

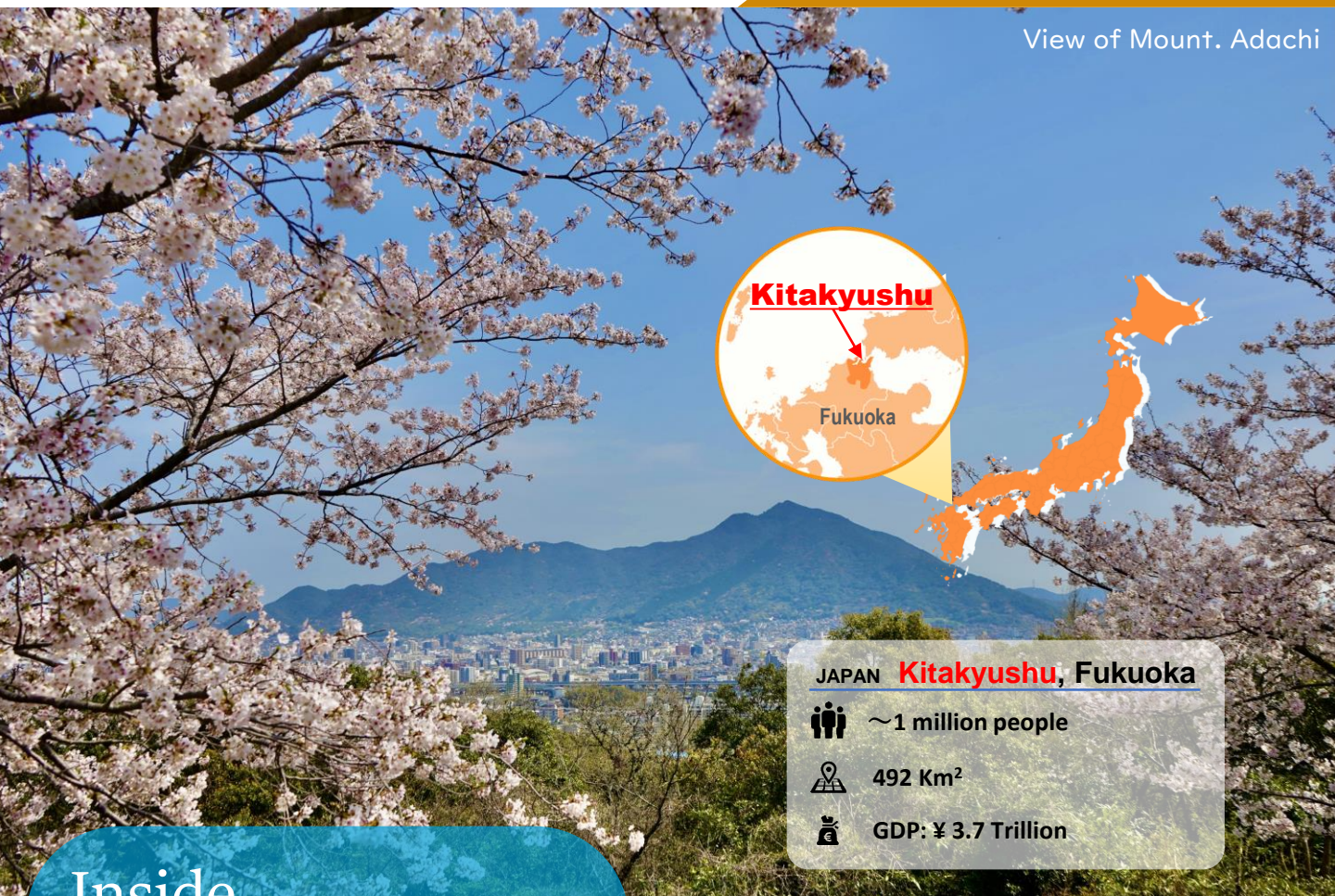
KITAKYUSHU CITY NEWS LETTER



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

ISSUE 04
APRIL 2024

View of Mount. Adachi



JAPAN **Kitakyushu, Fukuoka**

 ~1 million people

 492 Km²

 GDP: ¥ 3.7 Trillion

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Message from Mayor Takeuchi



Keisuke Takeuchi
Mayor of Kitakyushu City

In this issue, we have summarized recent topics such as water and sewerage projects in countries like Cambodia and Vietnam and new collaboration agreements with companies in the city. We hope that while you read this newsletter, you will learn more about Kitakyushu City, and take an interest in our city's endeavors.

