

Welcome Reception for the Kagoshima Sister-City Delegation



On the evening of December 1st, the Consulate General of Japan in Miami welcomed a sister-city delegation visiting Miami from Kagoshima at an annual reception that was held at the Official Residence of the Consul General.

Opening the Ceremony was Deputy Consul General Masahiro Ogino, who in his remarks wished the junior high school students from Kagoshima to remember the many people that were involved in making this program possible as they enjoy the trip. He also voiced his sincere gratitude to the host families, the sister-cities committee, and others involved with arranging the successful visit, and referenced City of Miami Mayor Tomás Regalado's visit to Kagoshima in November.

Mayor Regalado is the first mayor of the City of Miami to visit Kagoshima City since the program's inception. In his speech following Deputy Consul General Ogino, Mayor Regalado thanked the students for their visit to City Hall the previous day, and expressed his wishes for the continuation and growth of this sister-cities relationship that began 25 years ago.

After the initial remarks, the students from Kagoshima introduced themselves one-by-one, and performed O-hara Bushi (a traditional festival dance from Kagoshima) for the guests. The ceremony concluded with a toast offered by Mr. Jose Fuentes, President of the Miami-Kagoshima Sister-Cities Committee.

In the mingling that followed the ceremony, the Kagoshima students all spoke of their school visits, and of how glad they were for the chance to experience this cultural exchange with the students from Gulliver High School, Palmetto Senior High School, and Terra Environmental Research Institute. One student, so moved by the experience, was even brought to tears at the thought of leaving Miami.

Many host families voiced their thanks for the opportunity to share such precious moments with the students from Kagoshima. The sister-cities committee members also expressed their gratitude to the Consulate General of Japan for hosting this reception.

We at the Consulate General of Japan remain committed to supporting sister-city relationships in Florida like the Miami-Kagoshima sister-city exchange for many years to come.