



History of Exchange

Osaka, Japan
Chicago's Sister City Since 1973

Chairs: Yoko Noge-Dean and Mark Scott

1973

Focus: Signing Agreement

Chicago and Osaka signed a sister cities agreement 1973.

2006

February 10

Focus: Culture

The Japan America Society of Chicago and the Chicago Sister Cities International Program's Osaka Committee enjoyed an evening of jazz performed by Yoko Noge, co-chair of the Osaka Committee at Andy's Jazz Club.

June

Focus: Education

In cooperation with City of Osaka Chicago Office, Walter Payton College Prep sent a group of students in June to Osaka City High School for sister school exchange program. A special ceremony was held to send the students off at O'Hare. Carol Kimmel, education subcommittee chair was the champion of this initiative.

Focus: Culture

Benihana was featured as a food vendor in the Chicago Sister Cities International Festival on Daley Plaza.

July 12

Focus: Culture

The Osaka and China Committees of CSCIP met for picnic dinner at the Skyline Stage at Navy Pier for a special performance of Cirque Shanghai, an assemblage of some of the finest acrobats in China. 30 people attended the event.

Focus: Sports

Welcomed and provided gifts to high school judo wrestlers from Japan at the mayors press room and provided a tour of the Mayors office.

September 6-28**Focus: Education**

Miss. Siyuan Wang, the English speech contest winner from Osaka came to Chicago and spent three weeks. She was hosted by a student from Walter Payton College Prep thanks to Carol Kimmel, chair of Education Subcommittee. Miss Wang delivered the letter from Mayor Seki of Osaka to Mayor Daley.

November 30**Focus: Culture**

Bonenkai Celebration, an end of year get-together for the committee members and friends at Ra Sushi.

December 2-8**Focus: Government**

A delegation of Osaka City Council members Yasuo Machiba, VP of the Osaka City Council, and Mikio Kanda, Manager, General Affairs, Economic Department, City of Osaka, visited Chicago. The delegation examined Chicago's best practices on engaging larger companies in investing in the city to improve the economy.

2008**February 11****Focus: Music**

The Japan America Society of Chicago Sister Cities International Program's Osaka Committee invited members and friends for an evening of jazz at Andy's Jazz Club. Guests listened to the melodic sounds of Yoki Noge, co chair of the Osaka Committee of CSCIP, and the Jazz Me Blues Band.

June 20**Focus: Culture**

The Osaka committee, with help from gracious sponsors, hosted the 35th anniversary of the Chicago-Osaka partnership. The reception was held at Trump Tower.

September 1-3**Focus: Business**

Leo Melamed, Chairman Emeritus of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), visited Osaka to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Nikkei 225 Stock Index opening at the CME.

September 6**Focus: Film**

The Osaka Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International for The Osaka Garden Anime Night during the popular Movies in the Park Series held an evening event that featured three episodes of Kimba: The White Lion and a short documentary on the life and works of Osaka born Tezuka Osamu.

October 6 and 8**Focus: Arts & Culture**

Bunraku, one of Japan's best known and most highly prized traditional performing arts, came to the Midwest in October. The internationally acclaimed national Bunraku Theater is the most authentic puppet troupe from Osaka that came to America for its first major tour in 15 years. The two hour performance presented two classic masterworks: Oshichi's Burning Love and Miracle at the Tsubosaka Kannon Temple.

October 18**Focus: Culture**

The rededication of the Osaka Japanese Garden in Jackson Park was in honor of the 35th anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Osaka and Chicago. Vice Mayor Takashi Kashiwagi of Osaka and a delegation was in Chicago to participate in the ceremony.

November 29**Focus: Culture**

The Osaka Committee hosted their second annual end of the year Bonenkai Party. Proceeds benefited the educational and cultural programs of the Osaka Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program.

2009**April 24****Focus: Business & Culture**

Executive Director Takayuki Toriyama participated in the Chicago Global Cities Forum.

