

# **BRIEFING REPORT**

## **Sister City Hachinohe, Japan**



**Prepared by:**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	2
Hachinohe Quick Facts .....	3
Japanese Government Structure .....	4
Local Government Structure .....	13
Mayor of Hachinohe Background .....	16
City of Hachinohe Background .....	19
Community Initiatives .....	20
Recent News .....	24
Culture .....	27

## Introduction



The area around Hachinohe has been occupied since prehistoric times. Throughout the years, the City has been a major population hub and has even been a castle town centered on Hachinohe Castle. Today, Hachinohe is the second largest city in the Aomori prefecture with a population of over 230,000, and a major port which serves the fishing industry and a number of international cargo vessels. The City promises expansive coastlines, fresh

seafood at the morning markets, or a unique nightlife at the Yatai village.

This briefing will address Hachinohe's national and local governmental structure as it relates to the United States and Federal Way, a history and guide to the people and places of Hachinohe, and the City's strategy as it plans for its future.

2018 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Federal Way and Hachinohe, who began their partnership in February 1993.

## Hachinohe Quick Facts

- 2015 Population Census: 231, 257
- Demographics based on age:
  - 0-14 years: 28,122
  - 15-64 years: 136, 712
  - 65+ years: 63, 614
- 107,604 households
- Hachinohe is located in the Aomori prefecture, and is the second largest city in the prefecture following Aomori City
- Hachinohe utilizes a strong mayor-council form of government with a directly elected mayor and a unicameral city legislature of 32 members. All officials are elected by popular vote and the government structure is largely uniform in comparison to the city government structure in the United States
- The City is a major fishing port with the fourth largest volume in Japan
- Its economic sectors include:
  - Fishing
  - Construction
  - Chemicals
  - Steel
  - Cement
  - Fertilizer products
  - Tourism
- Time Zone UTC+9. Hachinohe does not participate in Daylight Savings Time. During Standard Time, Hachinohe is 16 hours ahead of Federal Way. During Daylight Savings Time, it is 17 hours ahead of Federal Way
- Federal Way and Hachinohe share the same discount retailer, Daiso
- Hachinohe has a relatively mild climate. Its climate is known as a mix between an oceanic climate and a humid subtropical climate. Summers are considerably mild because Hachinohe is located very close to the open sea, and even during cold winters, Hachinohe is significantly less snowy than in other Aomori prefecture cities like Aomori City, Sapporo, or Wakkanai. The average annual temperature is 49.8°F, and the City experiences an average of 45.87 inches of rain per year. September is the wettest month, while August and January are the hottest and coldest months, at 72.8°F and 28.58°F, respectively
- Hachinohe is located at the northern tip of the main island of Honshu, on the Pacific Ocean side. It is located on the southeastern side of the Aomori prefecture
- Other Sister City of Hachinohe: Lanzhou, Gansu, China (1998)



## Japanese Government



The government of Japan is a constitutional monarchy in which the power of the Emperor is limited and is relegated primarily to ceremonial duties. As in many other states, the Government is divided into three branches: the Executive branch, the Legislative branch and the Judicial branch.

The Government runs under the framework established by the Constitution of Japan, adopted in 1947. It is a unitary state, containing forty-seven administrative divisions, with the Emperor as its head of state. His role is ceremonial and he has no powers related to Government. Instead, it is the Cabinet, comprising the Ministers of State and the Prime Minister, that directs and controls the Government. The Cabinet is the source of power of the Executive branch, and is formed by the Prime Minister, who is the head of government. He or she is designated by the National Diet and appointed to office by the Emperor.

The National Diet is the legislature, the organ of the Legislative branch. It is bicameral, consisting of two houses with the House of Councillors being the upper house, and the House of Representatives being the lower house. Its members are directly elected from the people, who are the source of sovereignty. The Supreme Court and other inferior courts make up the Judicial branch, and they are independent from the executive and the legislative branches.

### The Emperor

The Emperor of Japan is the head of the Imperial Family and the ceremonial head of state. He is defined by the Constitution to be "the symbol of the State and of the unity of the people". However, he is not the nominal Chief Executive and he possesses only certain ceremonially important powers. He has no real powers related to the Government as stated clearly in article 4 of the Constitution.

Article 6 of the Constitution of Japan delegates the Emperor the following ceremonial roles:

- Appointment of the Prime Minister as designated by the Diet.
- Appointment of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as designated by the Cabinet.

While the Cabinet is the source of executive power and most of its power is exercised directly by the Prime Minister, several of its powers are exercised by the Emperor. The powers exercised via the Emperor, as stipulated by Article 7 of the Constitution, are:

- Promulgation of amendments of the constitution, laws, cabinet orders and treaties.
- Convocation of the Diet.
- Dissolution of the House of Representatives.
- Proclamation of general election of members of the Diet.
- Attestation of the appointment and dismissal of Ministers of State and other officials as provided for by law, and of full powers and credentials of Ambassadors and Ministers.
- Attestation of general and special amnesty, commutation of punishment, reprieve, and restoration of rights.
- Awarding of honors.
- Attestation of instruments of ratification and other diplomatic documents as provided for by law.
- Receiving foreign ambassadors and ministers.
- Performance of ceremonial functions.

The Emperor is known to hold the nominal ceremonial authority. For example, the Emperor is the only person that has the authority to appoint the Prime Minister, even though the Diet has the power to designate the person fitted for the position. This was seen in the 2009 Dissolution of the House of Representatives. The House was expected to be dissolved on the advice of the Prime Minister, but was temporarily unable to do so for the next general election, as both the Emperor and Empress were visiting Canada.

In this manner, the Emperor's modern role is often compared to those of the Shogunate period and much of Japan's history, whereby the Emperor held great symbolic authority but had little political power; which is often held by others nominally appointed by the Emperor himself. Today, a legacy has somewhat continued for a retired Prime Minister who still wields considerable power, to be called a Shadow Shogun.

