

MINNIBARAKI

Our Forty-fourth Year

Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association



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45th Anniversary Happenings

November 2025 will mark the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Sister City relationship between Minneapolis and Ibaraki City.

In July some citizens of Ibaraki will visit Minneapolis to help celebrate the anniversary. Please join us during Sister Cities Day on Sunday, July 20, 2025 to meet and welcome our guests from Ibaraki. Sister Cities Day will take place at the Nicollet Island Pavilion (40 Power Street) from 12:30 – 5 pm. The event is free and open to the public.

In September, MISCA is planning a trip to Ibaraki City. Tentative dates are September 20 through September 26. If you would like to travel with us or want more information about the trip, please email us at misca.info@gmail.com

Friends of the Bell of Two Friends

Diamond Friends

*Bill Deef
Michael Rainville
Karl Reinhard*

Platinum Friends

*Jack Sattel and Karen Sontag Sattel
Mary Witkus & Werner Kohler*

Gold Friends

Jessica Manivasager

Silver Friends

*Richard & Marie-Rose Lundgren
Dan Rolf*

Bronze Friends

*Carol Austerlmann
Sharon Balke
Carter Clapsadle & Julia Baugnet
Richard Kathrine Fournier
Mirja Hanson
Cynthia & Brian Haskell
Jim & Reiko Hoffman
Brenda Langton & Tim Kane
Helene Monsour
Doug & Addona Rivord
James & Norma Solstad
Claire & Paul Spilseth
Richard & Carol Stahl
Vernon Wettternach*

2025 Haiku Awards Ceremony

The Annual Haiku Awards Ceremony was held this year on Sunday, May 11, 2025 at Nicollet Island Pavilion during the 14th Annual Cherry Festival.

The Ceremony began at 3 p.m. with each winner being called up to read their haiku to the audience and then presented with their certificate and gift from Ibaraki City. The first, second and third place winners also heard the comments of Judge Ikuyo Yoshimura and why their haiku was selected.

The Haiku Contest is one of MISCA's longest running exchanges with Ibaraki City – with students submitting haikus since the 1992. This marked the 34th year of the contest. MISCA received approximately 400 entries this year!

MISCA Board members enjoy reading all of the entries and trying to select the best thirty in each age category to send to Ibaraki for final judging.

THANK YOU to all the teachers and students who participate in the contest each year!

Also, a big thank you to Hiroshi Yoshino for translating the judge's comments! This is the tenth year he has done this, and we are very thankful for his help and support!

Judge: Ikuyo Yoshimura

- Born in Kyoto. Graduated from Department of English, Faculty of Literature, Doshisha University.
- Completed the doctoral program from Department of Culture of the English-Speaking World, Graduate School of Letters, Aichi Gakuin University for PhD in Literature.
- Former professor at Asahi University. Former professor at Gifu University of Health Science.

Books

- "Life of R. H. Blyth – Loving zen and haiku" (Dohosha 1996)
- "Globalized Japanese tanka" (Chigai-Nipo 2002)
- "Introduction to English haiku for Japanese – Encouragement for haiku" (Japan Times 2003)
- "Study of a UK-born researcher of Japanese literature, R. H. Blyth" (Ringoya-Bunko 2016) (Received an award from Historical Society of English Studies in Japan 2017)

Academic Societies

- Historical Society of English Studies in Japan (Kansai English Studies Association)
- Haiku: Unabara World Haiku Association
- Poetry: Kyoen Junpa

The 2025 Award Winning Haiku's: Kindergarten – 5th Grade

1st Place

Will W.
Howe
Ms. Mangal

Morning birds singing
Always sitting in the trees
A free alarm clock

Judge's Comments

The author observes the birds perched in the trees, singing in the morning. He describes this scene as "A free alarm clock", which is a pinnacle of imagination and sensitivity. The repetition of the "s" sounds and the "ing" ending in the first and the second lines (singing-sitting) emphasizes movement, and the freshness of the "s" sound conveys the morning scene through sound.

