



City of Edmonds Media Release

Office of the Mayor ~ 121 5th Avenue North, Edmonds

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To: Media

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HEKINAN JAPAN DELEGATION TO VISIT EDMONDS

In celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Edmonds/Hekinan Sister City relationship

(Edmonds, WA) – Anticipation is building as the City of Edmonds Sister City Commission prepares for the arrival of a delegation from our Sister City of Hekinan, Japan to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Edmonds/Hekinan Sister City relationship.

Edmonds and the city of Hekinan, Japan established a relationship on April 5, 1988. Since that time, hundreds of adults and students have traveled between the two cities promoting international communication and understanding through the exchange of people, ideas and culture.

While in Edmonds the delegation, led by Hekinan Mayor, Masanobu Negita, will visit the Washington State Capitol, explore Snohomish and Skagit Counties, and participate in the Chamber Trick-or-Treat event. The delegation will also spend a day in Edmonds visiting Edmonds Elementary, Fire Station #17, and attending a lunch hosted by the Foundation for International Services.

The bond between Edmonds and Hekinan was created and has been maintained through the effort of many volunteers in Edmonds and Hekinan. One of those volunteers was Keiko Sakakibara of Hekinan. Keiko was one of a delegation of three from Hekinan who traveled to Edmonds to assess the possibility of the Hekinan/Edmonds Sister City relationship. After visiting Edmonds and two other cities on the West Coast, it was clear to the delegation that Edmonds was the best fit for Hekinan. Keiko was the driving force behind this program for the past 30 years. Sadly, Keiko died suddenly only a week before the Edmonds delegation arrived in Hekinan this last April. The City of Edmonds will honor Keiko with a memorial bench which will be presented at a short ceremony on Wednesday, October 31st—11:45 am at Centennial Plaza, located across the street from City Hall. The public is invited to join us for this special presentation.

For questions or more information on the delegations visit, please contact the Mayor's Office at 425.771.0247 or carolyn.lafave@edmondswa.gov.

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