 levels.

We believe that this demonstration will contribute to improving the sustainability of public transportation, because it will be possible to easily and accurately grasp and analyze usage conditions and formulate efficient and effective operation plans, regardless of the system introduced not only by municipal buses, but also by bus companies and community buses.



### What is the Higashida Future City Project?

A project launched to promote and accelerate demonstrations and implementation projects by companies and research institutes participating in the "Kitakyushu-Higashida Super City for SDGs Concept" proposed to the national government. The name of the project is "東田・未来都市プロジェクト ~The Higashida Future City Project~".

This project aims to advance the realization of a future society around 2030 by promoting the demonstration and implementation of various cutting-edge services, technologies, etc. in collaboration with industry, academia, government and citizens in the Higashida area and its surrounding areas.





# Connecting Kitakyushu and the World

Luxurious  
Cruise Ship  
Line

## International Cruise Ship "Star Breeze" Docks in Mojiko for the First Time

Kitakyushu City is actively conducting sales activities for cruise companies, in order to attract domestic and foreign cruise ships to dock in Kitakyushu. Recently, the American cruise ship "Star Breeze" docked at Moji Port for the first time, and about 200 passengers from 7 countries enjoyed sake tasting and kimono experience.



### Interview with Captain Pinto

Q. Is this your first time in Japan?

- a. With the cruise we've been to Japan many times before but this is our first time visiting Kitakyushu. We had always heard about it while docking in Yamaguchi.

Q. Is there anything different from what you were expecting?

- a. Being from Portugal I wasn't expecting to see as many similarities as I did between the Mojiko port area and European port cities. The retro buildings and restaurants by the water reminded me of Europe.

Q. What are you most looking forward to seeing while in the Kanmon Strait Area?

- a. I am excited to try the seafood and sushi in the area as well as visit some of the famous shrines.

### Interview with Kimono

Q. Have you heard of Mojiko before coming here?

- a. I did actually. I was very interested in geography as a child, so I read about how the area was a hub for international trade back in the early 1900s.

Q. What are your thoughts on Japan or Japanese culture?

- a. As a chef I really admire how the Japanese pay attention to detail and had made it a discipline in their culture.

Q. What are you most looking forward to doing while you are in Kitakyushu?

- a. Trying pufferfish (fugu) is on the top of my list. It is known worldwide as a rare delicacy so I am going to definitely try some.

## Kitakyushu-Seoul (Incheon) route resumes operation after 3 years

Jin Air's "Kitakyushu-Seoul (Incheon)" scheduled international flight has resumed operations for the first time in three years. On the first day of resumption (May 8), a ceremony and welcoming water sprays were held to commemorate the resumption of operations.



Korean Airline Company: Hi Air

## Kitakyushu Airport is their First International Destination!

A charter flight between Muan ⇄ Kitakyushu was established by Korean airline Hi Air. For the company, Kitakyushu Airport will be their first ever international destination.

Period: May 24th to August 31st, 2023



## Filmed Entirely in Kitakyushu! The movie "DREAMING IN BETWEEN" to be exhibited at the Cannes International Film Festival!

The Kitakyushu Film Commission, a franchise organization that was established in 1989 ahead of the rest of Japan, has fully supported the filming of numerous movies and TV dramas, and has spread the message of "City of Movies, Kitakyushu."

For the first time, a film invited and supported by the Kitakyushu Film Commission became an official entry in the ACID section of the 76th Cannes International Film Festival, one of the world's three largest film festivals, and was screened at the same film festival.

In December 2023, the "Kitakyushu International Film Festival" will also be held as an event commemorating the city's 60th anniversary.

### What is the Kitakyushu Film Commission?

An organization that invites and supports location shooting of video works for the purpose of regional revitalization.



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Kitakyushu City  
Promotion Movie