



25th Anniversary of Delaware-Miyagi Sister State Relations

Congratulatory Messages From Governor Carney and Governor Murai

カーニー知事と村井知事による祝辞



STATE OF DELAWARE
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Dear Governor Murai,

I am very pleased to honor the 25th Anniversary of our Sister State relationship.

Over the last quarter of a century, we have provided the opportunity for our government employees to visit and learn from one another, we have fostered connections between our universities, and we have facilitated connections with our respective businesses. Whether it is broadening connections in research collaboration at the university level or promoting Miyagi food products in Delaware, we have enjoyed the many opportunities this Miyagi – Delaware Sister State relationship has provided.

This special relationship has seen notable success with our student exchanges. Its impacts are both tangible and beyond measure. In the last 25 years, over 800 students from Miyagi have visited Delaware and over 400 Delaware students have visited Miyagi, hosted by the local families. Not only have the students benefited from this exchange, but so too have the host families as they play a vital part of this wonderful program.

The ties that our existing student exchanges have created are broad and deep. Providing the opportunity for our young people to travel to both Delaware and Miyagi and learn from one another about our unique cultures is critical in today's global marketplace. We will continue to work to maintain and grow this important aspect of our Sister State relationship.

We were very happy to plant Miyagi's tree, the Japanese zelkova, on the grounds of the Buena Vista estate as a living testament to the friendship we have created with this special partnership. I am pleased to report that the tree is thriving. May this tree, just like our Sister State relationship, continue to grow over the years to come.

Sincerely,

John C. Carney
Governor, State of Delaware



村井知事殿、

姉妹州県締結25周年に際し心よりお祝い申し上げます。

私たちは、25年にわたり職員の相互訪問を通じ理解を深めるとともに、州県の大学間の連携強化や、ビジネス分野での関係促進を図ってまいりました。大学レベルでの研究連携やデラウェア州における宮城県産品のPRなど、デラウェア州-宮城県の姉妹関係により、私たちは多くの機会を得ることができました。

この特別な関係における特筆すべき成果は学生交流であり、その影響は目に見えて大きなものです。25年間で、宮城県からは800名を超える学生が、デラウェア州からは400名を超える学生が相互に訪問し、地元の家族がホストファミリーを務めました。学生たちだけでなく、この素晴らしい事業の一翼を担うホストファミリーも、交流の恩恵を受けています。

現在に続く学生交流を生み出したこのつながりは太く、また深いものです。若者たちに、デラウェア州や宮城県を訪問し、それぞれの独自の文化を学ぶ機会を与えることは、こんにちのグローバルな市場においても極めて重要です。私たちはこれからも、姉妹交流のこの重要な側面を維持し、さらなる発展に努めてまいります。

私たちの友好の「生ける証」として、以前、宮城の県木ケヤキをデラウェア州の迎賓館ブエナ・ビスタの敷地に植樹したことは大変喜ばしいことでした。ケヤキは今も成長しています。この木が、私たちの姉妹関係と同じように、これから何年も成長し続けていくことを切に願います。

ジョン・C・カーニー
デラウェア州知事

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宮城県とデラウェア州の姉妹州の締結から、本年で25周年を迎えました。

本県とデラウェア州は、1997年に姉妹関係となって以来、教育、行政、経済分野など、多様な交流を通じ、相互の理解と尊敬を深めてまいりました。両州の四半世紀に及ぶ友好の歩みにおいて、州都であるドーバー市と岩沼市の友好都市提携や、両州の大学、高校における学生交流など、交流の裾野が広がり、両州の住民が国境を越え草の根レベルで親交を深めていることを大変喜ばしく思います。また、本県産品の州内での紹介や、両州の企業のビジネスマッチングなど、経済分野での交流も益々盛んになっております。