Promoting water business in Cambodia

The first public sewage treatment plant in Phnom Penh has been completed!

This project was implemented through a grant aid project of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and is comprised of the Kubota Construction Co., Ltd., Metawater Co., Ltd., and members of the Kitakyushu City Overseas Water Business Promotion Association (KOWBA) (*). The joint venture received the order and carried out the maintenance of the project and Kitakyushu City participated in this project by designing and supervising the construction of the sewage treatment plant. A completion ceremony was held on December 27, 2023, where all involved parties gathered to celebrate the completion of the project.

(*) …Public-private partnership organization aimed at developing water business overseas (140 member companies as of April 1, 2023)



Pursat water treatment plant completion ceremony held!

The Pursat Water Supply Expansion Project in Cambodia is one of the projects that was formed through the many years of technical cooperation carried out by Kitakyushu City. The new water treatment plant was completed in August 2023. This project was implemented as a grant aid project from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Kubota Construction Co., Ltd., a KOWBA member, who received the order and constructed the facility. Kitakyushu City provided detailed designs, bidding assistance, construction supervision, and soft component (technical guidance related to facility operation) work. On December 28, 2023, all concerned parties gathered and a grand completion ceremony was held to celebrate the completion of the water treatment plant.



Order received for construction work for water supply expansion project in Cambodia!



Kubota Construction Co., Ltd., a KOWBA member company, has received an order for the construction work for the "Water Supply Expansion Project" in Svay Rieng, Cambodia, which is being implemented with Japanese grant aid. This construction is a large-scale project costing approximately 2.88 billion yen. Kitakyushu City will provide technical guidance regarding construction supervision and facility operation during the construction stage.

This project is expected to improve the water supply coverage rate in the urban area of Svay Rieng City from 48.9% (as of 2019) to approximately 86.7%, and is believed to greatly contribute to the achievement of SDGs initiatives in the country.

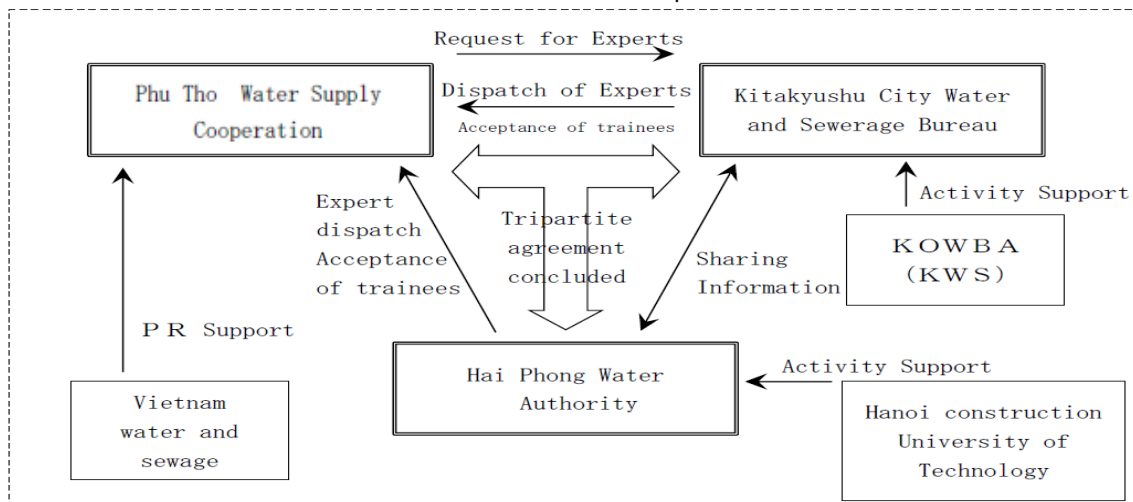
Drawing a new form of technical cooperation, moving beyond human resource development, and envisioning the future

A Technical Cooperation Agreement on Human Resource Development with Phu Tho Waterworks Corporation is signed!