Unlike his European counterparts, the Emperor is not the source of sovereign power and the government does not act under his name. Instead, the Emperor represents the State and appoints other high officials in the name of the State, in which the Japanese people hold sovereignty. Article 5 of the Constitution, in accordance with the Imperial Household Law, allows a regency to be established in the Emperor's name, should the Emperor be unable to perform his duties.

Historically, the Imperial House of Japan is said to be the oldest continuing hereditary monarchy in the world. According to the Kojiki and Nihon Shoki, Japan was founded by the Imperial House in 660 BC by Emperor Jimmu. Emperor Jimmu was the first Emperor of Japan and the ancestor of all of the Emperors that followed. He is, according to Japanese mythology, the direct

descendant of Amaterasu, the sun goddess of the native Shinto religion, through Ninigi, his great-grandfather.

The Current Emperor of Japan is Akihito. He was officially enthroned on November 12, 1990. He is styled as His Imperial Majesty, and his reign bears the era name of Heisei. Naruhito, the Crown Prince of Japan, is the heir apparent to the Chrysanthemum Throne.



### **Executive Branch**

The Executive branch of Japan is headed by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is the head of the Cabinet, and is designated by the legislative organ, the National Diet. The Cabinet consists of the Ministers of State and may be appointed or dismissed by the Prime Minister at any time. Explicitly defined to be the source of executive power, it is in practice, however, mainly exercised by the Prime Minister. The practice of its powers is responsible to the Diet, and as a whole, should the Cabinet lose confidence and support to be in office by the Diet, the Diet may dismiss the Cabinet en masse with a motion of no confidence.

The Prime Minister of Japan is designated by the National Diet and serves a term of four years or less; with no limits imposed on the number of terms the Prime Minister may hold. The Prime Minister heads the Cabinet and exercises "control and supervision" of the executive branch, and is the head of government and commander-in-chief of the Japan Self-Defense Forces. The Prime Minister is vested with the power to present bills to the Diet, to sign laws, to declare a state of emergency, and may also dissolve the Diet's House of Representatives at will. He or she presides over the Cabinet and appoints, or dismisses, the other Cabinet ministers.

Both houses of the National Diet designate the Prime Minister with a ballot cast under the run-off system. Under the Constitution, should both houses not agree on a common candidate, then a joint committee is allowed to be established to agree on the matter; specifically within a period of ten days, exclusive of the period of recess. However, if both houses still do not agree to each other, the decision made by the House of Representatives is deemed to be that of the National Diet. Upon designation, the Prime Minister is presented with their commission, and then formally appointed to office by the Emperor.

As a candidate designated by the Diet, he or she is required to report to the Diet whenever demanded. The Prime Minister must also be both a civilian and a member of either house of the Diet.

## The Cabinet

The Cabinet of Japan consists of the Ministers of State and the Prime Minister. The members of the Cabinet are appointed by the Prime Minister, and under the Cabinet Law, the number of members of the Cabinet appointed, excluding the Prime Minister, must be fourteen or less, but may only be increased to nineteen should a special need arise. Article 68 of the Constitution states that all members of the Cabinet must be civilians and the majority of them must be chosen from among the members of either house of the National Diet. The precise wording leaves an opportunity for the Prime Minister to appoint some non-elected Diet officials. The Cabinet is required to resign en masse while still continuing its functions, until the appointment of a new Prime Minister, when the following situation arises:

- The Diet's House of Representatives passes a non-confidence resolution, or rejects a confidence resolution, unless the House of Representatives is dissolved within the next ten (10) days.
- When there is a vacancy in the post of the Prime Minister, or upon the first convocation of the Diet after a general election of the members of the House of Representatives.
- Conceptually deriving legitimacy from the Diet, whom it is responsible to, the Cabinet exercises its power in two different ways. In practice, much of its power is exercised by the Prime Minister, while others are exercised nominally by the Emperor.

Article 73 of the Constitution of Japan expects the Cabinet to perform the following functions, in addition to general administration:

- Administer the law faithfully; conduct affairs of state.
- Manage foreign affairs.
- Conclude treaties. However, it shall obtain prior or, depending on circumstances, subsequent approval of the Diet.
- Administer the civil service, in accordance with standards established by law.
- Prepare the budget, and present it to the Diet.
- Enact cabinet orders in order to execute the provisions of this Constitution and of the law. However, it cannot include penal provisions in such cabinet orders unless authorized by such law.
- Decide on general amnesty, special amnesty, commutation of punishment, reprieve, and restoration of rights.

Under the Constitution, all laws and cabinet orders must be signed by the competent Minister and countersigned by the Prime Minister, before being formally promulgated by the Emperor. Also, all members of the Cabinet cannot be subject to legal action without the consent of the Prime Minister; however, without impairing the right to take legal action.

### **The Ministries**

The Ministries of Japan consist of eleven ministries and the Cabinet Office. Each ministry is headed by a Minister of State, which are mainly senior legislators, and are appointed from among the members of the Cabinet by the Prime Minister. The Cabinet Office, formally headed by the Prime Minister, is an agency that handles the day-to-day affairs of the Cabinet. The ministries are the most influential part of the daily-exercised executive power and since few ministers serve for more than a year, which is necessary to grab hold of the organization, most of its power lies within the senior bureaucrats.



### **Current Prime Minister and Selected Ministers:**

- Prime Minister: Shinzō Abe
- Deputy Prime Minister: Taro Aso
- Minister for Internal Affairs and Communication: Seiko Noda
- Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry: Hiroshige Sekō
- Minister for Foreign Affairs: Tarō Kōno

### **Legislative Branch**

The Legislative branch of Japan is the National Diet. It is a bicameral legislature, composing of a lower house, the House of Representatives, and an upper house, the House of Councillors. Empowered by the Constitution to be "the highest organ of State power" and the only "sole law-making organ of the State", its houses are both directly elected under a parallel voting system and is ensured by the Constitution to have no discrimination on the qualifications of each members; whether be it based on "race, creed, sex, social status, family origin, education, property or income". The National Diet, therefore, reflects the sovereignty of the people; a principle of popular sovereignty whereby the supreme power lies within, in this case, the Japanese people.

