

**NEWS RELEASE: Consulate General of Japan in Collaboration with Marx Layne & Company**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Dublin City and Mashiko Township Sign Friendship City Declaration**

**DETROIT, Mich. – December 17, 2015** – Mayor Mike Keenan of Dublin, Ohio, and Mayor Tomoyuki Otsuka of Mashiko Township, Tochigi Prefecture, Japan, took part in a special ceremony and reception in Dublin, Ohio on December 15th to formalize a Friendship City relationship.

Consul-General of Japan in Detroit, Mitsuhiro Wada and Political/Economic Consul, Yoshifumi Takemura partook in the event, as well as representatives of the Dublin City Council, Dublin City Schools, and the business community.

“The creation of this friendship city relationship is a wonderful example of bilateral cultural and economic exchange,” said Consul-General Wada, whose jurisdiction includes Michigan and Ohio, “I wholeheartedly believe that the citizens of Dublin and Mashiko will continue to develop their grassroots relationship for many years to come. Currently, There are 14 sister-city relations between Ohio and Japan in addition to the Ohio-Saitama sister state-prefecture relationship.”

In February, Mayor Keenan visited Mashiko Township where he met with Mayor Otsuka to discuss bilateral relations between the two cities. At that time, Mayor Keenan also visited the Taiko (traditional Japanese drumming) group in Mashiko which is closely connected with the Taiko group in Dublin. Another important purpose of Mayor Keenan’s visit to Japan was to reunite with a Japanese student who did a yearlong home stay with his family when his daughter was in elementary school. “It was a great trip,” Mayor Keenan stated to the local media, “I was treated very graciously.” Ms. Katsu returned to Dublin two year prior to attend Mayor Kennan’s daughter’s wedding.

Dublin is a center for Japanese nationals with over 2,200 people, as well as a Japanese business hub, consisting of 25 Japanese facilities and employing over 500 people. Mashiko township is know for their unique ceramic pottery.



*Photos used with permission from the City of Dublin*

***About the Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit***

*The Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit was established in 1993 by the Government of Japan to serve in the states of Michigan and Ohio. The Detroit office is one of 14 Japanese Consulates in the United States. The Consulate strives to promote better understanding of Japan and Japanese culture through educational and cultural programs. The office protects the interests of Japanese citizens and strengthens the Japan-U.S. alliance through furthering relations with local governments, companies, educational institutions, cultural organizations and the general public. For more information, visit [www.detroit.us.emb-japan.go.jp/index.htm](http://www.detroit.us.emb-japan.go.jp/index.htm) or call (313) 567-0120.*