



The History of Sister City Ichikikushikino and Salinas



Ichikikushikino International Association
Ichikikushikino-Salinas Sister City Association

1. Sister City



Kushikino City established a relationship with the city of Salinas on May 27, 1979, and the Kushikino-Salinas Sister City Association was founded on June 19th of the same year. The purpose of this organization is to preserve the will of the 2nd and 3rd generation Japanese Americans and nurture youth with a global perspective.

After the municipal merge with Ichiki Town, Ichikikushikino City signed anew on August 4, 2006. In 2019, our city celebrated the 40th anniversary of our relationship.

2. Ichikikushikino City

Ichikikushikino is located in the west of Kagoshima Prefecture with a population of about 27,300 (As of March 2021). Being adjacent to the Eastern China Sea and surrounded by beautiful nature, it is blessed with delicious foods and produce, including fresh tuna, citrus fruits, and Shochu, a Japanese liquor distilled from potatoes.



Seafood Rice Bowl



Pomelo



Shochu

3. Associated Places and Events

1) A Monument Honoring a Group of Emigrants to the United States

- Established
November 1998
- Location
Ichikikushikino Civic Cultural Center



2) International Exchange Showcase



- Location
Ichikikushikino City Hall

3) Cherry Blossom Trees (Commemorative Trees)

- Location
Ichikikushikino City Hall
- 10th Anniversary
- 20th Anniversary
- 50th Municipal Founding Anniversary
- Creation of Ichikikushikino



4) Kushikino Sanosa Festival

- Event Date
July 19 (festival eve)
July 20 (festival day)
- Place
The central shopping street of
Kushikino area



4. Exchange History

Exchange Chronology			
CE	Dates	Ichikikushikino	Salinas
1979	May 27, 1979	Sister City Alliance Formed	
	Nov 1-10, 1979	Friendship Visit to Salinas (47 delegates)	
1980	Oct 1-2, 1980		Friendship Visit for 30th Anniversary of Municipal Founding (23 delegates including City Councilman)
1983	Jun 20-26, 1983		7 Alisal Educators visit Kushikino
	Nov 5-14, 1983	Friendship Visit to Salinas (23 delegates including Mayor Tsukada and 9 legislators)	
1985	Oct 23-30, 1985	Friendship Visit to Salinas (9 delegates including Vice Chairperson Yotsuo Gatamura)	
1987	May 12-13, 1987		Salinas Mayor James B. Barnes and wife visit Kushikino
	Jun 24 - Jul 4, 1987		1st Student Delegation to Kushikino (8 students, 2 staff)
1989	Apr 14-17, 1989		Visit for 10th Anniversary of Sister City Relationship (36 delegates including Mayor Russell Jeffries)
	Nov 2-10, 1989	Observational Friendship Visit to Salinas (34 delegates)	

CE	Dates	Ichikikushikino	Salinas
1990	Jul 12-23, 1990		2nd Student Delegation to Kushikino (8 students, 2 staff)
	Jul 23 - Aug 5, 1990	1st Student Delegation to Salinas (10 students, 2 staff)	
	Sep 30 - Oct 3, 1990		Friendship Visit for 40th Anniversary of Municipal Founding (25 delegates including Mayor Russell Jeffries)
1992	Mar 26 - Apr 5, 1992	2nd Student Delegation to Salinas (8 students, 2 staff)	
1993	Jun 26- Jul 5, 1993		3rd Student Delegation to Kushikino (6 students, 2 staff)
1994	Mar 26 - Apr 5, 1994	3rd Student Delegation to Salinas (8 students, 2 staff)	
	Oct 25 - Nov 4, 1994	Friendship Visit to Salinas for Sister City 15th Anniversary (39 delegates including 11 legislators)	
1996	Mar 26 - Apr 5, 1996	4th Student Delegation to Salinas (8 students, 2 staff)	
1997	Jun 26 - Jul 4, 1997		4th Student Delegation to Kushikino (7 students, 2 staff)
1998	Mar 26 - Apr 5, 1998	5th Student Delegation to Salinas (8 students, 2 staff)	
1999	Jul 28 - Aug 4, 1999		5th Student Delegation to Kushikino (5 students, 2 staff)
	Jul 31, 1999	Salinas Fair for Sister City 20th Anniversary	
	Sep 30 - Oct 5, 1999	Friendship Visit for Sister City 20th Anniversary (45 delegates including Mayor Tominaga)	
2000	Aug 4-17, 2000	6th Student Delegation to Salinas (8 students, 2 staff)	
	Sep 29 - Oct 3, 2000		Friendship Visit for 50th Anniversary of Municipal Founding (30 delegates including Mayor Anna M. Caballero)

