



KITAKYUSHU CITY NEWS LETTER

ISSUE 5, November 2024



Message from our Mayor

Mayor of Kitakyushu City
Kazuhisa Takeuchi

In this issue, we have summarized topics and projects involved in our city during the first half of 2024.

We hope that by reading this newsletter, you will broaden your horizons about Kitakyushu City and become more interested in what our city has to offer.

Kitakyushu City has incredible potential. Thanks to the predecessors who built our city, we have excellent technology, passionate people, and wonderful human connections. We also rich in food, nature, and history. We have compiled a new vision that will serve as a compass for Kitakyushu City to move forward into the future.

The New Vision:

Kitakyushu City, a globally challenging city that embodies one step ahead values with connections, passion, and technology.

**Kitakyushu
Action!**

動かせ、未来。北九州市

Water and Sewage Projects



Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for Water Supply Facility Construction in Cambodia! Kitakyushu City to Provide Technical Guidance

Kubota Construction Co., Ltd., a member company of the Kitakyushu Overseas Water Business Association (KOWBA), has been awarded the construction work for the "Project for Expansion of Water Supply System in Svay Rieng, Cambodia," funded by Japan's grant aid. Kitakyushu City will provide technical guidance related to construction supervision and facility operation during the construction phase.

Vietnam's Hai Phong Water Supply Company and An Duong Water Treatment Plant Sign a New Memorandum of Understanding on U-BCF!

The Hai Phong Water Supply Company in Hai Phong, a sister city of Kitakyushu, and the Kitakyushu City Water and Sewer Bureau have built various cooperative relationships, including signing a mutual cooperation agreement in 2013 to promote the Upflow Biological Contact Filtration System (commonly known as U-BCF), an advanced water treatment system independently developed by Kitakyushu, in Vietnam.

In March 2022, a new memorandum of understanding was signed regarding the U-BCF facilities installed in Hai Phong City. This memorandum focuses on promoting technical cooperation aimed at mastering the operation of the system and seeks to accelerate the spread of U-BCF throughout Vietnam.

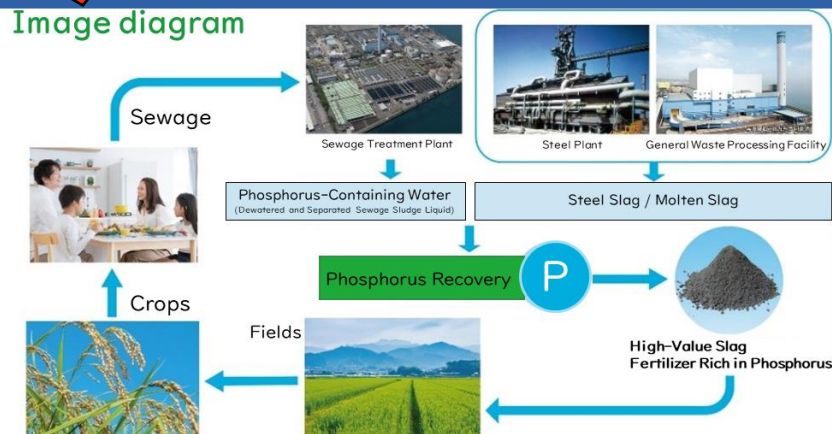


Pilot Plant for Converting Sewage Resources into Fertilizer Completed!

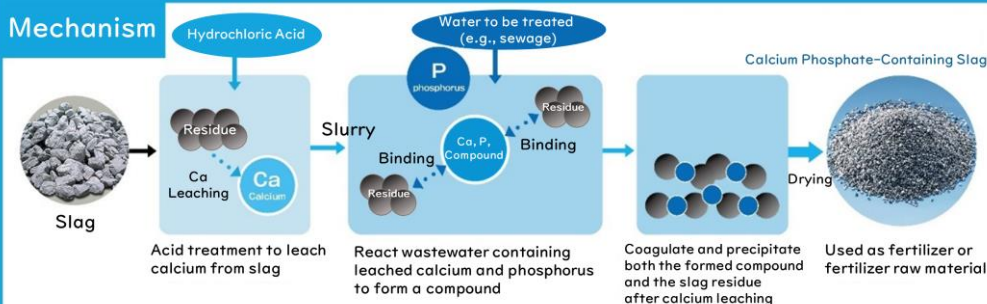
The Kitakyushu City Water and Sewer Bureau, in its effort to promote the SDGs, is committed to converting sewage resources into fertilizer. As part of this initiative, in collaboration with Nippon Steel Engineering Co., Ltd., Kitakyushu is conducting the first-ever demonstration study in Japan on a new resource recovery technology called the "phosphorus recovery technology using slag." In March 2024, the pilot plant was completed and began operation at the Hiagari Purification Center.

