



# Press Release

## City of Edmonds

Mayor David O. Earling

**For Immediate Release: February 12, 2013**

To: City Council

The Edmonds Beacon

The Seattle Times

The Everett Herald

My Edmonds News.com

Edmonds Patch

Edmonds KOMO

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### 28-member Mayor's Delegation Going to Hekinan Japan

**(Edmonds – WA)** Mayor Dave Earling and his wife will head a delegation of 28 community members going to Hekinan, Japan, from April 1–8. Members of the delegation include Ron Clyborne, President of the Edmonds Chamber of Commerce, who looks forward to meeting with Chamber counterparts in Hekinan. Sister City Commissioners Paul Anderson, Beth Fuhriman, Yoshi Inoue, and Iyoko Okana will also be part of the group. A number of delegates going to Japan for the first time are excited at this opportunity, and have been overheard talking about it as they buy coffee in town. An orientation meeting will be held February 21 to kick-off the planning phase of the trip. Homestays will be allocated by the end of the month so those people staying with families can begin getting to know them in a cross-cultural exchange they can enjoy before the visit. Some of the members of the delegation are gathering gifts of Edmonds-themed goods, such as these cups and matching coasters purchased from an Edmonds shop that only stocks made-in-America goods. Local artist Andy Eccleshall is working on a major piece of artwork to be presented to Mayor Masanobu Negita, following the tradition of the two mayors' exchange of gifts. Keeping in mind the mission of the Sister City Commission, to promote international communication and understanding through exchanges of people, ideas, and culture, Mayor Earling looks forward to a rich and fruitful visit to Hekinan to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the two cities' connection.



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