

September 9, 2024

Press Releases

The Reiwa Envoy Formation Ceremony Information

We are pleased to inform you about the formation ceremony of the Reiwa European Delegation, led by Mr. Masataka Hasekura, the 14th head of the Hasekura Tsunenaga family, as well as other members of the delegation. We would like to invite media representatives to attend this event.

Date: September 21st at 17: 30～

Place: Miyagi NPO Plaza 1F 「Bistari Tsutsujigaoka」

Address: 5 Tsutsujigaoka, Miyagino-ku, Sendai City 983-0851

Phone: 022-299-2888

～410th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Keicho Envoy to Spain～

The Japon-Hasekura Supporting Association, based in Sendai and continuing its international exchange activities, will send approximately 50 members as the "Reiwa European Delegation 2024" to Spain and Italy in late October this year. This mission commemorates the 410th anniversary of the Keicho European Delegation, sent by Lord Date Masamune of the Sendai Domain in 1613, and the 400th anniversary of the martyrdom of missionary Luis Sotelo, who led the delegation. This year, a new mixed choir, Coro Hasekura, will be organized to hold a joint concert with a local community choir. The choir leader is Mr. Masataka Hasekura, the 14th-generation descendant of Tsunenaga Hasekura, the ambassador of the Keicho Mission. The event is co-sponsored by the U.S. NPO Circle Wind, which promotes international exchange through music. The event is supported by the Hispano-Japanese Hasekura Association, Coria del Río City, Civitavecchia City, the Spanish-Japanese Tourism Association, Niji no Sakana Production, and others. In addition, around 15 Japanese participants from New York, who support the purpose of this event, are expected to join.

This year's Reiwa delegation, while retracing the steps of the Keicho Mission, will participate in Japan Week in Coria del Río, the city where the Keicho Mission landed in Spain. They will also deepen exchanges with the Japón family, believed to be descendants of the Keicho Mission.

In Italy, the delegation will take part in Japan Week in Civitavecchia (Ishinomaki's sister city) and visit the Church of the Holy Martyrs of Japan, known for frescoes by Roka Hasegawa, including depictions like the image of Mary in a kimono and the 26 martyrs executed in Nagasaki. They will also trace the steps of Tsunenaga Hasekura's delegation in Vatican City.

In Seville and Coria del Río, an autograph letter from Kawasaki Town, which shares deep ties with Miyagi Prefecture and Lord Tsunenaga, will be handed over. In Civitavecchia, an autograph letter from the mayor of Ishinomaki, the city's sister city, will be presented. Both letters are scheduled to be delivered by Mr. Masataka Hasekura.

The Japon-Hasekura Supporting Association, taking advantage of the resumption of exchanges with the cities of Coria del Río and Civitavecchia, which had been temporarily interrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, aims to further deepen cooperation not only within the entire province of Seville but also among cities historically connected to the Hasekura Mission, such as Acapulco and Cuba's Bahamas. This includes cultural exchanges in music, sports, literature, and education, as well as expanding into economic fields like tourism, industrial trade, and more. The goal is to realize the dream envisioned by Lords Masamune and Tsunenaga 410 years ago in the Reiwa era and to develop it into a new, genuine global strategy based on historical connections.

Schedule:

Departure on October 16th, 2024. For 9 days.

10/16: Depart from Haneda

10/17: Arrive in Coria del Rio via Seville. Reception with Japón-sans.

10/18: Participate in Japan Week in Coria del Rio. Carlos de Mesa Park. City Hall.

A ceremony and a concert at Coria City Cultural Center in the evening.

10/19: Move to Seville. Visit Seville City Hall. Tour of the Cathedral, the Real Alcazar,

Archives of the Indies, the Giralda Tower, and other UNESCO World Heritage sites including the Golden Tower.

10/20: Move to Rome. From Rome to Civitavecchia.

10/21: Participate in Japan Week in Civitavecchia. Michaelangelo Fortress,

A ceremony and a concert at the Church of the Holy Japanese Martyrs in the evening.

10/22: Return to Rome.

Sightseeing in Vatican Museums. St. Peter's Basilica. The Sistine Chapel.

10/23: Leave Rome for Japan

10/24: Arrive in Haneda.

For more information, please refer to [Proposal]The Reiwa Envoy to Europe 2024 posted on the website below.

[ハボン・ハセクラ後援会 | 慶長遣欧使節 \(japonhasekura.com\)](http://japonhasekura.com)

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