Vietnam's Phu Tho Water Supply Corporation in Phu Tho city is one of the six cities that conducted demonstration experiments using ODA to confirm the applicability of Upflow Biological Contact Filtration (U-BCF), which is Kitakyushu City's own unique technological creation. As a result of re-examining the current situation and needs of each city, the Phu Tho Waterworks Public Corporation was faced with the issue of water leakage prevention measures and efficient operation of water treatment plants, which resulted in Kitakyushu City receiving a request for technical assistance.

Kitakyushu City and the Hai Phong Water Supply Authority of Hai Phong City, a sister city, have been collaborating on multiple projects, and this time as well, we will collaborate with the Hai Phong Water Authority and provide support from both Japan and Vietnam.



Space Business Seminar

Space professionals gather at Kitakyushu's Space LABO! ~ Establishment of "Kitakyushu Space Business Network" ~

The space industry continues to grow rapidly on a global scale. Kitakyushu City is working to promote the space industry by leveraging its strengths, which includes manufacturing, IT-related companies, and universities with knowledge of space. A seminar for representatives from companies across Japan was held at the planetarium in Space LABO, regarding space business and satellite development.

At the same time, people were invited to join the Kitakyushu Space Business Network, a community that takes on the challenge of new space-related businesses and research and development.



A storage battery-related company that is drawing attention from around the world has opened a research and development base in the Kitakyushu Science and Research Park!

Location agreement with Soft Energy Controls Co., Ltd.



Soft Energy Controls Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Kokura Kita-ku, Kitakyushu City) is building a new research and development and manufacturing base in the **Kitakyushu Science and Research Park** of Wakamatsu Ward in order to respond to the rapid expansion of the storage battery market including those used for electric vehicles/EVs.

At the new base, there are plans to collaborate with battery manufacturers to develop charging/discharging testing equipment for next-generation storage batteries, which will require even greater performance and reliability with the shift to EVs. This decision will be an opportunity to revitalize the local economy by creating new jobs, increasing logistics, collaborating with local companies, and gathering storage battery-related companies.

Collaboration agreement for the promotion of regional green transformation initiatives

IHI/IBM Japan/Kitakyushu City Thermal Management Project Starts! Achieving carbon neutrality in heat

The Thermal Management Project will be implemented by three parties: IHI, which will be the main actor in commercialization, IBM Japan, which will provide digital support, and Kitakyushu City, which will be responsible for involving the entire region, including companies and researchers.

With the cooperation of companies in Kitakyushu, this is a ground-breaking demonstration, unprecedented in the country, which will include visualization of heat, optimal operation of equipment, and exchange of thermal energy between companies and local areas.



The capital backup concept gains momentum! Location agreement established on January 29, 2024

Nihon Parkerizing Co., Ltd. decides to build Japan's largest mother factory in Kitakyushu City



Nihon Parkerizing Co., Ltd., which boasts the No. 1 market share in Japan as a *metal surface treatment chemical manufacturer, is revising its global production system in preparation for its 100th anniversary in 2028. With their headquarters located in the Chuo Ward of Tokyo, Nihon Parkerizing Co., Ltd. has decided to establish Japan's largest manufacturing base (a factory with virtually zero carbon emissions) in Kitakyushu City, with the aim of increasing production capacity and improving productivity.

Specifically, the plan is to serve as a base for passing on technique and technology overseas, fostering diverse human resources, as well as a BCP response base in consideration of frequently occurring natural disasters.

*What are metal surface treatment chemicals?

Surface treatment chemicals are chemical products used for material cleaning, rust prevention, painting base, lubrication, design, etc. in all industrial fields such as automobiles and steel.

Japan's first cargo-only aircraft! Starts operation in April 2024

Yamato Group's cargo plane makes its first flight to Kitakyushu Airport

Yamato Holdings Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as the "Yamato Group") and Japan Airlines Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as the "JAL Group") have jointly begun operating a cargo aircraft to build a sustainable logistics network.

