

Portrait of a Sister City: Hakusan, Japan

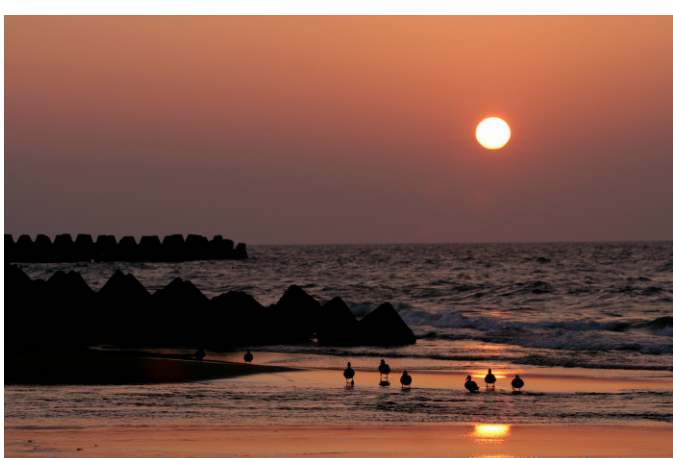
The Sister City Relationship

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.

Portrait of a Sister City

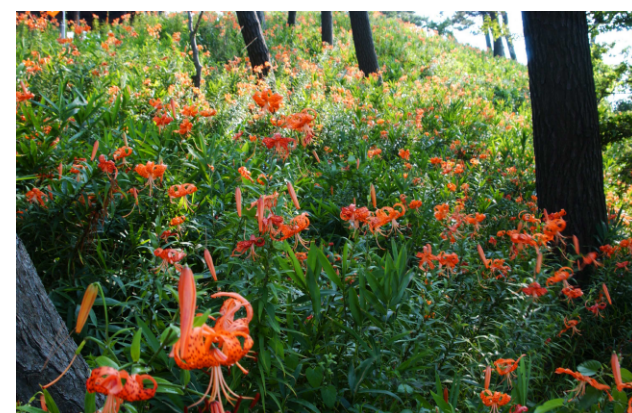
Members of the Matto Photography Club shared photos of their city that explored the theme of a community as a place where we live, love, work, learn and play. These photos were displayed in Columbia City Hall during an October 2013 visit to Columbia by members of the Hakusan International Association.



Sunset in Matto Beach
By: Tomoyuki Kutsu



Beech Forest
By: Hideo Nagahara



Field of Tiger Lillies
By: Mitsuo Tanaka



Wabaga-taki Waterfall
By: Tomoyuki Kutsu



Gozenamine Peek (highest point in Hakusan)
By: Akitomo Nushi

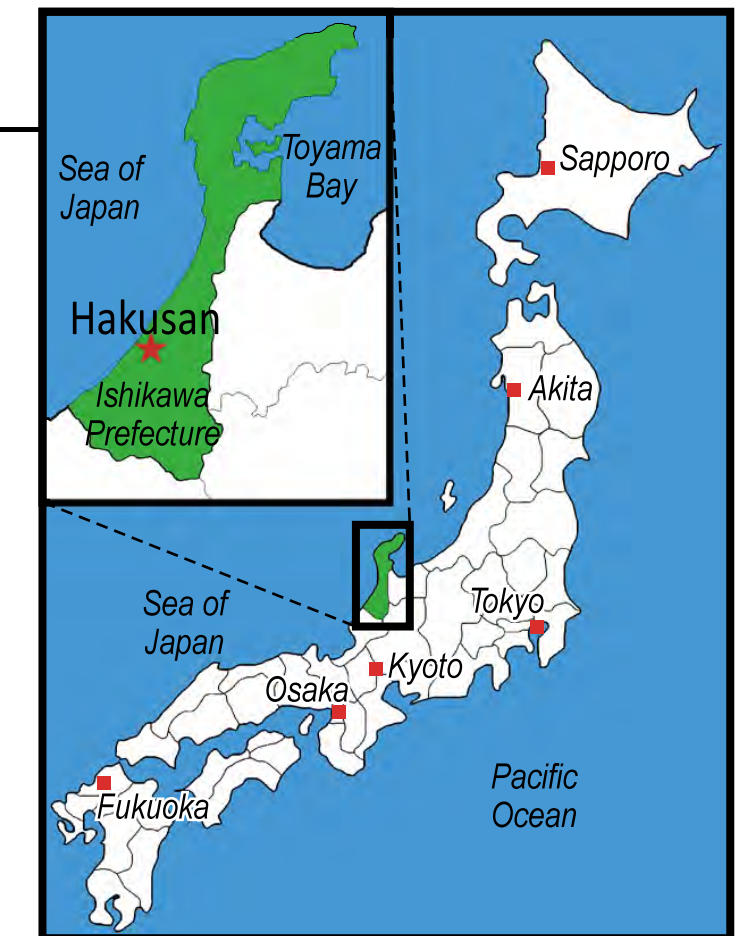


Constellation in Summer Night in Hakusan
By: Toshio Kitano

About Hakusan

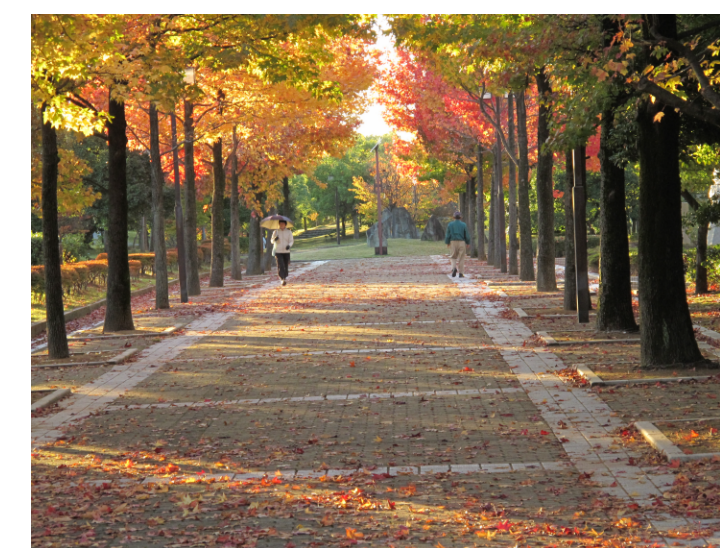


Aerial of the foothills and plains around the city of Hakusan with the Tedoru River flowing to the Sea of Japan in the distance



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 Tedoru 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.



Matto General Athletic Park
By: Kunihiko Sendai



Change New Shimenata for New Year Day
By: Kazuyuki Matsumoto

Hakusan Logo

At the center is a symbol for nearby Mt. Hakusan. At the base, the first line represents the Tedoru 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.