A First in Japan!

Image diagram



Mechanism



<Features>

A simplified phosphorus recovery process, and other cost reduction measures can be expected.

<Technology Overview>

This technology utilizes steel slag, a byproduct of iron manufacturing, to efficiently recover phosphorus from wastewater during treatment.

*Patented by Nippon Steel Engineering Co., Ltd.

Environmental Business

Nation Recognizes Recycling Plan for Plastic Resources Collected from Households - First in Kyushu!

First in Kyushu!

In October 2023, Kitakyushu City began collecting plastic packaging and plastic products from households in a unified manner.

As part of this effort, the city's unique plan to recycle plastic products within the city was officially recognized by the national government under Article 33 of the Act on Promotion of Resource Circulation for Plastics, marking a first in Kyushu.

With this recognition, Kitakyushu City aims to create a system in which used plastic resources are recycled and reintroduced into the lives of its citizens, striving for a society where plastics are locally consumed and recycled within the region.

Plastic Recycling Process Starting from April 2024



Offshore Wind Power O&M Training Facility Completion Ceremony and Demonstration Held

For the first time in Japan, this facility uses actual wind turbine foundations and can recreate various offshore conditions using observational data from sea areas. It is designed to train maintenance engineers who are essential for efficient and cost-effective offshore wind power O&M in harsh natural conditions.

In Kitakyushu City's "Green Energy Port Hibiki" project, which has been in progress since 2011, O&M is one of the key functions in the wind power-related industrial hub. The training of high-level maintenance engineers in Kitakyushu City is expected to significantly boost its status as a comprehensive hub for the wind power-related industry in East Asia.

*Four key functions of the "Comprehensive Hub":

1. Export and construction hub function:
Pre-assembly and shipping of wind turbines
2. Logistics hub function:
Export and import of wind turbine components
3. Manufacturing hub function:
Concentration of related manufacturers in the hinterland of the base port
4. O&M hub function:
Operation monitoring and maintenance of wind turbines

Environmental Business

Kitakyushu Environmental Company AMITA Group Expands into Indonesia!

- Towards the Establishment of a Joint Venture with One of Southeast Asia's Largest Corporate Groups -

On August 9, 2024, the Kitakyushu-based environmental company AMITA Group reached a basic agreement with PT Tamaris Prima Energi, part of the Tamaris-Moya Group under Salim Group, one of Southeast Asia's largest conglomerates, and PT Sari Bhakti Sejati, a subsidiary of the major Indonesian cement company Indocement. The agreement is aimed at establishing two joint venture companies focused on circular economy businesses.

The two companies to be established aim to open circular resource production facilities (100% recycling factories producing and supplying alternative raw materials and fuels for the cement industry from waste) in Indonesia by 2027. They plan to proceed with obtaining local permits and constructing the facilities.

<AMITA Group>

In June 2010, the Kitakyushu Circular Resource Manufacturing Plant was opened in the Kitakyushu Eco-Town, with an eye toward expansion into Asia.



Collaboration Between India's Ramky Group and Local Companies Accelerates!

In September 2023, Kitakyushu City signed a comprehensive cooperation agreement with Ramky Group, India's largest environmental industry company, which also operates in other countries, to support the overseas expansion of local environment-related companies.

Based on this agreement, in May 2024, the AMITA Group, a local environment-related company, began collaborating with Ramky Group to create new international environmental businesses in India, Singapore, and other countries.

In addition to this corporate collaboration, Kitakyushu City, together with local companies and Ramky Group, began conducting a feasibility study this fiscal year for the development of an eco-town in India.



Liu Jianchao, Head of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, Visits Kitakyushu Eco-Town

Liu Jianchao, Head of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, which is responsible for external relations, visited Kitakyushu City. He toured Kitakyushu Eco-Town, an environmental improvement model, to use it as a reference for China's green development.

Business



Creating Open Innovation Between Overseas Startups and Kitakyushu/Fukuoka Companies!

Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka City, JETRO Kitakyushu, and JETRO Fukuoka hosted the "J-Bridge Discover Kyushu Invitation Program" from May 20 to 21, 2024, inviting 15 startups from 5 countries. The program aimed to give overseas startups looking to enter the Japanese market a firsthand experience of business opportunities in Kitakyushu and Fukuoka. A pitch and networking event was held at Kokura Castle, where local companies seeking to create new business ventures through collaboration with overseas startups participated.