June 13**Focus: Culture**

Chicago Sister Cities and the Osaka Committee celebrated their 35th anniversary of their established relationship. However, they were also celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the city of Osaka Chicago Branch.

July 27**Focus: Government**

Ms. Yuka Katashima, Osaka English Speech Contest Winner.

September 4**Focus: Culture**

On September 6th the Osaka Committee in conjunction with Chicago Sister Cities International held The Osaka Garden Anime Night. It featured episodes of Kimba, the white lion and a short documentary on the life and works of Osaka Born Tezuka Osamu.

October 1-4**Focus: Medical**

Dr. Ogawa Yoshinari from Osaka City General Hospital participated in the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium – Sister Cities Medical Initiative.

October 18**Focus: Environment**

The Osaka Vice Mayor, Takashi Kashiwagi participated in the rededication ceremony of the Osaka Japanese Garden in Jackson Park. This was done in honor of the 35th anniversary of Osaka's relationship with Chicago Sister Cities International.

November**Focus: Education**

18 students, 2 years, and the Vice Principal from Osaka High School visited Walter Payton College Prep

November 6**Focus: Business & Education**

The Japan America Society of Chicago and the Osaka Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International co-hosted a Japan Student Night: A Welcome to Chicago Reception. Visiting Japanese Students (Undergraduate, Graduate, PHD, researchers, etc.), students with a strong interest in Japan, faculty, Japan America Society Members, and Chicago Sister Cities International Members were invited to attend this reception.

2010**April 25-27****Focus: Government**

Mr. Koichi Kawamura, Director of International Promotion, participated in the Richard J. Daley Global Cities Forum as a representative of the City of Osaka.

August 20**Focus: Technology & Education**

Through the initiative of Professor Kuboi of the Osaka University San Francisco Center, the Osaka Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International co-hosted, "Where Does Human Intelligence Come From?," a seminar that featured Dr. Minoru Asada. Dr. Asada's lecture drew upon his background as a pioneer in researching the emergence of intelligence and its development through the utilization of robotics.

2010**August 23-26****Focus: Culture**

As part of the 5th Annual Chicago Sister Cities International Festival at Millennium Park, Miyuki Sato and Taihei Rokumoto Eastwood proudly carried the flag of Japan in the opening ceremony parade of flags. Osaka was also represented at the Festival by a Japanese Paper Fan activity that was led by the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society as part of the Festival's Cultural Corner.

September 3-23**Focus: Education**

Ms. Aya Sasai, winner of the annual Chicago-Osaka speech contest, traveled to Chicago as part of an on-going reciprocal exchange. During her stay, Ms. Sasai visited various Chicago landmarks and had the opportunity to meet with Mayor Richard M. Daley.

September 10

Focus: Environment

Ms. Chiaki Yoneoka of the City of Osaka's Environment Bureau met with City of Chicago, Department of Environment Deputy Commissioner Aaron Durnbaugh and the Environmental Program Manager for Chicago Public Schools, Ms. Suzanne Carlson. Ms. Yoneoka toured the Chicago Center for Green Technology and learned more about the Chicago Conservation Corps (C3), CCGT, Greencorps Chicago, and Chicago Public Schools environmental achievements.

September 11-18

Focus: Social Services

The Osaka Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International has successfully concluded the first Asian Social Services Exchange with Osaka, Japan. The focus of the program was to bridge cultural and national boundaries and address social challenges of the youth and the elderly including the disabled.

The Osaka Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International has successfully concluded the first Asian Social Services Exchange with Osaka, Japan. The focus of the program was to bridge cultural and national boundaries and address social challenges of the youth and the elderly including the disabled. This exchange established a new CSCI Social Service Exchange model within an existing committee with a sustainable structure to keep exchanges alternating Chicago as host and visiting delegation for future exchanges.

