

JOINT COMMUNIQUE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 55<sup>TH</sup> 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 & Culture 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 2018 marks the 55th 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 Washington State.

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 large-scale disasters, environmental degradation, disease, illness and terrorism. 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.

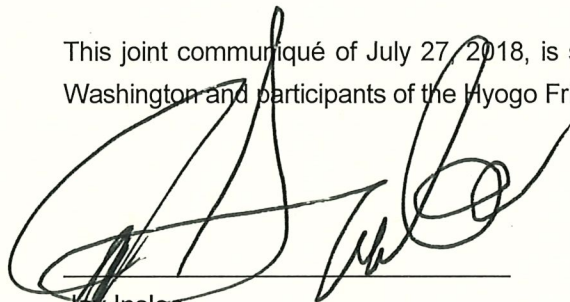
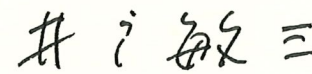
In recognition of the past 55 years of friendship and cooperation and our desire for continued peace and prosperity between our two regions, we hereby agree to the following fundamental objectives:

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 the environment, disaster management and the use of clean energy 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.




4. The State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture will actively promote interaction between their municipalities and other organizations that have "sister relations", and encourage exchange activities in various fields, such as personnel exchange between the sister marinas and the high school teacher dispatch program to the State of Washington based on our friendship agreement on education.
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 interaction, 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 the holding of the Japan-America Grassroots Summits and tourism exchange through tourist attraction.
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.

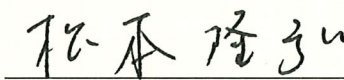
This joint communiqué of July 27, 2018, is signed in the presence of representatives of the State of Washington and participants of the Hyogo Friendship Mission.

  
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Jay Inslee  
Governor  
State of Washington  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Toshizo Ido  
Governor  
Hyogo Prefecture

Witness:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cyrus Habib  
Lieutenant Governor  
State of Washington

Witness:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Takahiro Matsumoto  
The 121<sup>st</sup> Speaker  
Hyogo Prefectural Assembly