Bridgestone Corporation Revamps Mining and Construction Vehicle Tire Production Equipment at Kitakyushu Plant!

At the Kitakyushu plant, a global production base for mining and construction vehicle tires, Bridgestone manufactures products such as the "Bridgestone MASTERCORE," a top-tier tire for mining and construction vehicles. With the renewal of production equipment, Bridgestone will ensure a high-quality and stable production system, enhancing global competitiveness. The new equipment is scheduled to be put into operation in 2027.

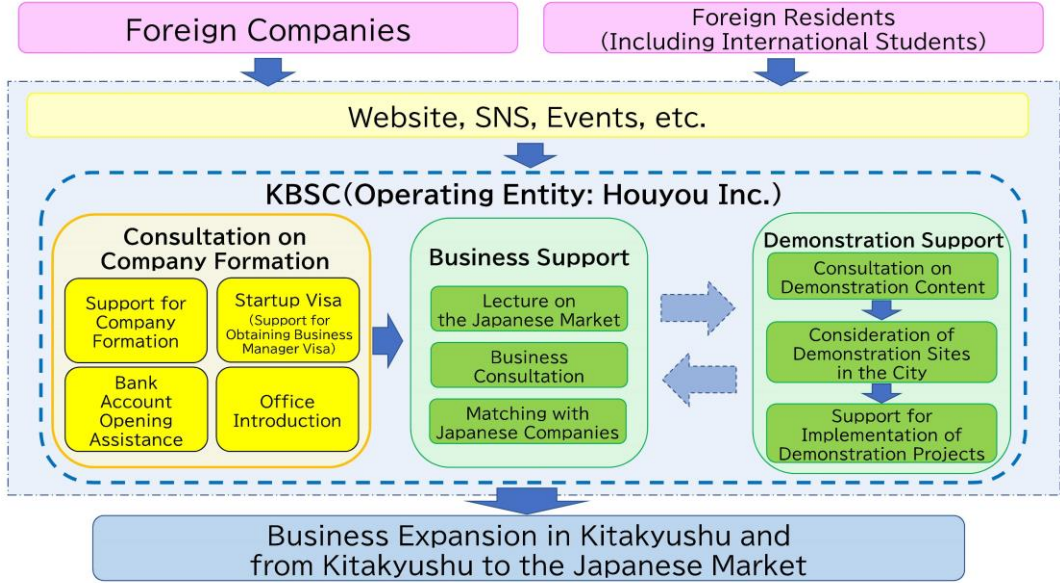
*The "Bridgestone MASTERCORE" tire is a product that incorporates Bridgestone's unique new technologies, including in-house steel cords, achieving exceptional durability.



Comprehensive Support for Foreign Companies! New Support Center Established!

To further promote investment in Japan, the "KKJ Business Support Center (KBSC)" has been newly established to provide one-stop support, including consultation on company formation and business assistance, with English language services available.

【Overview Chart of KBSC】



Business



Memorandum of Understanding Signed with Two Universities in Thailand for International Internship Program!

To expand the international internship program, which has been in place since 2018 with the aim of acquiring highly skilled overseas talent, Kitakyushu City signed a memorandum of understanding with two universities in Thailand. Through a four-month long-term internship, the program seeks to prevent mismatches between companies and students, promote mutual understanding, and lead to employment.

Four Key Points of the International Internship Program

Long-Term Internship

- Partnership between the city and universities (MOU)
- Recruitment and selection by universities
- Training in Japan (4 months)

Comprehensive Support

- Japanese language education
- Immigration procedures
- Living support (housing arrangements, insurance procedures, etc.)

High Employment Rate

Implementation for six years (2018-2023)

39 participants
32 employed*

- ※All employed by companies in the city
- ※Includes 4 participants scheduled for employment this fiscal year

Post-Employment Training and Retention



FY2024

Adopted as a national subsidy project!
(Joint Company At Career)

This comprehensive support for international internships is **the first initiative of its kind by a government-designated city!**

Universities that signed the MOU

Renewal (1) Panyapiwat Institute of Management (PIM)

A university established by Thailand's largest company.

Its motto is to train professionals who are immediately ready to contribute to society.



Newly signed (2) King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL)

Established with support from Japan's ODA. Strong in Japanese-style manufacturing education.