After an intensive week of site visits that included participation by the City of Chicago's Department of Family and Support Services and a visit to Cook County Juvenile Court, one of the country's largest, the delegates had the opportunity to discuss the overall program with Chicago Social Service professionals about the common social challenges with youth, elderly and the disabled that both Osaka and Chicago face during a public day conference. During this discussion, delegates noted the "the social inequality and the inequality in care as well as the strength of Americans" and were pleasantly surprised that it was "non-governmental entities [that] brought forth this exchange." The Osaka Social Service Committee looks forward to being able to learn these types of lessons during the reciprocal exchange to Japan planned for 2011.

2011

March 31

Focus: Education

The Osaka Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, in collaboration with the City of Osaka brought the One Book, One Osaka project to Jonathan Burr Elementary to highlight the long-standing relationship between the two sister cities and how this relationship has facilitated the exchange of ideas.

The City of Osaka developed their literacy program based on Chicago's successful model of One Book, One Chicago, which this fall will be celebrating 10 years of bringing Chicagoans together through a common book.

This year, Osaka chose *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carl, which was read to a kindergarten class at Burr in Japanese. Burr is a CPS Magnet Cluster School where every student studies Japanese as a foreign language. At Burr, not only are the students reading Japanese versions of English books, they have been writing letters to those children affected by the recent earthquake in Japan.

April 1**Focus: Fundraiser**

The Osaka and Humanitarian Committees of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted a Japan Earthquake Relief Fundraiser in the Chicago Cultural Center to raise much needed funds for those devastated by earthquakes and related tsunami in Japan. Mayor Richard M. Daley, Governor Quinn and U.S. Senator Richard J. Durbin served as Honorary Chairs for the event. In one evening, CSCI raised over \$42,000 to help support the American Red Cross' earthquake relief efforts in Japan.

June**Focus: Recognition**

The American Red Cross of Greater Chicago honored Chicago Sister Cities International with a Wesbury Leadership Award for our generous third party fundraising efforts in response to international disasters, specifically this past year for Pakistan and Japan. The American Red Cross gives the Wesbury Award annually at their Annual Meeting to recognize individual, organization and media partners whose efforts enhance the visibility of the local Red Cross and help them deliver services and messages of health, safety and preparedness to all communities. The American Red Cross will award Chicago Sister Cities International in the Community Partner category this year.

October 1-9**Focus: Social Services**

Up to ten interdisciplinary social service professionals from Chicago met in Osaka to visit sites and dialogue with Japanese professionals about their culture and "Best Practices" in the areas of child welfare, elderly care, disabilities both mental and physical, and other social challenges. The exchange concluded with a one day workshop where delegates presented on their exchange experience by comparing best practices and cultures.

A project organized by the Osaka Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, Osaka City Council of Social Welfare and the City of Osaka.

October 8**Focus: Sports**

Representations from Chicago Marathon and Osaka Marathon signed a Sister Marathon signing at Hilton Hotel in Chicago.

2012**March 5****Arts & Culture**

Red Cross Reception with SVP, International Services at the Chicago Club.

March 12**Arts & Culture**

The Osaka Committee shaped Kizuna: Bonds of Emotions, a special photography exhibit curated from photos taken in the Tohoku region of Japan by photojournalists from Nikkei, Inc. in the immediate aftermath of the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami, and ongoing recovery efforts. The photos were paired in a subtle way to show the catastrophe unfolding and the immediate aftermath, then a similar or related photo of the recovery process. The exhibit

was hosted at the Thompson Center, the Chicago Photography Collective studio at Block 37, the lobby of BMO Headquarters in downtown Chicago during Asian-American Heritage Month, and the lobby of the Daley Center. A related economic seminar was also hosted at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, to discuss the economic impact of the disaster.

June 23

Focus: Recognition

Chicago Day was celebrated in the Tohoku Region of Japan, with Chicago-style hot dogs and other Chicago souvenirs given out to the public. A letter from Mayor Emanuel was read during the speaking program.

August 6-10

Focus: Culture

The 7th Annual Chicago Sister Cities International Festival transformed Daley Plaza into an international village filled with merchants, food, music, and dance from Chicago's 28 Sister Cities. Kizuna: Bonds of Emotion Photography Exhibit was featured during the festival representing Osaka.

