

Joint Statement

between

Chiba Prefecture, Japan

and

City of Düsseldorf, Federal Republic of Germany

Chiba Prefecture Governor Akiko Domoto and City of Düsseldorf Lord Mayor Joachim Erwin met today, the fifteenth of June, year 2005, at Kazusa Akademia Park, to discuss how to further the close relationship they have cultivated since their meeting in May the previous year. In hopes that the friendship between Chiba Prefecture and the City of Düsseldorf will lead Asia-Europe exchange in the twenty-first century, they announce this Joint Statement.

Chiba Prefecture and the City of Düsseldorf both possess Messe, international convention facilities, and an international airport – important international hubs in this age of globalization. These facilities are centers for citizen and corporate exchange across all national borders.

Both regions recognize the importance of responding to this era of international competition, and endeavor to attract foreign-affiliated enterprises and promote high-potential industries like IT and biotechnology.

The two regions share much in common and already have many economic ties. Chiba Prefecture has important German companies like an automotive company located in Makuhari New City and a trading company with headquarters in Düsseldorf. Düsseldorf is one of Europe's main locations for expanding Japanese companies, including many companies located in Chiba.

Now, new exchange is taking root.

Last month, Chiba Prefecture participated in the Düsseldorf "Japan Day" events and introduced Chiba's nature, industry, and international hubs to many citizens of Düsseldorf. Over one million visitors enjoyed the artistic display of fireworks made in Chiba. Today, Düsseldorfer Symphoniker, with a four-hundred year musical tradition, will present a classic music concert at Narashino Bunka Hall for the benefit of Chiba's citizens.

It is our aspiration to broadly develop the new momentum for exchange, and make it an asset for citizens of both regions.

We hereby agree to further exchange in diverse areas such as business, culture, sports, and research, and to create new friendly relations in the exchange between Chiba Prefecture and the City of Düsseldorf.

Narashino City, Chiba Prefecture, 15 June, 2005

Akiko Domoto
Governor, Chiba Prefecture

Joachim Erwin
Lord Mayor, Düsseldorf