The Diet's responsibilities include the making of laws, the approval of the annual national budget, the approval of the conclusion of treaties and the selection of the Prime Minister. In addition, it has the power to initiate draft constitutional amendments, which, if approved, are to be presented to the people for ratification in a referendum before being promulgated by the Emperor, in the name of the people. The Constitution also enables both houses to conduct investigations in relation to government, demand the presence and testimony of witnesses, and the production of records, as well as allowing either house of the Diet to demand the presence of the Prime Minister or the other Minister of State, in order to give answers or explanations whenever so required. The Diet is also able to impeach Court judges convicted of criminal or irregular conduct. The Constitution, however, does not specify the voting methods, the number of members of each house, and all other matters pertaining to the method of election of the each member, and are thus, allowed to be determined for by law.

Under the provisions of the Constitution and by law, all adults aged over 18 are eligible to vote, with a secret ballot and a universal suffrage, and those elected have certain protections from apprehension while the Diet is in session. Speeches, debates, and votes cast in the Diet also enjoy parliamentary privileges. Each house is responsible for disciplining its own members, and all deliberations are public unless two-thirds or more of those members present passes a resolution agreeing it otherwise. The Diet also requires the presence of at least one-third of the membership of either house in order to constitute a quorum. All decisions are decided by a majority of those present, unless otherwise stated by the Constitution, and in the case of a tie, the presiding officer has the right to decide the issue. A member cannot be expelled, however, unless a majority of two-thirds or more of those members present passes a resolution therefor.

Under the Constitution, at least one session of the Diet must be convened each year. The Cabinet can also, at will, convoke extraordinary sessions of the Diet and is required to, when a quarter or more of the total members of either house demand it. During an election, only the House of Representatives is dissolved. The House of Councillors is however, not dissolved but only closed, and may, in times of national emergency, be convoked for an emergency session. The Emperor both convokes the Diet and dissolves the House of Representatives, but only does so on the advice of the Cabinet.

For bills to become Law, they are to be first passed by both houses of the National Diet, signed by the Ministers of State, countersigned by the Prime Minister, and then finally promulgated by the Emperor; however, without specifically giving the Emperor the power to oppose legislation.

### **The House of Representatives**

The House of Representatives of Japan is the Lower house, with the members of the house being elected once every four years, or when dissolved, for a four-year term. As of November 18,

2017, it has 465 members. Of these, 176 members are elected from 11 multi-member constituencies by a party-list system of proportional representation, and 289 are elected from single-member constituencies. 233 seats are required for majority. The House of Representatives is the more powerful house out of the two, it is able to override vetoes on bills imposed by the House of Councillors with a two-thirds majority. It can, however, be dissolved by the Prime Minister at will. Members of the house must be of Japanese nationality; those aged 18 years and older may vote, while those aged 25 years and older may run for office in the lower house.

The legislative power of the House of Representatives is considered to be more powerful than that of the House of Councillors. While the House of Councillors has the ability to veto most decisions made by the House of Representatives, some however, can only be delayed. This includes the legislation of treaties, the budget, and the selection of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister, and collectively his Cabinet, can in turn, however, dissolve the House of Representatives whenever intended. While the House of Representatives is considered to be officially dissolved upon the preparation of the document, the House is only formally dissolved by the dissolution ceremony. The dissolution ceremony of the House is as follows:

- The document is rubber stamped by the Emperor, and wrapped in a purple silk cloth; an indication of a document of state act, done on behalf of the people.
- The document is passed on to the Chief Cabinet Secretary at the House of Representatives President's reception room.
- The document is taken to the Chamber for preparation by the General-Secretary.
- The General-Secretary prepares the document for reading by the Speaker.
- The Speaker of the House of Representatives promptly declares the dissolution of the House.
- The House of Representatives is formally dissolved.

It is customary that, upon the dissolution of the House, members will shout the Three Cheers of Banzai.

### **The House of Councillors**

The House of Councillors of Japan is the Upper house, with half the members of the house being elected once every three years, for a six-year term. As of November 18, 2017, it has 242 members. Of these, 73 are elected from the 47 prefectural districts, by single non-transferable votes, and 48 are elected from a nationwide list by proportional representation with open lists. The House of Councillors cannot be dissolved by the Prime Minister. Members of the house must be of Japanese nationality; those aged 18 years and older may vote, while those aged 30 years and older may run for office in the upper house.

As the House of Councillors can veto a decision made by the House of Representatives, the House of Councillors can cause the House of Representatives to reconsider its decision. The House of Representatives however, can still insist on its decision by overwriting the veto by the House of Councillors with a two-thirds majority of its



members present. Each year, and when required, the National Diet is convoked at the House of Councillors, on the advice of the Cabinet, for an extra or an ordinary session, by the Emperor. A short speech is, however, usually first made by the Speaker of the House of Representatives before the Emperor proceeds to convoke the Diet with his speech from the throne.

### **Judicial Branch**

The Judicial branch of Japan consists of the Supreme Court, and four other lower courts; the High Courts, District Courts, Family Courts and Summary Courts. Divided into four basic tiers, the Court's independence from the executive and legislative branches is guaranteed by the Constitution, and is stated as: "no extraordinary tribunal shall be established, nor shall any organ or agency of the Executive be given final judicial power"; a feature known as the Separation of Powers. Of key importance, Article 76 of the Japanese Constitution states that all the Court judges are independent in the exercise of their own conscience and that they are only bounded by the Constitution and the laws. Court judges are removable only by public impeachment, and can only be removed, without impeachment, when they are judicially declared mentally or physically incompetent to perform their duties. The Constitution also explicitly denies any power for executive organs or agencies to administer disciplinary actions against judges. However, a Supreme Court judge may be dismissed by a majority in a referendum; of which, must occur during the first general election of the National Diet's House of Representatives following the judge's appointment, and also the first general election for every ten years lapse thereafter. Trials must be conducted, with judgment declared, publicly, unless the Court "unanimously determines publicity to be dangerous to public order or morals"; with the exception for trials of political offenses, offenses involving the press, and cases wherein the rights of people as guaranteed by the Constitution, which cannot be deemed and conducted privately. Court judges are appointed by the Cabinet, in attestation of the Emperor, while the Chief Justice is appointed by the Emperor, after being nominated by the Cabinet; which in practice, known to be under the recommendation of the former Chief Justice.

