

Vol. 8 1003

Dear Members of the Creative City Network,

In this week's mail magazine, we would like to inform everyone of the 2nd French-Japanese Conference on Decentralized Cooperation, which will be held in Kanazawa in May.

The first conference, held on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and France, was held on October 27th and 28th, 2008 in Nancy, a sister city of Kanazawa. The conference attracted 29 local governments, and in a joint communiqué resulting from these meetings, it was agreed to hold the second conference in Kanazawa. The meetings will take place across three venues, with the 21st century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa acting as the main location for the meetings.

During this conference, held in May 2010, local government members involved in a sister city or friendship city relation between Japan and France will gather and exchange ideas on the overall theme of "Local Governance and Sustainable Development" in session meetings. Around 40 local governments are planning to attend. A new session meeting to discuss the driving force of development, "culture", will be added to the previous conference's three topics of "economy", "environment", and "society". The meetings based on these four themes will identify common problems to both Japanese and French governments and will seek out ways of cooperating to find solutions.

This conference aims to make a contribution towards a harmonious, international community by proposing a new model of exchange among local governments that goes beyond the framework of conventional one-on-one relationships. The conference will deepen the partnerships between local governments in both countries and thereby expand the relationship between France and Japan.

With that, we offer our best wishes towards your successful activities and continued good health.

Creative City Kanazawa Promotion Office, Japan