



Yokohama and Incheon Metropolitan City, Korea concluded partnership city agreement

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN –Thursday, December 24, 2009 – On December 23, The City of Yokohama signed the partnership city agreement with Incheon Metropolitan City at Incheon municipal office. Being the third largest city in Korea and having an international hub airport, Incheon Metropolitan City is expected to grow substantially as a business city for the years to come. Based on the agreement, the two cities will promote exchanges in various fields through March 2013.

Yokohama has been promoting exchanges to foster friendship with overseas cities in various fields. In parallel, in partnership with The Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Yokohama has been progressing inter-city cooperation, utilizing technology and know-how developed by Yokohama. In promoting economic exchanges, Yokohama helps Yokohama-based companies to establish overseas operations and vice versa such as attracting foreign enterprises to the city. “The partnership city” agreement is promoted with a predetermined purpose and time frame as part of such exchange projects, and Incheon Metropolitan City, with which Yokohama has forged agreement, is the 6th “partnership city.”

【Framework of partnership city agreement between the City of Yokohama and Incheon Metropolitan City】

◆Areas of exchanges

- tourism promotion and facilitating exchanges between convention facilities in both cities
- urban development - environmental measures
- exchanges between Naka-ku of Yokohama and Jung-gu district of Incheon
- cooperation at The Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET)

◆Period of exchange

December 23, 2009 ~ March 31, 2013

【Signing ceremony】

Mayor Fumiko Hayashi signed partnership city agreement with Mayor Ahn Sang-Soo of Incheon Metropolitan City.

◆Date and time: 12:00 p.m., December 23, 2009 (the same as Japan time)

◆Location: Incheon Metropolitan City Hall



※ For requesting photograph, please contact the following office.

*** Remarks from the Mayor of the City of Yokohama**

Incheon's point of view for city planning is comparable to that of Yokohama in that both cities balance preservation of historical heritages and striving for an internationally renowned economic city. We are hopeful that this partnership city agreement will contribute to development and prosperity of both cities. We would like to enrich the partnership city agreement being signed in this commemorative year when Yokohama commemorates the 15th anniversary of Yokohama port opening and Incheon city held The Global Fair & Festival.

【Overview of Incheon Metropolitan City】

- ◆ A total area: 1,010.3km²
- ◆ Population: about 2,743,000 (as of March 2009) * The third largest city following Seoul and Busan.
- ◆ Features: Incheon Metropolitan City aims to flourish as an international city in the areas of international tourism centering on Incheon International Airport (Opened in March 2009), logistics and knowledge-based information technology.
- ◆ Some common points with Yokohama: being adjacent to the capital city, being a port city, having a China town.

【Milestone in major exchanges activities between the City of Yokohama and Incheon Metropolitan City】

- ◆ August 1996: Che, Mayor of Incheon paid a courtesy call to Takahide, Mayor of Yokohama. (Expressed an aspiration to have sister city/sister port partnership)
- ◆ August 1996: Lee, Incheon city's Deputy Mayor inspected Nissan Stadium.
- ◆ March 1997: Kim, Chairperson of Incheon Metropolitan Council paid a courtesy call to Nakamura, Chairperson of Yokohama City Council.
- ◆ June 1998: Che, Mayor of Incheon held a meeting with Takahide, Mayor of Yokohama in Seoul.
- ◆ November 2007: An, Chairperson of Incheon Metropolitan Council submitted a written proposal for exchanges. (Partnership city request)
- ◆ April 2009: Park, Mayor of Jung-gu district of Incheon Metropolitan City visited Naka Ward of Yokohama
- ◆ May 2009: Hong, Deputy Mayor for Political Affairs visited Yokohama (Participated in a ceremony commemorating the 150th anniversary of Yokohama port opening and paid a courtesy call to the Mayor of Yokohama to express a request for an official partnership city agreement.)
- ◆ September 2009: Deputy Mayor Noda visited Incheon. (Concluded a memorandum of understanding with Hong, Deputy Mayor for Political Affairs for the partnership city agreement)

【Other partnership cities】

The city of Yokohama promotes "partnership city" initiatives with the following cities in such specific themes as internationalization of Haneda Airport and stimulation of economy, within a predetermined period.

City	Theme	Time frame
Beijing	Promoting exchanges in business, tourism, sports and cultures in tandem with the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games	2006.5.17~2010.3.31
Busan Metropolitan City	Promoting exchanges in a bid to realize Haneda – Busan direct flight route as part of internationalization of Haneda Airport in 2010 Haneda - Busan direct flight is scheduled to commence.	2006.6.25~2010.3.31
Taipei	Developing exchanges in cultures, tourism, education and sports.	2006.5.22~2010.3.31

Ho Chi Minh City	phase I	Economic exchanges to mutually support and enhance trade, investment and business missions	2007.10.2~2009.10.22
	Phase II	Promoting exchanges in student exchanges and sewage planning cooperation besides economic cooperation	2009.11.26~2013.3.31
Hanoi City		Strengthening cooperation in a bid to realize direct flight route for Haneda – Hanoi Noi Bai International Airport	2007.11.1~2011.3.31

Please contact the following for further inquiries and applications.

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