The Legal system in Japan has been historically influenced by Chinese law; developing independently during the Edo period through texts such as Kujikata Osadamegaki. It has, however, changed during the Meiji Restoration, and is now largely based on the European civil law; notably, the civil code based on the German model still remains in effect. A quasi-jury system has recently come into use, and the legal system also includes a bill of rights since May 3, 1947. The collection of Six Codes makes up the main body of the Japanese statutory law.

All Statutory Laws in Japan are required to be rubber stamped by the Emperor with the Privy Seal of Japan, and no Law can take effect without the Cabinet's signature, the Prime Minister's countersignature and the Emperor's promulgation.

The Supreme Court of Japan is the court of last resort and has the power of Judicial review; as defined by the Constitution to be "the court of last resort with power to determine the constitutionality of any law, order, regulation or official act". The Supreme Court is also responsible for nominating judges to lower courts and determining judicial procedures. It also oversees the judicial system, overseeing activities of public prosecutors, and disciplining judges and other judicial personnel.

The High Courts of Japan has the jurisdiction to hear appeals to judgments rendered by District Courts and Family Courts, excluding cases under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. Criminal appeals are directly handled by the High Courts, but civil cases are first handled by District Courts. There are eight High Courts in Japan: the Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Hiroshima, Fukuoka, Sendai, Sapporo, and Takamatsu High Courts.

The Penal system of Japan is operated by the Ministry of Justice. It is part of the criminal justice system, and is intended to resocialize, reform, and rehabilitate offenders. The Ministry's Correctional Bureau administers the adult prison system, the juvenile correctional system, and three of the women's guidance homes, while the Rehabilitation Bureau operates the probation and the parole systems.

## Local Government

The local governments of Japan are unitary, and local jurisdictions often depend on the national government both administratively and financially. Local jurisdictions were established through devolution. Under Japan's Constitution, all matters pertaining to the local government are allowed to be determined for by the Local Autonomy Law.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications intervenes significantly in local government, as do other ministries. This is financial because many local government jobs need funding initiated by national ministries. Because of local government's reliance on national ministries, this is known as "thirty-percent autonomy".

The result of this autonomy is a high level of organizational and policy standardization among the different local jurisdictions allowing them to preserve the uniqueness of their prefecture, city, or town. Some of the more collectivist jurisdictions, such as Tokyo and Kyoto, have experimented with policies in such areas as social welfare that later were adopted by the national government.

### Local Authorities

Japan is divided into forty-seven administrative divisions, the prefectures are: one metropolitan district (Tokyo), two urban prefectures (Kyoto and Osaka), forty-three rural prefectures, and one district (Hokkaidō). Large cities are subdivided into wards, and further split into towns, or precincts, or sub-prefectures and counties.

Cities are self-governing units administered independently of the larger jurisdictions within which they are located. In order to attain city status, a jurisdiction must have at least 500,000 inhabitants, 60 percent of whom are engaged in urban occupations. There are self-governing towns outside the cities as well as precincts of urban wards. Like the cities, each has its own elected mayor and assembly. Villages are the smallest self-governing entities in rural areas. They often consist of a number of rural hamlets containing several thousand people connected to one another through the formally imposed framework of village administration. Villages have mayors and councils elected to four-year terms.

### Structure of Local Government

Each jurisdiction has a chief executive, known as a Governor in prefectures and a Mayor in municipalities. Most jurisdictions also have a unicameral assembly, although towns and villages may opt for direct governance by citizens through a general assembly. Both the executive and assembly are elected through popular vote every four years.

Local governments follow a modified version of the separation of powers used in the national government. An assembly may pass a vote of no confidence in the executive, meaning the executive must either dissolve the assembly within ten days or automatically lose their office. However, following the next election, the executive remains in office unless the new assembly again passes a no confidence resolution.

The primary methods of local lawmaking are done through local ordinance and local regulations. Ordinances, similar to statutes in the national system, are passed by the assembly and may impose limited criminal penalties for violations. Regulations, similar to cabinet orders in the national system, are passed by the executive unilaterally, and superseded by any conflicting ordinances.

Local governments generally have multiple committees such as school boards, public safety committees (responsible for overseeing the police), personnel committees, election committees, and auditing committees. These may be directly elected or chosen by the assembly, executive, or both.

All prefectures are required to maintain departments of general affairs, finance, welfare, health, and labor. Departments of agriculture, fisheries, forestry, commerce, and industry are optional, depending on local needs. Governors are responsible for all activities supported through local taxation or the national government.

### **Japanese Mayors**

Japanese mayors are directly elected for four-year terms with no term limits. Most candidates prefer to stand as independents and are then backed by local chapters of the main national parties. Japan's mayors are represented by the Japan Association of City Mayors, founded in 1898. The Association is one of the six local government associations of Japan, which are represented outside of Japan in countries such as the US, UK, and China by the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), founded in 1988.

### **Japan Association of City Mayors**

Formed in 1898, the Association consists of 814 cities and its purpose is to promote liaison and coordination between cities across Japan, and to contribute to promotion and advancement of local autonomy, ensuring smooth operation and progress of the municipal administration. In order to improve the welfare of citizens and promote better urban development, the Association not only promotes decentralization of government, but also conducts research studies and collects opinions on countermeasures against issues and problems common to all cities and matters that a city alone is unable to solve.