2011年に発生した東日本大震災から本年で11年が経過しました。私たち宮城県民は、震災の際にデラウェア州の皆様から頂戴した温かい御支援を決して忘れません。現在、復興が進む沿岸各地には、震災遺構や伝承施設が完成し、防災教育や震災の記憶を後の世代に伝えるための取組が進められています。皆様から頂戴した御支援は、両州の友好の証として、これからも感謝とともに語り伝えてまいります。

現在、私たちは新型コロナウイルス感染症という世界的な脅威に直面しています。この未曾有の事態を乗り越え、アフターコロナの時代への変化の中にあって、25年にわたり育んできたこの関係は益々重要なものとなるでしょう。デラウェア州の迎賓館ブエナ・ビスタに植樹されたケヤキの木のように、両州の友好関係が、若い世代に引き継がれながら一層伸びやかに成長していくことを確信しております。

宮城県知事 村井 嘉浩



This year marks the 25th anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Miyagi Prefecture and the State of Delaware.

Since the start of the sister-state relationship between Delaware and our prefecture in 1997, we have deepened our mutual understanding and respect through exchanges in a variety of fields including education, public administration, and business. It delights me to see the efforts citizens of Delaware and Miyagi have undertaken these past 25 years to strengthen our close friendship through an expanding range of initiatives that take place at the grassroots-level and transcend borders, from establishing a friendship city relationship between Delaware's capital city of Dover and Iwanuma City, to student exchange programs between our universities and high schools. Furthermore, on the economic front, from the introduction of Miyagi products to Delaware and businesses matching in Miyagi and Delaware, our exchange continues to thrive.

Eleven years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred in 2011. The people of Miyagi will never forget the kind support we received from the people of Delaware in the wake of the disaster. Presently, reconstruction in coastal areas is progressing, and in these areas the preservation of disaster remains as well as disaster memorial facilities have been completed. Efforts are also underway to provide disaster prevention education and to continue to pass on memories of the disaster to future generations. The support we received from Delaware is a testament to our friendship, and we will continue to express our gratitude and pass our stories on.

We are currently facing the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected the international community. In the midst of this stage where we find ourselves overcoming this unprecedented situation and transitioning to an era after COVID-19, the relationship we have cultivated over these past 25 years will surely become more important than ever. Just like the zelkova tree that grows on the grounds of Buena Vista, I am certain that the friendship between Miyagi and Delaware will grow even deeper for generations to come.

Yoshihiro Murai, Governor of Miyagi Prefecture



1997

The Governor of Delaware Tom Carper visits Miyagi Prefecture and Miyagi and Delaware officially become sister states.

2007

Governor of Miyagi Yoshihiro Murai visits Delaware to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the sister state relationship.



2011

In the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake, Delaware Governor Jack Markell establishes the Delaware Fund for Miyagi, Japan. Delaware's Secretary of State Jeffrey Bullock visits Miyagi to delivery the raised funds as well as to visit sites affected by the disaster.

2012

Representatives from Miyagi visit Dover to deliver an update on Miyagi's status after the disaster and to express gratitude for the support of their sister state. Later in the year, the Governor of Delaware visits Miyagi to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the sister state relationship.



2013

Miyagi hosts a business matching event to promote partnership between businesses from Delaware and Miyagi.



2014

Miyagi products are sold in a Delaware supermarket for the first time, giving Delawareans a chance to experience parts of Miyagi while close to home.



2017

The Vice Governor of Miyagi visits Delaware to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the sister state relationship; a zelkova tree, the prefectural tree of Miyagi, is planted on the grounds of Buena Vista as a symbol of friendship.



2020

Delegation from the Miyagi Prefectural Government visits Dover City and holds "An Evening of Miyagi Sake" event at the Biggs Museum of American Art.



Where is Miyagi?

Located in the Tohoku Region of Japan, Miyagi Prefecture is the most populous prefecture in northern Honshu (Japanese main island)



The area around Miyagi has been inhabited continuously for thousands of years. Date Masamune founded Sendai City in 1601 and laid the foundation of modern Miyagi.

A Region Steeped in History



Saihoji Temple
One of the largest temples in Miyagi with a history of over 800 years.



