

# Portrait of a Sister City:

Hakusan, Japan

# What is a Sister City?

The concept of the Sister City was established in the 1950s and formally recognized in 1967 when the relationships became a part of Sister Cities International (SCI). The mission statement of SCI is to “promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation — one individual, one community at a time.”

To celebrate this relationship with each of our five global neighbors, we have introduced the “Portrait of a Sister City” photography exhibit series.

# The Sister City Relationship

Mayor Mary Anne McCollum signed the sister city agreement between Columbia and Matto City on March 7, 1988. In 1993, Mayor Kumeo Hosokawa of Matto City, Japan donated funds to establish a cherry blossom grove in Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area. In 2005, Matto City merged with several towns and villages to form the city of Hakusan.

Between 1990 - 2008, nearly 500 middle and junior high school students participated in exchange programs between Columbia and Hakusan. On May 16, 2011, Mayor Bob McDavid and past exchange students rededicated the cherry grove and planted a tree in remembrance of the Honorable Mitsuo Kado, who served as Hakusan mayor from Nov. 30, 1998, until his death Oct. 24, 2010. The cherry grove continues to symbolize the enduring friendship between Columbia and Hakusan.

# Hakusan Logo



At the center is a symbol for nearby Mt. Hakusan. At the base, the first line represents the Tadori River while the two below represent the sea of Japan. These symbols are encompassed in an upwards pointing oval as a sign of Hakusan's vision to protect the natural environment while developing for the future.

# Get to Know Your Sister City: Hakusan, Japan

The city of Hakusan in the Ishikawa prefecture is about 300 km (180 mi.) west of Tokyo. Located between the Sea of Japan and the foothills of the Hakusan mountain range, the area receives some of the highest rainfall and snowfall in the country. The snow, persisting well past spring, gives Mt. Hakusan (White Mountain) its name.

Inside a national park, Mt. Hakusan is considered one of the three most beautiful mountains in Japan. Although it has not erupted since 1659, the 2,700 m mountain (8,865 ft) is classified as an active volcano. The Tadori River flows from the mountains to the city, eventually emptying into the Sea of Japan. Its water is sought after for growing rice and fresh produce, producing sake and use in industry.

The city is home to cultural traditions including Taiko drum manufacture and performance, sword making and hosts various temples and shrines.



**Change New Shimenata for New Year Day  
By: Kazuyuki Matsumoto**

Members of the Matto Photography Club from Hakusan, Japan shared photos of their city that explored the theme of a community as a place where we live, love, work, learn and play.

These photos were displayed in Columbia City Hall during an October 2013 visit to Columbia by members of the Hakusan International Association.

# Live



**Hakusan Forest Road**  
**Provided by: Hakusan City Hall**

# Live



**Matto Fire Festival**  
**By: Kenichi Takamoto**



# Live



**Dame Lake in Winter**  
**By: Yuko Baba**

# Live



**Tadori Gorge**  
**Provided by: Hakusan City Hall**

# Live



Shishi-mai, Lion Dance (Autumn Festival)  
By: Shinichi Hirose

# Love



Hakusan Woodland Park  
By: Masahiro Nakai

# Love



**Hakusan Okugu Shrine (top of Mt. Hakusan)  
Provided by: Hakusan City Hall**

# Love



**Snowman Festival in Shiramine District**  
**By: Ichizo Ikeda**

# Love



**Garden in Matto General Athletic Park  
By: Naoki Kawagishi**

# Love



**Senior Citizens**  
**Provided by: Hakusan City Hall**



# Work



After Harvest  
By: Akio Nakagawa

# Work



**Hakusan City Hall**  
**By: Naoki Kawagishi**

# Work



**Mikawa Fishing Port**  
**By: Masahiro Nakai**

# Work



**Karate - Winter Practice at Matto Beach**  
**By: Mikio Sugimoto**

# Work



Spring Scenery in Matto  
By: Yasuo Hatani

# Learn



**Elementary School**  
**Provided by: Hakusan City Hall**

# Learn



**Historical Shiramine District**  
**By: Takafumi Ogasawara**

# Learn



**Matto General Athletic Park**  
**By: Yasuo Hatani**



# Learn



**School at the Mountain Area  
Provided by: Hakusan City Hall**

# Learn



**Shishigashira, Lion Head Shishi World Museum**  
**Provided by: Hakusan City Hall**

# Play



**Water Park**  
**Provided by: Hakusan City Hall**

# Play



**Sunset in Matto Beach**  
**By: Takafumi Ogasawara**

# Play



From Shishiku Heights  
By: Akira Kitada

# Play



Hourai Festival  
By: Yoshikazu Matsubayashi

# Play



**Hakusan Ski Resort**  
**Provided by: Hakusan City Hall**

# Thanks for visiting Hakusan! Before you leave, learn to speak some Japanese phrases!

- Welcome!  
ようこそ！  
yo u ko so
- One, Two, Three  
いち、に、さん  
ichi, ni, san
- Where are you from?  
どこからのですか？  
dokokara kitano desuka?
- I'd like to visit Japan one day.  
いつか日本に行きたいです。  
itsuka nihonni ikitai desu.
- Good luck!  
お元気で！  
ogenkide!
- See you later!  
また会いましょう！  
mata ai masyou!