A general national meeting of city mayors is held in June each year, with board meetings held to make decisions regarding the Japan Association of City Mayors. The Association participates in the "Forum for Policy Consultations between the Central and Local Governments". As a member, the Association meets to discuss policy issues regarding local autonomy, including role sharing between the central and local governments, local administrative and financial systems, and to reflect the views of municipal governments closest to citizens. With regard to laws, etc. which has an impact on local autonomy, the Association is legally granted the right to offer opinions to the Cabinet which comprises the Prime Minister and Ministers of State or to submit a written statement to the National Diet which is the national legislative body.

## Mayor of Hachinohe

### REALIZING A STRONGER, LIVELIER, AND MORE BEAUTIFUL HACHINOHE, JAPAN – US Mayor’s Fellowship Exchange Conference, August 2012

By: Mayor Makoto Kobayashi

The first tsunami hit Hachinohe City 35 minutes after the earthquake, causing severe damage centered on the City’s coastal areas, where one person died and another remains missing. The cost of damage sustained by Aomori Prefecture as a whole amounted to 134.3 billion yen, of which 121.2 billion yen, or more than 90%, was specific to Hachinohe City. Power failures, communications congestion and fuel shortages made communication between the relevant bodies as well as transportation of supplies difficult in the wake of the earthquake, and the City struggled to gauge the extent of damage, support evacuees, and carry out emergency repairs.

The City, however, is gradually regaining normalcy thanks to the many forms of support we received, including those from the Self-Defense Forces and volunteers, as well as relief goods sent from all over the world. In particular, recovery efforts in parts of the City with severe damage were assisted by volunteers from the U.S. Air Force Misawa Air Base. Hachinohe is also actively assisting other affected municipalities, for instance by supplying goods and water to affected communities in Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures, and by working in partnership with the private sector to accept debris, which is obstructing the recovery process, from other prefectures.

To prepare for future power outages, the City is planning to install gas-powered generators at major evacuation centers. It is also working to ensure availability of multiple means of communication by supplying desktop PHS phones to all elementary and secondary schools, community centers and educational institutions within the city, and by installing portable radio communication equipment at 80 major evacuation centers. To strengthen measures to ensure the supply of fuel, the City has concluded an agreement with the local petroleum commercial association for priority supply of fuel.



Measures are also being taken to reinforce the City’s ability to communicate disaster information to the public. These include digitizing the wireless communication system used by the municipality in disaster situations, commencing an early-warning text messaging service, and concluding an agreement that covers support in the event of natural disasters with the community FM broadcast station. Volunteer disaster management organizations have played active roles in localities affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. As such, more support toward their

activities, and toward promoting the establishment of such organizations is called for. The City is also considering support toward procuring supplies and equipment for their activities.

Hachinohe City drafted in September 2011 the **Hachinohe City Reconstruction Plan** to fulfill the goal of creatively rebuilding communities following the Great East Japan Earthquake. The plan's four community building objectives are:

- 1) Ensure secure and safe living
- 2) Create dynamism in the community using the earthquake disaster as a springboard
- 3) Enhance Hachinohe City's characteristics as a hub for northern Tohoku
- 4) Build a disaster-resistant community; the City is working to reinforce its disaster management capacities to realize a stronger, livelier and more beautiful Hachinohe.

## Makoto Kobayashi

Born in Shirogane Town, Hachinohe City, Japan, May 14, 1950



Mayor Makoto Kobayashi has been Mayor of Hachinohe since November 17, 2005 and is currently in his 4<sup>th</sup> term. He is a member of the Liberal Democratic Party, and was President of the Hachinohe Port Promotion Commission in 2015.

- Graduated from Tohoku University School of Law 1970
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> oldest of seven national universities
  - Considered one of most prestigious universities in Japan
  - Within top 50 universities in the world
- Urawa City Saitama Prefecture Planning Manager 1991
- Executive Director to Ministry of Home Affairs 1997
- Manager of Administrative Department of National Mayor's Association 2001
- Director of University Administration at Jichi Medical University 2003
- Financial Investigator for Ministry of Internal Affairs and Post Finance Bureau 2005
- Currently serving 4<sup>th</sup> term as Mayor of Hachinohe

## **The Liberal Democratic Party**

The Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, (LDP) is a conservative political party in Japan. The LDP is not to be confused with the now-defunct Liberal Party, which merged with the Democratic Party of Japan (now the Democratic Party), the main opposing party.

The Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, frequently abbreviated to LDP or Jimintō, is a conservative political party in Japan. The LDP has near continuously been in power since its foundation in 1955, with the exception of a period between 1993 and 1994, and again from 2009 to 2012. In the 2012 election, it regained control of the government. The LDP returned to power with its ally New Komeito after winning a clear majority in the lower house general election on December 16, 2012 after just over three years in opposition. In July 2015, the party pushed for expanded military powers to fight in foreign conflict between Shinzo Abe and the support of Komeito party. The LDP holds 291 seats in the lower house and 121 seats in the upper house, with the Komeito, the governing coalition, having the supermajority in both houses. Prime Minister Shinzō Abe and many present and former LDP ministers are also known members of Nippon Kaigi, a monarchist and negationist organization.

## **Ideology**

The LDP has not espoused a well-defined, unified ideology or political philosophy, due to its long-term government. Its members hold a variety of positions that could be broadly defined as being to the right of the opposition parties. The LDP traditionally identified itself with a number of general goals: rapid, export-based economic growth; close cooperation with the United States in foreign and defense policies; and several newer issues, such as administrative reform. Administrative reform encompassed several themes: simplification and streamlining of government bureaucracy; privatization of state-owned enterprises; and adoption of measures, including tax reform, in preparation for the expected strain on the economy posed by an aging society. Other priorities in the early 1990s included the promotion of a more active and positive role for Japan in the rapidly developing Asia-Pacific region, the internationalization of Japan's economy by the liberalization and promotion of domestic demand (expected to lead to the creation of a high-technology information society) and the promotion of scientific research. A business-inspired commitment to free enterprise was tempered by the insistence of important small business and agricultural constituencies on some form of protectionism and subsidies. In addition, the LDP opposes the legalization of same-sex marriage.