Sairiyashiki
A preserved merchant residence from the Edo period (1603-1867).



Sendai City, the commercial heart of Tohoku, is the capital of Miyagi. Sendai is a bustling modern metropolis with a population of over a million people.



Symbol of Miyagi Prefecture

Population

2.28 million

Land Area

2811.68 square miles

Prefectural GDP

10.3 trillion Yen



Miyagi land of contrasts

Matsushima Bay, one of the “Three Most Scenic Spots in Japan” is the most famous destination in Miyagi, attracting millions of visitors per year.



Despite being a modern industrialized prefecture with a large urbanized population, Miyagi retains much of the rustic allure from medieval Japan. Ancient towns and castles reminiscent of the Edo period dot the landscape and the prefecture is renowned for its beautiful nature and delicious food.



Photo Credit: Photon Science Innovation Center

At the same time, Miyagi is home to a number of world leading R&D institutions such as the Tohoku University. Working with the National Institutes for Quantum Science and Technology, the Next-generation Synchrotron Facility is currently under construction in Miyagi and is set to start operation in FY 2024.

Education Exchanges

Iwanuma City and the City of Dover have been friendship cities since 2003 and this agreement has led to a multitude of exchanges between the two cities. As part of this bilateral exchange, both Dover and Iwanuma regularly send students on school exchange and host stay programs, building friendships that cross borders.



Kakuda High School in Kakuda City, Miyagi and Dover High School in Dover, Delaware became sister schools in 2005. Students from each school participate in mutual cultural exchange activities ranging from writing letters to homestays.

List of Education Exchanges:

Kakuda High School – Dover High School

Sendai Nika High School – Middletown High School

Sendai Nika High School – Cape Henlopen High School

Miyagi University – University of Delaware

Miyagi University of Education – Delaware State University

Commercial Exchanges

As part of our sister state relationship, Delaware and Miyagi are engaged in a wide range of business and commercial exchanges. These exchanges began in earnest in 2011, when an event was held to introduce Miyagi's products, including Sendai miso and Miyagi's sake to Delaware.



Additionally "Taste of Miyagi," a sales event featuring Miyagi's local products, took place at a Delaware supermarket annually. Other similar efforts and projects aiming for market expansion have also been under way.

Government Exchanges



In 2007, Miyagi Governor Murai visited Delaware to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the sister state relationship and signed an agreement to further strengthen commercial exchange.



Then-Delaware Governor Jack Markell visited Miyagi in 2012 to mark the 15th anniversary of the sister-state relationship. This was followed by a reciprocal visit to Delaware of a delegation led by the Vice Governor of Miyagi in 2017, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary.



3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake

The Great East Japan Earthquake and the subsequent tsunami struck on March 11th, 2011, devastating Miyagi Prefecture. Worldwide, the outpouring of humanitarian support for disaster-struck areas in the face of this crisis was immediate, and the people of Delaware were also heavily involved in this effort.



Then-Vice President Joe Biden, formerly US Senator from Delaware, visited Miyagi Prefecture to survey the aftermath of the disaster and offer the people of Miyagi ongoing friendship and support.



Just days after the disaster, the Delaware Fund for Miyagi, Japan was created under the leadership of former governor Markell and a luncheon fundraiser was held in Dover Downs on April 14.



An elementary school in Wilmington started the “Pennies for Miyagi” penny drive and other schools in Delaware also hosted fundraising events in their schools that individually raised over \$1000 per school.



Photo Credit: US Air Force



Photo Credit: US Air Force

Dover Air Force Base also played a vital role in Operation Tomodachi, the US Armed Forces’ effort to render humanitarian aid to Japan. Over 70,000 pounds of supplies as well as a search and rescue team were ferried to Miyagi from Dover Air Force Base following the Great East Japan Earthquake. Middle school students from Iwanuma City and Vice Governor of Miyagi paid visits to the base to express their gratitude.



Photo Credit: US Air Force