2nd Place

Bea O.
Burroughs Community School
Mr Hulsey

The stream gushes past
Clinging on to memories
entwine with the light

The author is observing nature while reflecting on her own memories, both happy and painful, intertwined with the sunlight and flowing stream. You feel the sense of renewal as people are embraced by nature. Regarding the third line, starting with a capital "Entwine" could indeed further emphasize the intertwining of memories and nature, adding a poetic touch to the expression.

3rd Place

Lucy B.
Burroughs
Lonnie Hulsey

The birds are singing
crickets start chirping with them
Secret harmony

The author skillfully uses present participles in English, "are singing" and "start chirping" to describe the birds singing and the crickets chirping in response. She refers to this scene as "Secret harmony", which is quite romantic. It makes one wonder if it is a personal secret or the secret harmony between the birds and crickets. The repetition of sounds in "crickets" and "chirping" in the second line, along with the overlapping meanings is "singing-start-Secret" across the lines, adds depth and richness to the poem. Starting the second line with a capital "Crickets" would indeed further enhance the emphasis.

4th Place

Camille B. & Brynlee H.
Burroughs
Ms. Walvatne

When the sun comes up
It's a new chance, find yourself
as good as you are.

7th Place

Stella W.
Burroughs
Lonnie Hulsey

I ride the bus home
I start singing people join
Harmony is great

5th Place

Lucille S.
Burroughs
Amy Walvatne

Deep in the forest
Down below the creepy things
I hear your voices

8th Place

Chloe R.
Howe
Ms. Mangal

Such peaceful music
as the harmonic doves sing
soft, calm lullabies

6th Place

George Y.
Burroughs
Amy Walvatne

The birds sing their songs
the mountains sing us echoes
And earth sings its song

The 2025 Award Winning Haiku's: 6th – 8th Grade

1st Place

Jackson O.
Anthony Middle School
Ms. Ringold

The beautiful sounds
High and low and in between
All come together

2nd Place

Alice L.
Anthony
Ms. Goldammer

I stand in the snow
Feel the cold wind in my hair
I blend with the frost

3rd Place

Miranda A.
Justice Page
Nataline Peterso

The bee and flower;
They each help the other live,
Like light and darkness.

Judge's Comments

The beauty of sound is wonderfully depicted. The second line, "High and low and in between," introduces the beauty of the tones, and the third line, "All come together," brings it all together. The syllable structure is cleverly crafted to emphasize these elements. Within the 5-7-5 syllable pattern, the author skillfully combines one-syllable words (The, sounds, High, and, low, in, all, come) with two- and three-syllable words (beautiful, between, together).

This poem describes the feelings and situation of standing in the falling snow. The unique feature of this work is that all the vocabulary consists of one-syllable words, making it sound crisp overall. Additionally, the sounds of "s" in stand-snow, "d" in cold-blend, and "f" in feel-frost are effectively used. The expression "I blend with the frost" in the third line is beautiful. Reading it aloud reveals even more of its charm.

The relationship between bees and flowers, light and darkness, is indeed symbiotic and complementary. It is fascinating how this concept is captured in a haiku. The second line, "They each help the other live," explains the mutual support, acting as a glue between the first and third lines.

4th Place

Cleo D.
Anthony Middle School
Ms. Ringold

The light hits the glass
Reflecting all sorts of colors
To create a rainbow

5th Place

Hugo M.
Anthony Middle School
Ms. Bartholomew

waves and undertow
push and pull in harmony
the oceans balance

6th Place

Miranda A.
Justice Page Middle school
Natalie Peterson

Waves and the Currents
They are controlled by the Moon
Each phase, A new Tide.