October 4-7

Focus: Medical

The 14th Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium was a professional educational event highlighting the most recent clinical and scientific advances in breast cancer research. Dr. Junji Tsurutani from Kinki University Faculty of Medicine participated and represented Osaka in the 2012 symposium.

November 10-17

Focus: Social Services

The Osaka Social Services Committee hosted a social service exchange from November 10-17, in which 11 social service professionals from Osaka, Japan participated in a week-long immersion into Chicago's social service networks. Various sites were visited during the week for the Osaka delegates to learn about innovative social service practices in the Chicago area. To make this happen, 18 Chicago neighborhood social service agencies generously opened their doors in the midst of their busy schedules so the delegates could learn how they serve their clients and communities.

December 24

Focus: Culture

Benjamin Kelner, Communications Manager of CSCI was featured on ABC 7 Chicago talking about Christmas traditions in some of Chicago's Sister Cities. A traditional Christmas cake was highlighted in the segment representing the culture and heritage of Osaka, Japan.

2013

March 11

Arts & Culture

The Osaka Committee presented *Kizuna 2: Bonds of Emotion*, the second phase of a multidimensional photography exhibit of the March 11, 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami, and ongoing recovery efforts. The exhibit was hosted at the Thompson Center. A related economic seminar was also hosted at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago to discuss the economic impact of the disaster.

March

Focus: Education

The Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago hosted a Japanese Speech Contest. The Osaka Committee of CSCI awarded the 1st Prize winner, Lindsey Schultz, a trip to Japan and coordinated a 2 week homestay in Osaka.

November 9-13

Focus: Social Services

The Osaka Social Services Committee sent 10 delegates to Osaka participate in a week-long immersion into Osaka's social service networks. Various sites were visited during the week for the Chicago delegates to learn about common challenges and innovative social service practices in the Osaka area.

September 8

Focus: Athletics

The Osaka Committee organized an *Osaka Committee* team to run the race, held a cheering station, and fundraised by selling custom 40th Anniversary Chicago-Osaka t-shirts.

September 25-29

Focus: Medical

The Chicago Sister Cities International Medical Initiative Program took place in conjunction with the 15th Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium, a professional educational event highlighting the most recent clinical and scientific advances in breast cancer research. Dr. Tsutomu Iwasa of the Kinki University of Medicine, Department of Medical Oncology participated and represented Osaka in the 2013 symposium.

October 11

Focus: Athletics

The Osaka Committee hosted 60 attendees at a reception at a rooftop garden in the West Loop for 20 marathon runners traveling from Osaka to participate in the Chicago Marathon.

October 13

Focus: Athletics

The Osaka Committee of CSCI hosted a cheering station along the marathon route at the Bank of America Chicago Marathon and hosted a welcome reception for Japanese runners.

October 13

Focus: Government

The Osaka Committee of CSCI hosted a reception for 48 people to welcome a delegation of 11 Osaka officials led by the Vice Mayor Masashi Takayama.

October 14

Focus: Government

A working lunch was held for 11 City of Osaka officials led by the Vice Mayor and 15 Osaka Committee members at the Chicago Architecture Foundation.

2014

March 6

Focus: Social Services

The Social Services subcommittee presented *Mental Health & Social Care: An Intimate Look at Social Service in Japan*. This panel discussion gave the public an opportunity to learn from Chicago's 2013 social services delegation to Osaka, Japan. The presentation included interdisciplinary, cross-cultural reflections on: Isolation vs. Engagement, Internalization vs. Externalization, Stigmatized Identities and Government Support and Influence on Social Services

March 11

Focus: Arts & Culture

The Osaka Committee presented *Kizuna 3: Unbroken Circle*, the third phase of a multidimensional photography exhibit of the March 11, 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami, and ongoing recovery efforts. The exhibit was hosted at the Daley Center. A related economic seminar, *Japan is Back: The Phenomenon of Abenomics*, was also hosted at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago to discuss the economic impact of the disaster.

