

# Bonjour! Expanding Sister-City Exchange with Tours

Takamatsu City,  
Kagawa Prefecture



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**Situation** The exchange between Takamatsu City and Tours City started in May 1986 when the Mayor of Takamatsu visited Tours through with assistance from Consul-General of France in Osaka and French-Japanese Society of Kagawa. Since then, the two cities have deepened their mutual understanding through subsequent reciprocal visits and other events. Under these circumstances, the two cities entered into a sister-city relationship on 3 June 1988.

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**Action** Since forming the sister-city relationship, the two cities have deepened friendship and goodwill in a wide range of areas such as culture, economy, and education. In recent years, new exchanges have started with food, castles, and gardens as themes, where resident-driven exchanges have grown.

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**Impact** A 30-year-long exchange with Tours in diverse areas has improved the recognition and image of both cities, and also deepened cross-cultural understanding, leading to the cultivation of international awareness of residents and an increase in the exchange participants. Further, such active exchanges with Tours were highly valued and awarded the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Award at the 12th International Exchange Commendation. A wide range of exchanges is to be continued in the future. Exchange featuring local characteristics is to be promoted in collaboration with residents and other concerned parties.

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