7th Place

Pete T.
Justice Page Middle School
Natalie Peterson

A life like water
Fluid yet still connected
Sometimes hard to find

8th Place

Gesar S.
Anthony Middle school
Sarah Goldammer

We watch the snow fall
We bundle up near the fire
Living in balance

The 2025 Award Winning Haiku's: 9th – 12th Grade

1st Place

Jasper N.
Southwest High School
Nathan Hamel

Like musical notes,
The world has many layers
A stunning canvas

2nd Place

Fatuma F.
Heritage academy
Clayton Shanilec

Golden fields of grain
Dancing under summer sun
Nature's warm embrace

3rd Place

Rujal R.
Heritage Stem Academy
Clayton Shanilec

Moonlight on the lake
Ripples dance in silver beams
Night whispers safely

Judge's Comments

From the perspective of human egalitarianism, the expression "the world has many layers, like musical notes" evokes images of rulers and the ruled, making it hard to ignore the word "layer". However, "layer" also means "to apply in layers". The author paints the images of people from various strata onto a canvas, expressing a dual meaning of the overlapping colors on the canvas. This can be interpreted as the diverse, multicultural layers of humanity creating beautiful sounds like musical notes.

The two lines "Golden fields of grain, Dancing under summer sun" depict the scene of abundant crops. The golden grains are dancing under the summer sun, a warm embrace from nature. It speaks of the bountiful harvest in a casual manner, reminding us not to forget the blessings we receive from nature.

Translating English into Japanese, I was surprised to see how lyrically expressive haiku can be, rather than tanka (短歌: A traditional five-line, 31-syllable Japanese poem with a 5-7-5-7-7 syllable pattern). From the sharpness of Japanese haiku, one might say this is more like a tanka. However, considering the potential of haiku expressed in the 5-7-5 syllable structure, this is also valid. The second line, "Ripples dance in silver beams," is particularly captivating.

4th Place

Jake M.
Southwest High School
Nathan Hamel

Pistons back and forth
harmonized in their motion
Balance in chaos

5th Place

Eve W.
Southwest
Nathan Hamel

Fragile harmony
A ladybug on a leaf
Wind blows her away

6th Place

Jack C.
Southwest High School
Nathan Hamel

Leaves rustle softly
Clouds drift by, time slips away –
the cat takes a nap

7th Place

Elliot K.
Southwest High School
Nathan Hamel

Sunrise paints the sky
Birds sing mornings sweet debut
Perfect Harmony

8th Place

Hudson H.
Southwest High School
Nathan Hamel

Moonlight drapes the hills
Silent stars in perfect peace
Night and earth in tune

The 2025 Award Winning Haiku's: Adults

1st Place

Natalie Peterson
Justice Page Middle School

The first winter's snow
Gently lands on my eyelash
A kiss from above

Judge's Comments

The expression of the first snowfall as "A kiss from above" and the description "Gently lands on my eyelash" beautifully captures the scene. The poem is short, precise, and filled with emotion. It is a wonderful piece. The syllable structure of the first line is (1-1-2-1), the second line is (2-1-1-1-2), and the third line is (1-1-1-2), skillfully incorporating one- and two-syllable words into each line, making it very rhythmic.

2nd Place

Clayton Schanilec
Heritage Academy

Feet dangling in stream
Deer steps unaware of me
flowing down river

The poem depicts the interaction between humans and animals in nature. It describes a deer moving downstream in the river, unaware of the human presence. While there is a physical distance between the deer and the human, the human feels emotionally close to the deer. This sense of distance and closeness makes the poem intriguing.

3rd Place

Diane Leaskas
Davis Center

Emergence of spring
Fauna and Flora galore
Natures soul reigns down

The arrival of spring, filled with sunlight, is the long-awaited season for plants and animals. They fully engage in the activities of nature, competing in their beauty. If our world did not have spring, or if it never came, all living beings in this world would become empty shells and perish.

4th Place

Nathan Hamel
Southwest

Seniors in high school
Playing football together
The voice of autumn

7th Place

Clayton Schanilec
Heritage Academy

Balance balls in air
The juggler sings with his hands
Songs of harmony

5th Place

Clayton Schanilec
Heritage Academy

My journeying soul
Flying west over earth's land
Chasing the sunset

8th Place

Clayton Schanilec
Heritage Academy

Precious cucumber
The perfect balance of green
And water so pure

6th Place

Abasi Thomas
Heritage Academy

Living Together
In Peace and Tranquility
Melodiousness

Cherry Tree Festival

The 14th annual Cherry Tree Festival took place on Sunday, May 11, 2025 on Nicollet Island inside the tent outside of the Pavilion.

