

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SISTER STATE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, U.S.A. AND HYOGO PREFECTURE, JAPAN

The State of Washington, U.S.A. and Hyogo Prefecture, Japan established a sister state relationship on October 22, 1963. Since then, this relationship has developed across a wide variety of fields, including education, culture, and business.

Over the years, we have successfully solidified ties fueled by exchanges, which have included the establishment of the Hyogo Business & Cultural Center in Washington State, the promotion of cultural and economic activities through sister city partnerships between 13 cities in Washington and 11 cities in Hyogo, and friendly exchanges between sister high schools and university programs.

The year 2023 marks the 60th anniversary of this unique sister state relationship. On this memorable occasion, the Hyogo Friendship Mission led by the Governor of Hyogo Prefecture is visiting the State of Washington. The Hyogo delegation will be participating in ceremonial events and celebrating this long-standing friendship together with the citizens of the State of Washington.

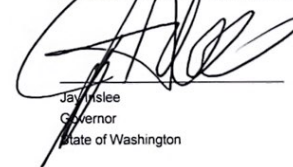
The State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture share the belief that it is important to address issues and threats common to all humanity, such as climate change, large-scale disasters, infectious disease, and illness. The State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture also recognize that international exchange starts from grassroots interaction at the person-to-person level. It is our hope that through grassroots programs in the fields of business, culture, education, the environment, and disaster risk reduction, our sister state relationship will contribute to the resolution of global issues and promote world peace.

In recognition of the past 60 years of friendship and cooperation and our desire for continued peace and prosperity between our two regions, we hereby agree to the following fundamental objectives:

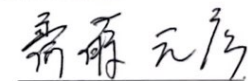
1. The State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture will continue to promote mutual exchanges in the fields of business, culture, tourism, and education. In addition, the State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture will encourage independent goodwill and exchange activities of local governments, educational institutions, private organizations, and citizens of the two regions.
2. The State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture will collaborate to address global issues, such as climate change, the transition to clean energy, and disaster risk reduction in collaboration with other local governments around the world.
3. In order to further the economic growth of the two regions, the State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture will work with business interests in both regions to promote the greater expansion of trade and investment opportunities, as well as collaborative initiatives among startups and entrepreneurs, etc. from both regions.

4. The State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture will actively promote interaction among their municipalities and other organizations that have "sister relations", fostering diverse exchange activities. These activities will encompass personnel exchanges between the sister marinas and the high school teacher dispatch program to the State of Washington. Efforts will also be directed towards promoting women's participation and advancement in the business sphere.
5. The State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture will encourage citizens of both regions to interact through visits between our sister states. To facilitate such interactions, especially on the occasion of the World Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai and the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture will advocate for the resumption of direct flights between Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and Kansai International Airport and cooperate in exchanges through tourism promotion.
6. The State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture will promote academic and research exchanges between universities in both regions and between the American Society for Public Administration and the Hyogo Administrative Policy Studies Association. In addition, the State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture will work to enrich exchange programs for researchers and international students.

This joint communiqué of September 13, 2023, is signed in the presence of representatives of the State of Washington and participants of the Hyogo Friendship Mission.



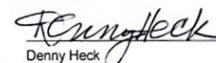
Jay Inslee
Governor
State of Washington



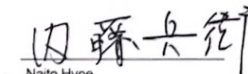
Saito Motohiko
Governor
Hyogo Prefecture

Witness:

Witness:



Denny Heck
Lieutenant Governor
State of Washington



Naito Hyoe
The 126th Speaker
Hyogo Prefectural Assembly