## **Structure**

At the apex of the LDP's formal organization is the president, who can serve three three-year terms (The presidential term was increased from two years to three years in 2002, and from two to three terms in 2017). When the party has a parliamentary majority, the party president is the Prime Minister. The choice of party president is formally that of a party convention composed of

Diet members and local LDP figures, but in most cases, they merely approve the joint decision of the most powerful party leaders.

To make the system more democratic, Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda introduced a "primary" system in 1978, which opened the balloting to some 1.5 million LDP members. The process was so costly and acrimonious, however, that it was subsequently abandoned in favor of the old "smoke-filled room" method — so-called in allusion to the notion of closed discussions held in small rooms filled with tobacco smoke.

After the party president, the most important LDP officials are the Secretary-General (kanjicho), and the chairmen of the LDP Executive Council (somukaicho) and of the Policy Affairs Research Council or "PARC" (seimu chōsakai).

The LDP is the most "traditionally Japanese" of the political parties because it relies on a complex network of patron-client (oyabun-kobun) relationships on both national and local levels. Nationally, a system of factions in both the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors ties individual Diet members to powerful party leaders. Locally, Diet members have to maintain koenkai (local support groups) to keep in touch with public opinion and gain votes and financial backing. The importance and pervasiveness of personal ties between Diet members and faction leaders and between citizens and Diet members gives the party a pragmatic "you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours" character. Its success depends less on generalized mass appeal than on the so-called sanban (three "ban"): jiban (a strong, well-organized constituency), kaban (a briefcase full of money), and kanban (prestigious appointment, particularly on the cabinet level).

## Hachinohe

Hachinohe is considered a core city of Japan and is located in the Aomori prefecture of the Tohoku region. A core city is a class or category of Japanese city. It is a local administrative division created by the national government. Core cities are delegated many functions normally carried out by prefectural governments, but as many as those granted to designated cities. To become a candidate for core city status, a city must have a population greater than 300,000 and an area greater than 100 square kilometers, although special exceptions may be made by order of the cabinet for cities with populations between 300,000 and 200,000.



All cities supply residents with water services, waste collection and disposal, public health, social welfare, parks, environmental services, planning/development control, economic development, fire and rescue, elementary schools and adult education colleges.

Forty cities with populations of 200,000 or more are known as ‘Special Cities’ and are entitled to provide some degree of prefectural services (such as care services, health, environmental services, urban planning, teacher training etc.) locally, while a further 41 of 300,000 or more residents are known as ‘Core Cities’ and can provide additional services. Core Cities are delegated many functions normally carried out by prefectural governments, but not as many as designated cities.

### **Fishing Remains a Mainstay of the Hachinohe Economy**

#### **Economy**

Hachinohe is the largest city in eastern Aomori Prefecture, and serves as the regional industrial and commercial center. Commercial fishing still plays a major role in the local economy, with Hachinohe’s port having one of the largest volumes of landed fish in Japan. However, since its designation as a new industrial city in 1964, Hachinohe has developed a large coastal industrial belt with a diverse range of chemical, steel, cement and fertilizer products. Major industrial parks include the Hachinohe High Tech Park and Hachinohe North-Interchange Industrial Complex. Hachinohe Port is a major international port for northern Japan.

#### **Fishing Port**

Hachinohe is a major fishing port, with 142,000 tons of seafood products landed in 2004, the fourth largest volume in Japan. In the year 2002, Hachinohe was first in Japan in terms of squid and olive flounder.



## Community Initiatives

The following illustrate multiple city initiatives:

### **Creating a Vibrant City**

Through the continuous solidification of its economic infrastructure, that creates various employment opportunities for not only prospective citizens, as well as its present residents. To accomplish this, there will be promotion towards the enlargement of the market for local products, encouragement for further use of the City's industrial and economic base, Port of Hachinohe, strengthen local businesses, and attract more businesses from outside. Additionally, advance tourism, agriculture, and fisheries, making full use of the City's unique resources. Furthermore, enhancement to the network among the administration, industry, and academia will occur in order to support entrepreneurs, as well as enriching employment support measures to ensure a stable living environment. Through the Gender Equality Basic Ordinance, all genders are able to live a prosperous and fair life; citizens are able to partake in committees, workshops, and projects towards women empowerment.

Updates as of Jan. 16, 2018:

- City is actively supporting citizens i.e. subsidizing expenses towards career fairs, employment support services (UIJ program)
- Town development discussion and planning in Minato area/district

### **Creating an Attractive City**

Build a city that is loved by its residents and one which they can take pride in. It is important to focus on local resources and seek unique Hachinohe qualities which should be presented both locally and globally. To do so, the City will strive to revitalize the City Center's aesthetic. The City will also promote sports, art, and cultural activities which will add richness to daily life and personality to the City. Moreover, strive to create an environmentally-friendly society for our children through the all-city "530 movement", which has the community hold a spring and fall cleaning of their communities on certain dates, as well as better designing a garbage and recycling disposal plan.

### **Establishing a Worry-Free Community**

Curate a worry-free community for Hachinohe residents. The community holds a strong emphasis towards cultivating an environment that children can thrive with a healthy body and mind, as well as a social system in which all residents can support themselves and have something to live for. It is also essential to ensure the safety of the residents through crime and disaster prevention. The City will create systems which will provide a sense of security for all

our residents and local communities, enhancing childrearing support and educational environment, encouraging social participation of the elderly and the handicapped, emphasizing prevention of nursing care needs, and strengthening emergency medical services.

### **Enhancing the City's Autonomy**

As the age of decentralization of power comes, developments towards a new and flexible administrative foundation are needed to support an autonomous body. The new foundation will accommodate social changes such as the declining birthrate, aging population, and transition to a mature society which seeks quality over quantity. The City will strive to promote community development through collaboration between the administration and residents, encouraging diverse resident activities and vitalization of local communities. The City will also work on a financial reform through active use of private resources as well as the “designated manager system”, a system that entrusts private management to handle administrative and business tasks. Lastly, provide highly-satisfying services to our residents through use of information technology.