CE	Dates	Ichikikushikino	Salinas
2001	Jul 3-12, 2001		6th Student Delegation to Kushikino (6 students, 2 staff)
2002	Aug 6-20, 2002	7th Student Delegation to Salinas (8 students, 2 staff)	
2003	Jul 13-21, 2003		7th Student Delegation to Kushikino (8 students, 2 staff)
2004	Aug 5-19, 2004	8th Student Delegation to Salinas (8 students, 2 staff)	
	Sep 30 - Oct 7, 2004	Friendship Visit for Sister City 25th Anniversary (18 delegates including Mayor Tabata)	
2005	Jul 17-25, 2005		8th Student Delegation to Kushikino (9 students, 2 staff)
2006	Jan 26-31, 2006	Visit for North America Immigration 50th Anniversary Ceremony (6 delegates including City Council Chairperson Takenouchi)	
	Feb 3-8, 2006		Friendship Visit to Celebrate New City (4 delegates including Salinas SCA Chairperson)
	Aug 3-17, 2006 (Visit: Aug 3-7, 2006)	9th Student Delegation to Salinas (8 students, 2 staff) Sister City Pledge Signing Visit (4 delegates including Mayor Tabata)	
2007	Jul 19-26, 2007		9th Student Delegation to Ichikikushikino (7 students, 2 staff)
2008	Aug 5-20, 2008	10th Student Delegation to Salinas (8 students, 2 staff)	
2009	Jul 19-28, 2009		10th Student Delegation to Ichikikushikino (10 students, 2 staff)
2010	Feb 2-9, 2010	Friendship Visit for Sister City 30th Anniversary (17 delegates including Mayor Tabata and City Council Chairperson Takenouchi)	
	Aug 5-18, 2010	11th Student Delegation to Salinas (6 students, 2 staff)	
	Oct 7-12, 2010		Visit Commemorating 5th Anniversary of Ichikikushikino City (Mayor Dennis Donohue, Salinas SCA Chairperson, Vice Chairperson)
2011	Jul 18-26, 2011		11th Student Delegation to Ichikikushikino (8 students, 2 staff)

CE	Dates	Ichikikushikino	Salinas
2012	Aug 6-21, 2012	12th Student Delegation to Salinas (8 students, 2 staff)	
2013	Jul 9-17, 2013		12th Student Delegation to Ichikikushikino (8 students, 2 staff)
2014	Feb 1-8, 2014	Friendship Visit for Sister City 35th Anniversary (20 delegates including Mayor Tabata and City Council Chairperson Shimosakoda)	
	Aug 5-19, 2014	13th Student Delegation to Salinas (8 students, 1 staff)	
2015	Jul 14-20, 2015		13th Student Delegation to Ichikikushikino (7 students, 2 staff)
	Oct 9-12, 2015		Visit Commemorating 10th Anniversary of Ichikikushikino City (10 delegates including Salinas SCA Chairperson)
2016	Aug 9-24, 2016	14th Student Delegation to Salinas (8 students, 2 staff)	
2017	Jul 11-18, 2017		14th Student Delegation to Ichikikushikino (9 students, 2 staff)
2018	Feb 11-17, 2018	Sister City 39th Anniversary Thank You Visit (9 delegates including Chairperson Gatanaga)	
	Aug 7-21, 2018	15th Student Delegation to Salinas (8 students, 2 staff)	
2019	Jan 29 - Feb 5, 2019	Sister City 40th Anniversary Visit (12 delegates including Mayor Tabata, City Council Chair Hiraishi, and Chairperson Gatanaga)	
	Jul 9-16, 2019		15th Student Delegation to Ichikikushikino (10 students, 2 staff)
2020	—	Canceled due to COVID-19	
2021	—		Canceled due to COVID-19



5. Reference

A MONUMENT HONORING A GROUP OF EMIGRANTS TO THE UNITED STATES

After World War II, a gleam of hope was brought to the residents of Kushikino, a city in ruins and confusion. That hope manifested itself into a dream of immigration to California.

The honorable Mr. Zenichiro Uchida played a vital role in this immigration.

His prior experience with agriculture in California and his promotion of the immigration movement was an important contribution to this effort.

The combination of Mr. Uchida's work and the support of many experienced emigrants from Japan helped make this immigration from Kushikino a success.

From 1955 to 1956, 70 young people from Kushikino took part in the group immigration of 350 refugees from Kagoshima Prefecture.

Through the ACT OF AID FOR REFUGEES, they were permitted to move to California with their families.

After a great deal of hardship in California, the emigrants turned the wasteland they had been farming into rich fields forging a success from the fruits of their labor.

Moreover, the efforts of the settlers and the next generation created the groundwork for future international exchange.

As evident, Kushikino City greatly contributed to creating a cradle of postwar Japanese immigration to the United States.

Henceforth, we set up this monument stone to commend each emigrant from Kushikino and to honor the movement itself.

November 1998,

MAYOR OF KUSHIKINO

THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTATIVES HELP TO SET UP THE MONUMENT
FOR THE IMMIGRATION MOVEMENT TO THE UNITED STATES

CHIKASHI HARAGUCHI
MOTOJIRO TABUCHI
KOICHI GATANAGA
ATSUSHI KOKURYO

6. Contact Us



Ichikikushikino-Salinas Sister City Association



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Ichikikushikino International Association



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Ichikikushikino City



Policy Planning Section is responsible for International Exchange

Website

Boys and Girls, Be Ambitious!



15th exchange students from Salinas and Ichikikushikino

Creation Date: March, 2021