"Sushi Capital, Kitakyushu Council" Established

West Japan Railway Company, Kitakyushu City, local sushi restaurants and fishery-related parties have established the "Sushi Capital Kitakyushu Council" to work together in promoting Kitakyushu's sushi culture, increasing inbound visitors from both Japan and abroad, and spreading economic impact as the "Gourmet City Kitakyushu."

<Background>

Kitakyushu City is surrounded by rich fishing grounds, and the city has a culture of eating sashimi and sushi, supported by the skills of craftsmen who are dedicated to freshness and technique.

Through the establishment of this council, Kitakyushu aims to promote its sushi culture and turn "sushi" into a tourism resource that attracts people from all over the world.



Nursing Care



Students from Taiwan's "College of Management, National Chung Hsing University" Visit Kitakyushu for the First Time!

As part of exchanges with Center for Chinese Business Studies of the University of Kitakyushu, students from Taiwan's College of Management, National Chung Hsing University visited Kitakyushu to study the "Kitakyushu Model." They visited the local nursing care facilities, Kitakyushu City Nursing Robot Introduction Support and Promotion Center, and Kitakyushu City Nursing Training and Promotion Center.

Nursing Care Business Managers from China Visit Kitakyushu for a Training Tour!

Global Education Support, a general incorporated association based in Kitakyushu, conducted a 'training tour to learn advanced nursing care' for the nursing care business managers from China. As part of the tour, lectures on the advanced nursing care "Kitakyushu Model" were given, and practical facilities in the city were introduced.

(General Incorporated Association) Global Education Support

Established in Kitakyushu in 2021. With "coexistence and co-prosperity" as the core principle, it aims to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) through supporting international students and regional revitalization projects.



Business Improvement Methods Utilizing Technologies > Kitakyushu Model

Visualizing work
Sorting tasks



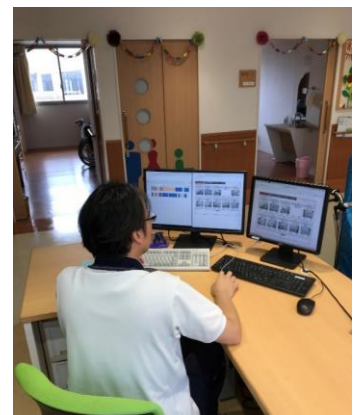
Analyzing various fragmented tasks such as status confirmation, response, and recording

Selection of ICT
and nursing
robots



Monitoring with sensors, use of intercoms, utilization of nursing robots, etc.

Organizing
business
operations



Improving work efficiency by **35%**

Sports



From Kitakyushu to Paris! "Volleyball Nations League 2024 Fukuoka" was Held!

Held from June 4 to June 16, 2024, at the West Japan General Exhibition Center. A "Fan Zone" was set up in the player corridor connecting the match venue and the warm-up area, allowing those without match tickets to enter. Additionally, efforts to take on new initiatives were also made, for example, in an effort to reduce food waste from boxed lunches, meal tickets were distributed to operational staff, which could be used at restaurants, food trucks, or other commercial facilities within walking distance.

A total of 84,521 spectators attended, and the final showdown for a ticket to the Paris Olympics generated great excitement.

"Taiyo Life JAPAN RUGBY CHALLENGE SERIES 2024" Match of Japan Women's National Rugby Team was Held!

The Japan Women's National Team (Sakura Fifteen) played two matches against the USA Women's National Team (Eagles) in Japan. The first match was held on August 11, 2024, at Mikuni World Stadium Kitakyushu. After a close match, it ended in a 17-17 draw.



"2nd FIG Parkour World Championships - Kitakyushu" and "1st FIG Junior Parkour World Championships Kitakyushu" Held in Kitakyushu this past November!

The first Parkour World Championships were held in Tokyo in October 2022, and this will be the first time the event is held in western Japan. With Kokura Castle serving as a backdrop, the event was held in Katsuyama Park with 153 athletes from a total of 49 countries in attendance. Two event categories were held: "Speed," which involved competing for time on the course, and "Freestyle," which involved competing on the level of difficulty of the routine.



Top Table Tennis Players to Gather in Kitakyushu, "WTT FINALS FUKUOKA 2024" were Held!

The top 16 men and women in the world rankings, along with 8 doubles pairs, competed for the title of season champion. This was the first time that the Finals for both men and women were held simultaneously in Japan.