### **Collaborating Town Planning**

"Collaboration town planning" is to promote town planning, consider the future of the town, cooperating with citizens, business people and administrative organizations, respecting each other's position. Based on these backgrounds, decentralization is being promoted to reconsider the relationship between the country and the provinces, in order to implement policies that better utilizes the characteristics in each region. This means that municipalities are required to initiate self-determination and municipal administration by self-responsibility. To that end, a change from administrative-led town planning will need to occur, as well as the City administration, based on citizens' will and citizen-based town planning. In order to realize the livable and attractive citizen-based town planning that children can be proud of, it is necessary to develop town by cooperation of citizen and administrative administration.

Updates as of Jan. 16, 2018:

- Plentiful amounts of keynote lectures held for public to attend
- Grants & Project rolling
  - “Cheerful Hachinohe development” celebration – consists celebrating town planning achievements: café opening at palliative care facilities, mini orchestra concert, establishment of study groups for youth organizations, walking club

### **Railway Expansion**

Hachinohe is well on its way into a new phase for the 21st century, with its promotion in April 2001 as a “Specially Designated City” with the opening of the Morioka-Hachinohe extension of the Tohoku Shinkansen super-express train line in December 2002. In March 2005, the city merged with Nango Village, enriching the maritime city, "which began with the sea and has

developed with the sea," with an added appeal of a rural farming village. The 5th Hachinohe City General Plan was started in April 2007, and the City is steadily working towards the realization of its future image "Heartland of the North Where the Sea and the Land Resonate."

Furthermore, the Hachinohe-Shin-Aomori extension of Tohoku Shinkansen opened in December 2010, and the Hachinohe Portal Museum "HACCHI" opened in February 2011 as a new creative and interactive base for the city center. Construction has begun for the opening of LNG (liquefied natural gas) import base in the industrial area on Port Island as part of the Hachinohe Port Project. The project encompasses the construction of two LNG tanks with a capacity of 140,000 cubic meters each, unloading facilities for LNG tankers, loading facilities for coastal tankers, regasification facilities, loading facilities for tank cars, etc. Through such efforts, the City is renovating itself and creatively evolving as the thriving heartland of the North.

### **Expanding Business Through Synergy with Sumitomo Osaka Cement and East Japan Railway - Biomass Power Generation Business: Aiding Recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake**

The challenges faced by the City's forestry policy so far have been those of creating demand for and the effective utilization of local timber. By using local unused wood materials as the main source of fuel for its wood biomass power generation business, Hachinohe Biomass Power Generation Co. Ltd. solves these problems. In addition, the processes of harvesting wood, manufacturing wood chips, and generating power create both jobs and an economic ripple effect, which are expected to aid recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake as well as help revitalize the local economy.

## Recent News

### **Reception Promoting Japanese City of Hachinohe Local Products**

On October 5, 2016, the City of Hachinohe and the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles jointly hosted the “Evening of Hachinohe’s Seafood and Sake”, a reception promoting Hachinohe’s local products at the Official Residence of Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles. With the goal of expanding its overseas business opportunities in Los Angeles, guests from food and distribution industries, Japanese associations, and the media industry in Los Angeles were invited. At the reception, the guests enjoyed Hachinohe’s cuisine prepared by the Resident Chef Araki, Hachinohe’s sake “*Michinoku Otokoyama*”, as well as locally fished seafood, such as mackerel, squid and scallop.

### **Foreign Minister Kishida Visits Aomori Prefecture April 2017**

#### ***Visit to Hachinohe City***

On the afternoon of April 22, Minister Kishida visited Hachinohe City, where he toured the Hachinohe Portal Museum “*hacchi*” and the Hachinohe Book Center, where he received explanations on the history and culture of Hachinohe as well as the promotion of “City of Books Hachinohe” from Mr. Makoto Kobayashi, Mayor of Hachinohe City, and others.

#### ***Dinner discussion with Hachinohe City Mayor Makoto Kobayashi and business leaders of Aomori Prefecture.***

On the evening of April 22, Minister Kishida exchanged views over dinner with Mayor Kobayashi and business leaders of Aomori Prefecture on how to communicate the attractiveness of Aomori Prefecture.

#### ***Visit to Hachinohe Port, Itsukushima Shrine (Benten-jima), etc.***

On the morning of April 23, Minister Kishida visited the Tatehana Quay Morning Market guided by Mayor Kobayashi and others. Minister Kishida also visited the Itsukushima Shrine, where Mr. Jun Furusato, Director of the Hachinohe City Museum, explained on the torii gateways that were washed out to sea by the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster and drifted all the way to the State of Oregon in the United States from where they were returned and are now renowned as a symbol of the friendship between Japan and the United States.

### **Torii Gates**

In March 2013, two years after the tsunami in Japan, *kasagi* (wooden cross beams from *torii* gates) from Hachinohe washed up on the Oregon coast. The curator and a member of the board of trustees of the Portland Japanese Garden tried for over a year to track down an owner or shrine that was missing the *kasagi*. It was only after a trip to Japan that they discovered that it belonged to a shrine from Hachinohe. Oregon shipping companies assisted in getting the *kasagi* back to Hachinohe and in October 2015 a ceremony was held to celebrate their return. The two gates were reinstated in front of the Itsukushima fishing shrine in Okuki and rededicated in a ceremony on May 2, 2016.

### **2020 Speed Skating Worlds**

Hachinohe will find out in late 2017 if they will be the location for the 2020 speed skating world championships. They have plans for an ice skating rink to be completed in the fall of 2019 and will be the third rink in Japan. The plan for the tournament will be discussed by the International Skating Union at its General Assembly in June.

Update as of Jan. 16, 2018: Hachinohe was not selected by the ISU as a location for the 2020 speed skating world championships.

### **Japanese City Opens Bookshop**

Last month, the City of Hachinohe, Aomori Prefecture, in Japan "took the unusual step of opening a city-run bookstore." The Japan News reported that the Hachinohe Book Center, "which occupies 315 square meters [about 3,400 square feet] on the ground floor of a building in the central part of the city, opened as part of the mayor's 'book town Hachinohe' policy pledge. The store has about 8,000 books... [and] features books that can be difficult to sell at ordinary bookstores, such as foreign literature and titles on the humanities, art and nature." Store manager Nobutsugu Otokita said, "People can borrow books from a library, but buying a book brings a different type of enjoyment."

### **Ferry Service**

Major ports in Iwate Prefecture have changed in the years since they were severely damaged by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, reshaped by progress in restoration work and improvements to the road system. The prefecture's first regular ferry service opened in Miyako Port, while Kamaishi Port has been handling a growing amount of cargo from container ships. By dividing the functions of each port and making use of their unique characteristics, the prefecture hopes to improve the area's logistics and tourism. The ports are expected to become a driving force in spurring the Sanriku Coast's continued reconstruction. Behind the launching of the ferry service is the expectation that the opening of the entire Sanriku Coastal Road (connecting Sendai and Hachinohe, Aomori Prefecture), scheduled to occur by fiscal 2020, will help connect the coast to the prefecture's inland area via the Miyako-Morioka Odan Road.

### **UNESCO-Listed Festival Boats**

A local harvest festival said to have started in 1721 and featuring 27 floats is under way here for the first time since it was registered on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list. The Hachinohe Sansha Taisai festival started at 6 p.m. on July 31 with a fireworks show. Then, 27 gloriously decorated floats, some as high as 10 meters, glided by. Captivated spectators cheered and clapped. The festival was registered on the UNESCO list in December 2016 as one of the 33 "Yama, hoko, yatai float festivals in Japan." "Yama" and "hoko" refer to decorations installed on or pulled along with the "yatai" (floats).

### **Japanese Vessels leave Port of Hachinohe**

Japanese vessels left the port of Hachinohe, Aomori Prefecture, to catch around 30 minke whales in the northwestern Pacific. The vessels plan to conduct what the government refers to as

research whaling, between 50 to 90 kilometers off the Sanriku coast. The whaling will continue until mid-August 2017 so that the stomach contents of the catch can be analyzed and the gathered data used to manage marine resources, according to the agency and the Association for Community-Based Whaling.

### **Researchers Grow Mushroom from 20 Million Year Old Geological Formation**

Researchers said they have grown a mushroom from a fungus found in a 20-million-year-old geological formation under the Pacific seabed off Hachinohe, Aomori Prefecture. The scientists with the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) are working to confirm their hypothesis that they have revived a mushroom that used to grow on land eons ago. “What we have found may be ancient fungal species that were there even before humankind was born,” said Fumio Inagaki, deputy director of the JAMSTEC Research and Development Center for Ocean Drilling Science. “That could help elucidate evolution mechanisms of fungi.” The geological stratum where the fungus was discovered is believed to have been a piece of land about 20 million years ago. JAMSTEC in 2012 used its Chikyu deep-sea drilling vessel on the seabed about 80 kilometers off Hachinohe and 1,200 meters beneath the water surface. The researchers drilled into the seafloor to collect samples, such as rocks and sediments.

### **Valmet and JFE Engineering Partner in Hachinohe**

Valmet will provide a multifuel boiler and flue gas cleaning system to a 112-MW power station being built plant in Kushiro, Hokkaido, Japan. The Kushiro plant marks Valmet’s second project with Japanese partner JFE Engineering. In November 2016, the companies unveiled a project at MPM Oji Eco Energy Corp.’s Mitsubishi Paper Mills Ltd. plant in Hachinohe city, Aomori prefecture, Japan. There, Valmet is supplying a biomass-fired 75 MWe CYMIC boiler and flue gas cleaning system. All the electricity generated at the plant will be supplied to the grid and benefit from Japan’s feed-in-tariff. Valmet also has operations located in Federal Way, WA.

## Culture



*Yawata-uma*, a wooden horse with gold saddle markings and a decorative plume attached to its head. The Hachinohe area has been known since the Kamakura period for its breed of war horses. Also, farming horses have supported the lives of the commoners and have often been used as the theme for dances and folk tales. The art of *Yawata-uma* figurines is a regional art form and popular souvenir.

In fall of 2016, Hachinohe's float parades joined a contingency of 32 other cities and their festivals that were recognized as a group called "Yama, Hoko, Yatai float parades" and were added to the UNESCO

Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

### Mascots: Ikazukins

Hachinohe's mascots were "born" in 2009 to promote the 80th anniversary of the official formation of the City both domestically and overseas. In 2013, children took the stage at the commemorative designation of the Tanesashi Coast as part of Sanriku Reconstruction National Park. As the "Ikazukins Family", they became the official mascots of Hachinohe. The Ikazukins travel across the country promoting Hachinohe.



### Hachinohe Enburi Festival February 17th-20th

This celebration involves dancing and praying for a rich harvest. It is a dance expressing farm work to signal the arrival of the northern spring.

Dancers called *tayu*, flute-players, drummers, and players ringing bells known as *kane* along with singers form groups of 10-30 members which parade throughout the city. Every year, over 30 groups including children wearing colorful costumes participate in this event. In the old days the dancers used to carry farm tools called *eburi* when performing their dance. The name of this festival is believed to have been derived from the tool.

The dances, expressing scenes of farm work, consist of two types: the naga-enburi which is performed slowly, and the gallant dosai-enburi which is performed in a lively tempo. After paying a visit to the Shinra Jinja early in the morning on the first day of the festival, the groups set off on individual parades. They all wear large hats called eboshi. The eboshi of the tayu dancers is designed in the shape of a horse's neck, for a horse was considered indispensable in farm work.

During the festival, one can enjoy seeing all kinds of enburi in different situations, such as the gozen enburi which was formerly performed in the palace of the feudal lord and the kagaribi enburi which is performed while making a bonfire at night. Enburi, also known as a festival signaling the arrival of spring, is an event expressing the great longing for spring's arrival by the inhabitants of the northern district.