March 11

Focus: Education

The Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago hosted a Japanese Speech Contest. The Osaka Committee of CSCI awarded the 1st Prize winner, Danielle Parsons, a trip to Japan and coordinated a 2 week homestay in Osaka.

April 3

Focus: Social Services

The Social Services subcommittee presented *Mental Health & Social Care: An Intimate Look at Social Service in Japan*. This panel discussion gave the public an opportunity to learn from Chicago's 2013 social services delegation to Osaka, Japan. The presentation included interdisciplinary, cross-cultural reflections on: Isolation vs. Engagement, Internalization vs. Externalization, Stigmatized Identities and Government Support and Influence on Social Services

June 7 – 8

Focus: Arts & Culture

The Osaka Committee manned a cultural booth at the annual Japan Festival. *Kizuna 3* was also exhibited at this festival attended by over 6,000 people.

July 28

Focus: Arts & Culture

The Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago hosted a dinner for 30 at Consul General Masaharu Yoshida's residence in Evanston to thank the supporters of the *Kizuna 4* project.

August 9

Focus: Arts & Culture

The Osaka Committee participated in the Midwest Buddhist Temple's annual Ginza Festival by organizing a volunteer "Kizuna Dance Troup" to perform.

October 13

Focus: Athletics

The Osaka Committee of CSCI hosted a cheering station along the marathon route at the Bank of America Chicago Marathon and hosted a welcome reception for Japanese runners.

November 1 - 8

Focus: Social Services

The Osaka Social Services Committee hosted the 7th annual social service exchange. Ten social service professionals from Osaka, Japan, traveled to Chicago to participate in a week-long immersion into Chicago's social service networks. Various sites were visited during the week for the Osaka delegates to learn about innovative social service practices in the Chicago area. The exchange had 3 tracks: Nursery/Disability, Mental Health Track and Older Adults.

2015

March 11

Focus: Arts & Culture

The Osaka Committee presented *Kizuna 4: Through Our Eyes*, an original photo collection illustrating the personal and dynamic spectrum of Japan's ongoing recovery following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of March 11, 2011. For three years, the *Kizuna* exhibitions connected Chicago to Japan, and are a continued sign of support and remembrance for the people of the recovering Tohoku region. *Kizuna 4* gives a fresh perspective on the current state of recovery through the eyes of an American photographer and curator (Jamason Chen), a renowned Sendai-based photographer dedicated to documenting the recovery process (Kiyotaka Shishido), and a Chicago-based non-profit (113 Project). These three contributors traveled separately to Tohoku in 2014 and photographed changing landscapes, individual stories, and vibrant communities. The selections highlight the parallax of recovery and capture Tohoku, now.

2016

March 9

Focus: Education

The □ *Kizuna 5* Economic Seminar featured a special program on doing business in Japan's Tohoku region. Akihiro Ohyama, Chairman of IRIS USA featured as a speaker.

The economic seminar is part of □ *Kizuna 5: Voices of the Youth*, the fifth phase of an ongoing project focused on the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

March 7-11, March 14-April 1

Focus: Education, Culture & Arts

The □ *Kizuna 5: Voices of the Youth* photo exhibition displayed the photos of Sendai-based photographer Kiyotaka Shishido who visited the Tohoku region of Japan to visually document portraits of children who participated in a video project to mark the 5th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 2011.

The photo exhibition is part of □ *Kizuna 5: Voices of the Youth*, the fifth phase of an on-going project focused on the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. The first four phases consisted of yearly commemoration ceremonies, economic seminars and multidimensional photography exhibitions which toured venues in Chicago from 2012–2015.

March 14**Focus: Education**

To commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 2011, the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago hosted a panel discussion on emergency response and the importance of international cooperation during natural disasters.

April 14**Focus: Social Services**

A presentation and discussion was held about effective social service policy and practice across international contexts. Chicago delegates who travelled to Osaka in 2015 for an annual week-long social services exchange discussed findings as they pertain to ethnic minorities, LGBT services, mental illness, developmental disabilities, homelessness and older adults.