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Dear members

The City of Kanazawa is approaching the second year as the UNESCO Creative City. This year, we intend to expedite the craft exchange between overseas at the same time, we would like to put our efforts for the international contribution.

Kanazawa had the new Overseas Training Program for Young Craftsmen called "Creative Waltz" through the cooperation of Berlin, Bologna and Ghent. The participated students from the Kanazawa College of Art express their impressions that they were warmly welcomed, experienced the high level artistic culture of Europe and had a valuable time. Students are putting together a report on the result of their experience and going to present the report at the Kanazawa Creative City Promotion Committee Meeting which will be held in the end of March.

Due to the achievement of this program in 2010, Kanazawa intends to open the door to young craftsmen who have an endorsement of Utatsuyama Craft Workshop or Kanazawa Craft Association in addition to Kanazawa College of Art. We hope to get Creative Cities Network members' continued support this year.

Besides the Creative Waltz program, the Creative City of Kanazawa is planning to hold a new project, practical training support for Asian Craftsmen as a part of international contribution. Kanazawa invites dyeing, textile and lacquer artists from Asian countries and they will be given an opportunity to learn the crafts techniques of Kanazawa for 1 year and give lectures and workshop related to the crafts of their homeland to students, teachers of Kanazawa College of Art, and craftsmen of Kanazawa city. We believe that the Craftsmen from Asian Countries will play an important role to convey the charm of Kanazawa Crafts to their homeland.

Last year, many Asian Cities, such as Shanghai, Chengdu, Shenzhen, Ichon and Seoul joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. It seems that there's a high level of interest in Asian Creative Cities. Accordingly, the City of Kanazawa has received many inquiries and inspection groups of government, municipality, University, etc from Asian Countries.

The City of Kanazawa will continue making positive efforts to the international contribution.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

I wish all the best and success more and more.

Yours sincerely

Japan Creative City Kanazawa promotion coordinator