We had some new and old groups this year providing information and performances:

From 2 – 4 pm

- Karen Kersting gave a Kamishibai performance
- Mutokai Iaido & Minneapolis Jo gave a Japanese sword demonstration
- Chai-Ami Japanese Cultural Center had an information table where they also did origami

From 3 – 3:30 pm

- The Haiku Awards Ceremony

From 3:30 – 4 pm

- A performance by Harisen Daiko

Other Activities included:

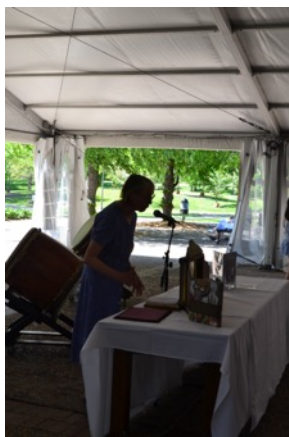
- Displays of Ibaraki student artwork
- Japanese games

Attendance was excellent! And we are looking forward to next year's celebration.



Did you know there are thirty cherry trees located on Nicollet Island? These trees were a gift from the City of Ibaraki to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the sister city relationship in 2010.

The trees were in full bloom in late April of this year.



Karen Kersting performing Kamishibai and visitors.



Visitors learning about the Chai-Ami Japanese Cultural Center and doing origami at the Chai-Ami Japanese Cultural Center table.



Ibaraki School student's artwork and Calligraphy on display.



Mutokai Iaido & Minneapolis Jo giving a Japanese sword demonstration



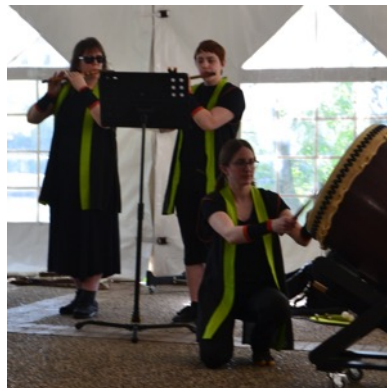
Haiku Contest winners receiving their certificates and gift from Ibaraki.



Haiku Contest winners receiving their certificates and gift from Ibaraki.



Haiku Contest winners receiving their certificates and gift from Ibaraki.



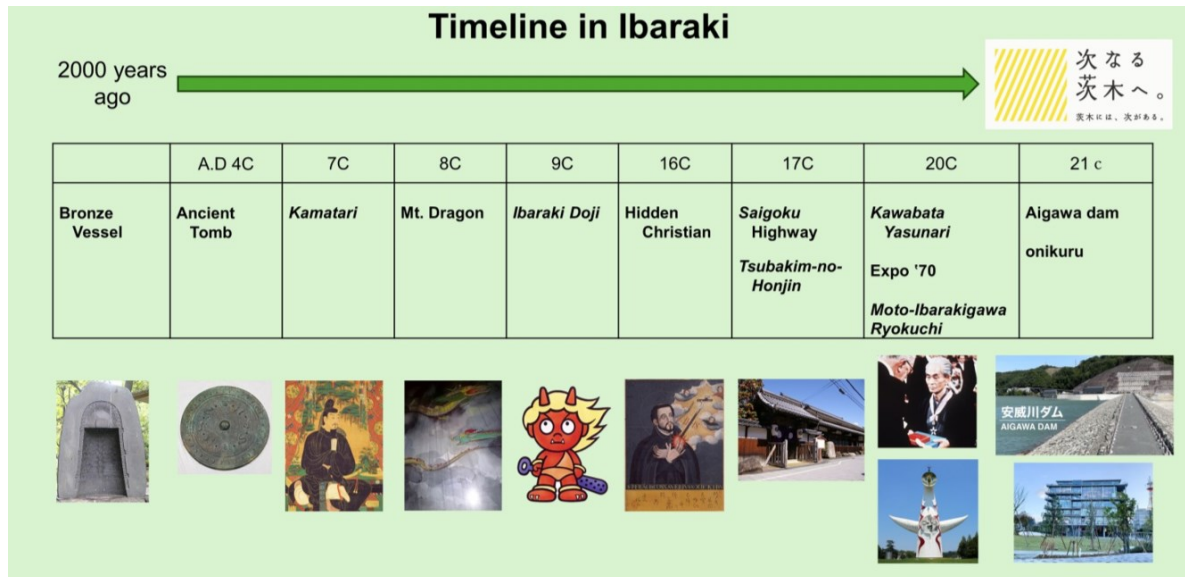
Harisen Daiko performing.