Yamato Group and JAL Group held an equipment tour (preview) of Japan's first cargo aircraft (Airbus A321-200P2F) at Kitakyushu Airport.



Provided by: Yamato Holdings Co., Ltd.

Star Flyer's Kitakyushu-Taipei route charter flight operation!

Promoting inbound tourism from Taipei during the Lunar New Year

Star Flyer operated a charter flight between Kitakyushu and Taipei during the Lunar New Year period in February 2024. (Operating period: February 9th to 18th)

To celebrate the launch of the charter flight, a welcome event was held upon the arrival of the first flight on February 9th to welcome customers from Taipei.

In addition, all four charter flights were a great success with almost all seats reserved, allowing passengers to enjoy Kitakyushu and the surrounding areas to the fullest.



Statue of Sun Yat-sen created by Wu Weishan installed at the Former Residence of Yaskawa

Unveiling ceremony and commemorative lecture held



Kitakyushu City received a donation of a statue of Sun Yat-sen from Mr. Wu Weishan, director of the Chinese Museum of Art, and installed it in the Former Residence of Yaskawa in Tobata Ward. The Former Residence of Yaskawa was established by Keiichiro Yasukawa, a businessman who led the modernization of Kitakyushu. It was here where Sun Yat-sen, a key historical figure in modern Chinese history, had stayed 111 years ago when visiting Kitakyushu in 1913. The bronze statue's design is based on a photograph of Mr. Sun Yat-sen when he visited the residence at the age of 46.

The unveiling ceremony was held on November 12, Sun Yat-sen's birthday, and Mayor Takeuchi introduced a message on behalf of Mr. Wu Weishan, saying, "I pray that this statue will become a landmark of friendship."

In addition, after the unveiling ceremony, a commemorative lecture was held with the title "Sun Yat-sen and the people of the Yasukawa and Matsumoto families."



The Kitakyushu City Fans Appreciation Festival was held in Tokyo!

A 60th Anniversary Gathering!



On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Kitakyushu's founding, a networking event was held at Happon in Tokyo's Minato Ward called the Kitakyushu City Fans Appreciation Festival, where people connected to Kitakyushu who are active in Tokyo had gathered. More than 300 people participated, including high school alumni, members of the Diet, government officials, ambassadors and embassy officials, and was a great success.

In the first part, Ken Mitsuishi and Miyu Yoshimoto, actors from Kitakyushu who appeared in the Kitakyushu International Film Festival, were invited to have a talk session with Kitakyushu Mayor Kazuhisa Takeuchi on the theme of "Kitakyushu and Cinema."

In the second part, the Mayor Takeuchi gave a report on city administration.

Mayor Chen Shaowang of Dalian, China visits Kitakyushu for the first time!

45th Anniversary of Friendship City Agreement

To commemorate the 45th anniversary of the friendship city agreement between Kitakyushu and the city of Dalian in China on May 1st, 2024, a delegation from Dalian City, headed by the Mayor of Dalian, Mayor Chen Shaowang, had visited Kitakyushu City on February 28th. This is Mayor Chen's first visit to Kitakyushu City.

While in the city, the delegation had visited Yaskawa Electric, Kitakyushu Eco Town, and other sites, and then held a press conference with the Mayor of Kitakyushu, Mayor Takeuchi.



At the press conference, Mayor Takeuchi said, "I would like to utilize the technology and experience, in overcoming pollution, that both our cities have cultivated to date, and deepen our cooperation in business as well." Mayor Chen touched on the current situation in which the industrial structure is being rapidly transforming in order to get closer to achieving the goal of being a decarbonized society, and said, "I would like to learn from the experiences of Kitakyushu. Let's push for exchanges between the two sides to a new stage."

After the press conference, local companies of Kitakyushu that have expanded their business to Dalian had interacted and exchanged with one another.



[Dalian and Kitakyushu Friendship City Agreement Date]
May 1, 1979

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Kitakyushu City
Promotion Movie