Dates: November 20-24, 2024

Venue: Kitakyushu City General Gymnasium

Events: Men's Singles, Men's Doubles

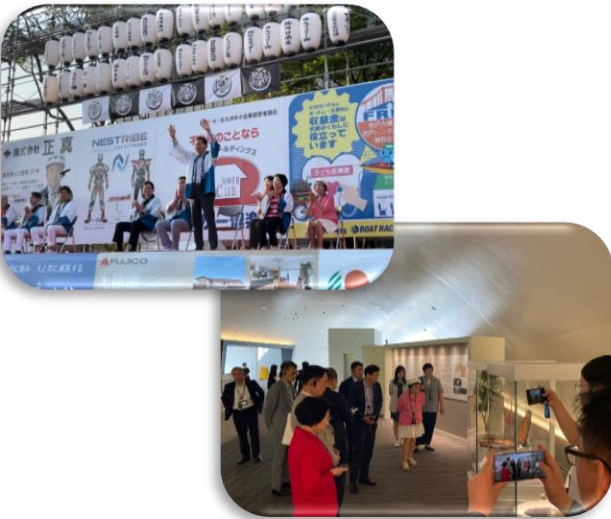
Women's Singles, Women's Doubles



Events and Misc.

First Visit in Six Years! Delegation from Incheon Metropolitan City, South Korea, Visits Kitakyushu!

Since becoming sister cities in 1988, Kitakyushu City and Incheon Metropolitan City, South Korea, have engaged in various exchanges and collaborations over the past 36 years. This time, a delegation led by the Deputy Mayor of Incheon and the Deputy Chairman of the City Council visited Kitakyushu. During their stay, they attended the ceremonial events of the "Wasshoi Hyakuman Summer Festival" and toured Kitakyushu Eco-Town.



First Japanese Municipality to Win the Top Award in the "Livable Sustainable City Award "!

Kitakyushu City's efforts, from manufacturing and overcoming pollution to becoming an advanced SDGs city, have been awarded with the top prize (Outstanding City) in the "Livable Sustainable City Award" category of the "2024 Asia-Pacific Sustainable Action Awards" organized by the Taiwan Institute for Sustainable Energy. The award ceremony was held at the Asia-Pacific Exposition for Sustainability in Taipei.

Commemorative Project for the 10th Anniversary of the Sister City Agreement with Hai Phong, Vietnam

Kitakyushu City and Hai Phong City in Vietnam signed a sister city agreement in 2014 after fostering connections in areas such as water supply technology cooperation and citizen cultural exchanges. To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the sister city relationship, youth exchanges between junior high school students from both cities have been conducted this year. In July, seven classes exchanged online, introducing each other's cities, school life, and traditional games based on different themes. In August, the representative students visited Hai Phong and interacted with local students. Additionally, a Traveling Panel Exhibition introducing the history of exchanges between the two cities and highlighting Hai Phong is being held at city libraries as part of the commemorative project.



At Kitakyushu Airport, major developments for the future are underway, including the extension of the runway to 3,000 meters and increased flights on the Incheon (South Korea) route (during the summer season). The latest developments and initiatives at Kitakyushu Airport, aimed at accelerating this momentum, will be introduced.



Increase in Domestic Regular Cargo Flights

Yamato Holdings Co., Ltd. and Japan Airlines Co., Ltd. have jointly operated domestic regular cargo flights to build a sustainable logistics network, and new late-night and early-morning flights from Haneda Airport has been added, increasing the number of flights from 4 to 6 per day.

Kitakyushu ⇄ Haneda/Narita,
Naha → Kitakyushu Now in Service!

Kitakyushu Airport Summer Collection Held

During the summer season, when the number of Incheon flights and passenger demand increases, an event showcasing Kitakyushu's attractive food and culture was held to create a lively and welcoming atmosphere.

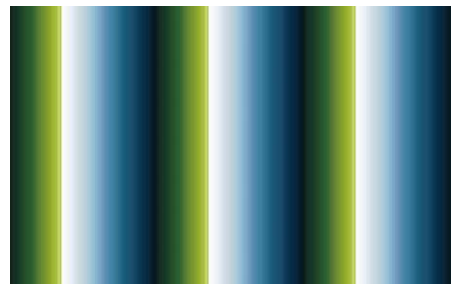


Birth of Kokura-Ori/Textile design pattern "Sky and Earth"

In order to convey the new initiatives of the Kitakyushu Airport, an original Kokura-ori textile design, inspired by Kitakyushu Airport, called "Sky and Earth", was created.

Design Concept: As if flying toward the future, through an endless sky stretched between the horizons of the land and the sea. Entrusted in each radiant color of the Kokura-ori stripes, is the embodiment of the pure spirit of Kitakyushu

Designer: Noriko Tsuiki (dyer and weaver)



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Kitakyushu City
Promotion Movie