Fascinating History in Developing *Ibaraki*

By IIN working group on cultures



In this issue, we would like to introduce the long history of *Ibaraki* city through "*Ibaraki Local Karuta*", picture cards in the set of *Karuta*.



【Bronze Vessel】



「や」 Bell-shaped vessels from the Yayoi Period

The bell-shaped bronze bells (*Dotaku*) were made during the Yayoi period (B.C.10th century-A.D.3rd century). In 1974, the mold of the bronze bell was discovered with almost perfect shape in the southern part of *Ibaraki* city (*Higashinara* site). On this basis, a monument

named "Bell of Two friends" has been erected on Nicollet Island as a symbol of friendship of two cities, Minneapolis and *Ibaraki*.

The "Bell of Two friends" on Nicollet Island



The mold in Ibaraki, 17 inches in height

more than 10 times taller



The Bell of Two friends

【Ancient Tomb】



「こ」 Ancient bronze mirrors were dug out from *Shikinzan*, this is not a coin

During the Tumulus (*Kofun*) period (3rd-7th century), ancient tombs were built all over Japan. This bronze mirror and other burial accessories were excavated from the *Shikinzan* tomb in *Ibaraki* city.



Kofun



【Kamatari】



「よ」 Kamatari, who changed history, has a tomb here

Kamatari was a historical politician related to *Ibaraki*. While planning a political reform in the 7th century, he hid himself in *Mishima* (now *Ibaraki*). After returning to the capital, he started a political reform called the *Taika-no-kaishin* with a capable prince. For the next 20 years, he devoted his life to emperor-centered politics. On the day before he passed away, he was given the title of *Taishokukan*, the highest political title ever given to a politician.



Taishokukan

According to legends, *Kamatari* was buried in *Shogun-zuka* in *Ibaraki* after his death in 669. The place has been respected by residents as a special place where the spirit of *Kamatari* resides. Based on actual archaeological findings, researchers believe that the *Abuyama* burial mound, located on the border of *Ibaraki* and *Takatsuki* cities, may be the tomb of *Kamatari*. Since *Kamatari*'s ancestors are enshrined at *Ai Shrine* in *Ibaraki*, *Shinto* ritual of *kemari*, ball game, is held every year.



Shogun-zuka Shrine



Kemari

Ai Shrine

【Mt.Dragon】



「ほ」 Praying for rain to Dragon God

Ryuo-san is 510-meter-high mountain in the northern part of *Ibaraki*. At the mountainside there is an old pond named *Hachirenhochi*. According to the anecdote, in the 8th century there was a big drought around *Kinki* area. Prince *Kaijo* came to dig a pond and invited eight Dragon Gods to pray for rain. After that, the mountain became to be called *Ryuo-san*, Mountain of Dragon Gods, and was worshipped as a holy mountain.



Hachirenhochi



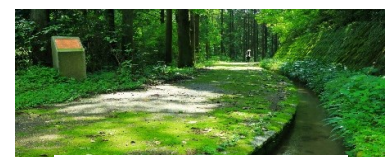
Mt. Ryuo

Mountain of Dragon God



「く」 Kuruma-tsukuri Waterway created by Gonnai

Near *Ryuo-san* there is *Kuruma-tsukuri* Waterway made by *Gonnai* in the 18th century. He drew water from *Shimootowa* river to his village by himself. Villagers were very happy to be able to get water all the time. In 1919 the villagers built a monument commemorating *Gonnai*.



