



City Partnership Agreement

Between

Palmerston North City, New Zealand, and

Mihara City, Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan

The undersigned Mayors agree to formalise the city partnership between Palmerston North and Mihara. This city partnership includes cooperation in education, emergency management, sport, economy and culture, and a shared recognition of these common interest between the cities.

The Mayors recognise the long-standing community links and people-to-people exchanges that have been fostered by the Hiroshima-New Zealand Friendship Society. They also acknowledge Sister Cities New Zealand (SCNZ) as a facilitator in developing and formalising this relationship, and ongoing support from the Japan Council for Local Government International Relations (CLAIR);

General objectives

1. Both cities and citizens will aim for prosperity of the two cities towards the future through further deepening friendship relations and building new ties.
2. We shall endeavour to deepen further development and cooperation through exchanges in a wide range of fields including education, sports, economics, emergency management and culture.

Proposed activities

Education

3. Encourage further student mobility, exchange and language training between our cities, including support for cooperation between the International Pacific University (IPU) and Mihara city;
4. Provide an augmented community leadership experience for students on exchange between the cities (for example, through the Palmerston North Global Ambassadors programme);
5. Explore digital connections (such as skype links) between classrooms and youth councils to encourage younger generations to get actively involved in the city relationship;

Sports

6. Build on links established through the Sagishima Triathlon, and celebrate our national and cultural links through major sporting events, such as the 2019 Rugby World Cup, 2020 Olympics and 2021 World Masters Games;

Economics

7. Explore commercial and trade opportunities and encourage discussions that will create potential economic development relationships;

Emergency management

8. Continue to advance information exchange and networks regarding community emergency management response and readiness;

Culture

9. Support initiatives that promote ongoing cultural learning and awareness between our cities;

General principles

10. This agreement establishes the formal relationship between the two cities based on mutual trust, respect, and benefit – and a desire to work together, to these ends.
11. It acknowledges that official cooperation, knowledge exchange and civic friendship are core elements of a reciprocal and mutually beneficial relationship.
12. This is not a legally binding document and imposes no legal or financial obligations on either side.
13. The agreement is equally authentic in both Japanese and English, and takes effect from the day of signing.

Next steps

14. City officers with designated responsibility for international relations will maintain regular communication and identify action plans that give effect to the agreement.
15. The contents and activities in this agreement will be reviewed every three years to ensure continuity and momentum.

Grant Smith

MAYOR

Palmerston North City Council

Date:

Yoshinori Tenma

MAYOR

Mihara City Council

Date: