



Sister Cities

- JP-NZ 44 sister city relationships; highest of all NZ's sister city with another country, followed by China (38), Australia (24), US (20)
- JP-NZ longest sister city; Christchurch-Kurashiki (50 years in 2023)
- Robust exchanges in multiple fields; mutual visits, education, art, sports



Sakai-Wellington Marathon Exchange Celebration Dinner
(Nov 2021)



- New Zealanders work in Japan teaching English or Coordinating International Relations at local municipalities; key role as a cultural bridge
- 3,400 Kiwis have joined since its start in 1987; 5th highest among all 75 countries (totaling 70,000 JETs) after US, UK, Canada, and Australia



Sports Exchange

- The 2019 Rugby World Cup spurred rugby's popularity in Japan. PM Ardern's exchange of a rugby ball and uniform with PM ABE was a memorable moment in the lead up to the event. Japan's national team is led by head coach, New Zealander Jamie Joseph, and has key NZ-born players. Also on the team is HIMENO Kazuki who currently plays for the Highlanders, and was named Super Rugby Aotearoa Rookie of the Year in 2021.
- Largest (222 athletes) NZ Olympic team participated in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. Japanese Host Towns (16 registrations) exchanged with NZ athletes through training camps and various exchange events.



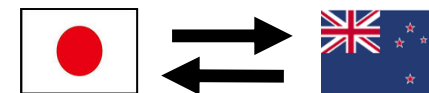
"Maori song relay singing by Host Towns to cheer on NZ athletes"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5C3j5iP9yfo>



Tourism and Travel

- Travelers from JP to NZ; 100,000 yearly between 2016 & 2019



- Travelers from NZ to JP; 56,000 (2016) increased to 94,000 (2019)