Gonnai water way

【Ibaraki Doji】



「お」 Fiendish face, he became ogre named *Ibaraki Doji*

According to the folktale, *Ibaraki Doji* was born as a remarkably large and full-teethed baby, and he walked soon after. When he stared at his mother with scary sharp eyes, she died of shock. His father could not look after the ogre-like baby and abandoned him in front of a barber shop in Ibaraki Village.



He grew up as the child of a childless barber couple. He became a too big and wild child. The barbers couldn't handle him, but they decided to calm him down by teaching him the work of the barber. One day, the child cut the customer's face. When he licked the blood, the taste became addictive. From then on, he cut the customer's face and sipped blood. He was scolded by the barber. He ran out of the barbershop and looked down at a river from the bridge and was surprised to see his own face in the reflection. It was the face of a horned ogre.



He did not return to the barbershop but fled to the mountains of *Tamba*. He continued his evil deeds there with others.

Years later, *Ibaraki Doji* heard a rumor that the barber, his foster father, was ill. He was worried about him and went back to the village. The villagers welcomed *Ibaraki Doji* warmly and he was deeply moved. The villagers said, "Don't worry about the rest. Take care of yourself, too." and they sent him off to the mountains.



Currently, he is a special ambassador for tourism in *Ibaraki City* and promotes the charm of the city.

【Hidden Christian】



「か」 Hidden Christians sleep peacefully at *Sendaiji*

Christianity spread in the area around *Sendaiji*, which was the domain of the Christian lord *Takayama Ukon*. It is said that at that time, more than 70% of the population of 25,000 were Christians. In 1587, the *Toyotomi* Government began persecuting Christians, and the suppressed believers continued their faith deep in hiding, pretending to be Buddhists.

Even after the prohibition was lifted in 1873, the villagers hid their Christianity. One of them, *Ito-san*, had a fear that had persisted since she was a child. In 1926, an envoy from the Vatican found *Ito-san* and came to meet her to praise her deep faith.



Ibaraki Municipal Christian Relics Depository was opened in 1987. The most famous is a portrait of Francis Xavier, the first Christian missionary to Japan. All Japanese are familiar with this picture, as it appears in elementary

school textbooks. For various reasons, the original is in a museum in *Kobe*, but the fact that this painting was found in a house in this area is important. Other relics include the story paintings of the Virgin Mary and Christ, the only two remaining in Japan, both in this museum.



Last hidden Christian: *Ito-san*



【Saigoku Highway & Tsubaki-no-Honjin】



「む」 Once Saigoku Kaido in old days, now Meishin Express Way

The *Saigoku Kaido* is one of Japan's historical highways, stretching from *Kyoto* to *Shimonoseki*, functioning as a significant transportation route from the *Heian* period through the *Edo* period. The *Saigoku Kaido* is showcasing ancient temples, shrines, historical streets and picturesque landscapes along its path.



「た」 Tsubaki-no-Honjin, Feudal lord's procession

The *Tsubaki-no-Honjin* is located along the *Saigoku Kaido*. It was used as an inn only for feudal lords and noble people from 1696 to 1872. Feudal lords had to go to *Edo* as part of the *Sankin Kotai* system. Many of the *Honjin* began as personal residences of village and town leaders and expanded after their official designation. In return, the owners gained various special rights, including the right to a surname and to be allowed to wear a sword. It has camellia trees beside the gate blooming with five beautiful colors every year.



Camellia in five colors



Saigoku Kaido
(the Western roads)

【The 1900s】



「は」 Ibaraki City, launch out into the world with its pigeon symbol

Ibaraki-town became *Ibaraki City* when three neighboring villages combined on January 1st, 1948.



「い」 Ibaraki City flower, Rose

Roses were selected as the city flower in 1967 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of *Ibaraki City* and Japan World Exposition Osaka 1970.



