



【Performance of traditional Japanese dance at the Teatrul Național】

Reporting Yokohama's Major
International Projects

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40 years of sister city relations between Yokohama and Constanta commemorated with cultural exchange events

Constanta, Romania, which celebrated its 40th year of sister city relations with Yokohama this year, welcomed Yokohama City Council Vice President Hiroto Kato and Deputy Mayor Makoto Kashiwazaki to attend a cultural exchange event, including an introduction to Japanese culture, organized by the Yokohama Constanta Friendship Committee.

The Vice President and Deputy Mayor met with Constanta Mayor Decebal Fagadau in the presence of Mr. Kisaburo Ishii, Ambassador of Japan to Romania and Mr. Manabu Kobayashi, Honorary Consul of Romania in Yokohama at the City Hall on the 21st. Their conversation touched on an array of topics centered on culture, and the two parties discussed encouraging further exchange opportunities.

To commemorate the 40th year of sister city relations, the Friendship Committee also arranged for public performances, including traditional Japanese dance, music, and an International Haiku Festival. It reintroduced the mutual friendship of the two cities to the public and enabled this visit strengthen our bonds.

Also, members of the Committee presented a performance showcasing aspects of traditional Japanese culture to students at Ion Creangă, the only high school to offer Japanese language

courses in Romania. In addition to elegant, traditional Japanese dance, the entertainment included sword dances and *tsugaru*-shamisen as well as a calligraphy demonstration.



Mumbai Representative Office Director attends Round Table Meeting for India-Japan Tourism Promotion

To commemorate 2017 as "The Year of Japan-India Friendly Exchanges," the Consulate General of Japan to Mumbai sponsored the first Round Table Meeting for India-Japan Tourism Promotion, and Director Nobuyoshi Miyasaka of the City of Yokohama Mumbai Representative Office attended the meeting.

Aside from the Deputy Consul General, more than thirty representatives from the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation, Japanese airline companies, and Indian travel agencies attended the meeting.

The New Delhi branch of the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) opened this year as interest in Indian tourism to Japan continues to garner attention. The Mumbai office is working to develop even more effective methods to promote the city.



Dogwood "friendship blossom" trees bloom at Honmoku Sancho Park

Amid the lovely blossoms of sakura, tulips, and spring flowers, the dogwood trees that dot Honmoku Hill overlooking the sea have begun to bloom.

Mr. John Roos, the contemporary Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Japan, made a gift of dogwood trees to Yokohama to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the city's gift of sakura cherry blossom trees to Washington, D.C. in March 2013.

The saplings that three years ago stood no more than one and two meters tall have gracefully matured, and splendid flowers have bloomed that might well symbolize the renewed bond of friendship between the United States and Japan.