「え」 Ibaraki Station square the front door to our city

EXPO'70 gave our city a great opportunity to develop. JR *Ibaraki* station was rebuilt and bus stations were made on land reclaimed from a pond used for agriculture. *Ibaraki City* acted as the front entrance of EXPO'70 that welcomed more than 60 million people. *Ibaraki City* has become a logistics hub and made remarkable growth from an agricultural city.



1876~1969



1970



Expo' 70



「の」Yasunari Kawabata, Nobel Prize winner, grew up in *Ibaraki*.

Kawabata Yasunari is the Laureate of the 1968 Nobel Prize in literature. He is the first Japanese writer to win it. Also, he is the first Honorary Citizen of *Ibaraki* City.



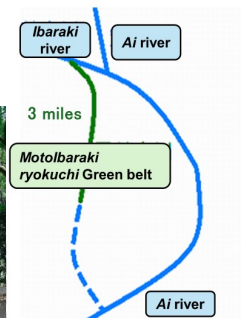
「ゆ」Minneapolis and *Ibaraki* are sister cities

Ibaraki City was looking for a foreign sister city to continue international relationships with after EXPO'70. Then, in 1980, Minneapolis and *Ibaraki* City signed a sister city affiliation.



「も」Motoibarakigawa-ryokuchi once was the *Ibaraki*-river, now is the park with a cycling lane and playgrounds. 1974~1989

The *Ibaraki* River and the *Ai* River were joined together in order to prevent floods in 1941. Then, the *Ibaraki* River was reclaimed and became a road and a green belt called *Moto-Ibarakigawa ryokuchi*, opened in 1974 and expanded until 1989. It was chosen as one of the best 100 greenery spots in *Osaka*.



flood damage in 1935

【Latest information on *Ibaraki* City】

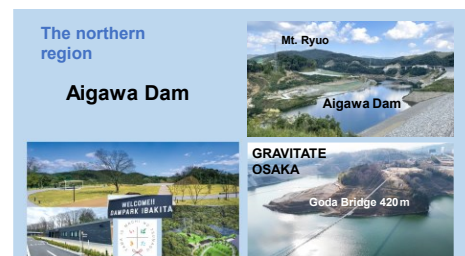
Ibara = 次 = bush, a plant with thorns
 = 次 = next → one after another

次なる
 茨木へ。
 茨木には、次がある。

'An ever-expanding, limitless future'

The letter *Ibara* refers to a bush in Japanese. This *Kanji* character consists of a bush and one after another. This *Ibaraki* image logo represents an ever-expanding, limitless future. The city center is conveniently located and popular among homebuyers, while recent years have seen a focus on development in the northern region.

Ibaraki has a long history of suffering from frequent flooding. The *Aigawa* Dam, in the northern region, was built to protect the city from rainfall disasters and was completed in 2023. It is one of the few urban dams in Japan designed to withstand a once-in-a-century torrential rain disaster. The dam area has been developed as an urban park with recreational facilities while carefully preserving the surrounding natural environment.





The *Saito* was developed as a residential community with spacious parks and research facilities. It has also attracted attention as a logistics hub. The area has six zones, each named after traditional Japanese colors.

Onikuru, Ibaraki City Cultural and Childcare Complex, opened in 2023. It features a multifunctional facility that provides childcare support, a library, and a concert hall.



Looking back through history, the current population of around 280,000 is more than eight times what it was in 1948 when the city was founded. As a political, economic, and transportation hub, *Ibaraki* City has played an essential role in our lives and will continue to do so.

The MINNIBARAKI newsletter is published quarterly (February, May, August and November) by the Minneapolis-Ibaraki Sister City Association.

MINNEAPOLIS IBARAKI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

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MINNEAPOLIS- IBARAKI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION



Upcoming Board Meetings:

Tuesday, June 19, 2024

Board meetings are held vis Zoom

If you would like to participate,
please email Karl Reinhard at:

misca.info@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Sister Cities Day

Sunday, July 14, 2024

1 - 5 pm

Nicollet Island

Please check out or
Facebook page for other
events and information.