

# 湖によって結ばれた縁

## United Through Lakes

1968年11月14日、滋賀県の野崎欣一郎知事と米国ミシガン州のジョージ・ロムニー知事が姉妹協定書に署名し、両県州の交流が始まりました。水にまつわる苦労や悩みを共有し合い、高め合える心強い絆。その誕生の背景には、湖と生きる自治体同士、観光開発や発展について共に考えたい、という互いを求める思いがありました。

野崎氏が知事に就任したのは1966年。全国の都道府県が外国の都市と姉妹提携することが広がり、滋賀県にもそのムードが高まっていました。琵琶湖と同様の湖を持つ外国都市との姉妹協定を結びたいという野崎知事の思いを知った観光課は、なんとか実現できないか、具体的な案を出そうと皆で知恵を絞ったといいます。

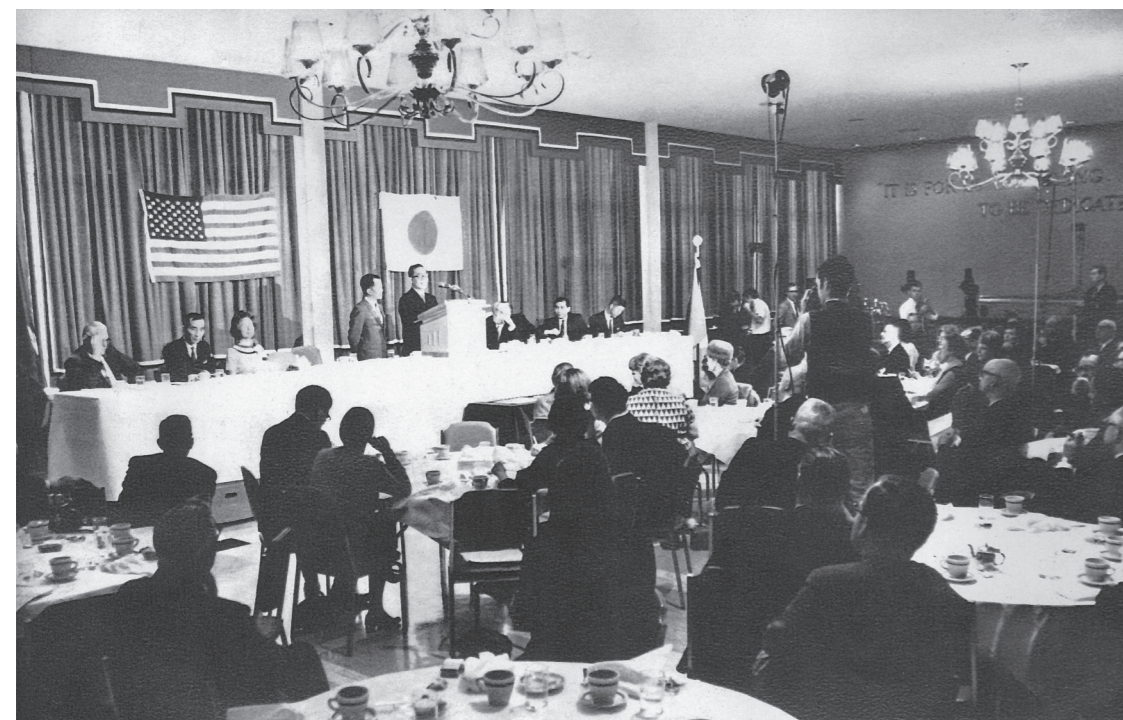
当時観光課主査だった加治隆氏は、滋賀県と米国の橋渡しの役割を担った一人でした。日米貿易経済合同委員会において設置された日本天然資源会議の「国立公園の管理に関する分科会」が日本で開催されるという情報を得た加治氏は、「滋賀県はオブザーバーとして出席し、米国側に適切な州があるか伺ったらどうか」と上司に提言します。すると「出席して、米国の代表に州の姉妹提携を斡旋してもらおうようお願いして欲しい」と、重要な仕事を任されたのでした。

会議は1967年4月に開かれ、加治氏は、米国代表の米国内務省国立公園局次長テオドル・スエム氏に、「琵琶湖と同じような湖を持つ州との姉妹提携をしたい」という知事

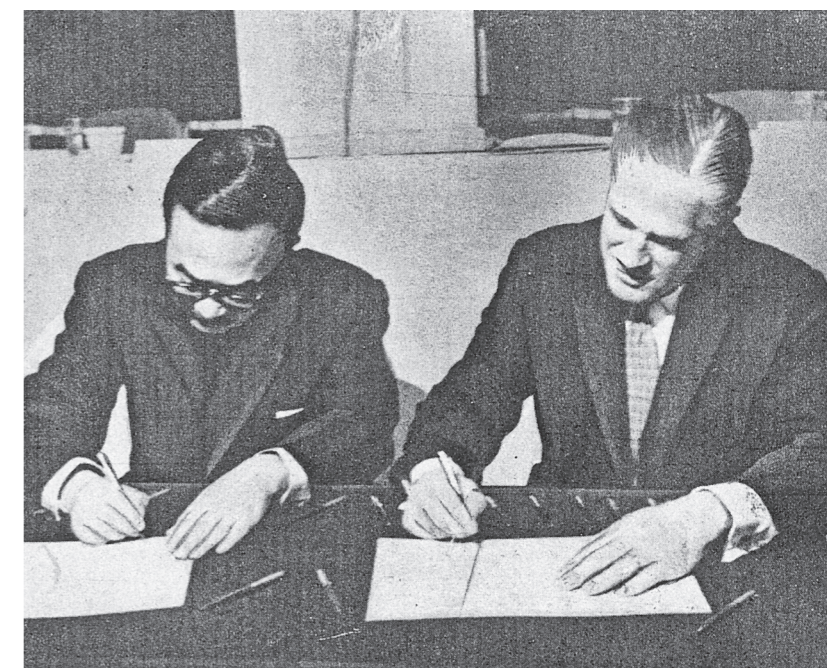
The Michigan-Shiga sister-state relation began on November 14, 1968, with then-Governor of Michigan George Romney and then-Governor of Shiga Kinichiro Nozaki signing the sister-state agreement. Since then, Shiga and Michigan have been bound by strong ties, sharing concerns and worries related to water and boosting each other up. Behind the creation of this friendship was the shared reality of living with a lake, endeavoring to work together to promote tourism and development.

Governor Nozaki took office as governor in 1966. At the time, signing sister agreements with foreign cities was trending throughout Japan, and Shiga wanted to join in the trend. The Shiga Tourism Division learned that the governor was considering establishing a sister-city agreement with a foreign country with a lake like Biwa, and they racked their brains to make a concrete plan to bring his ideas to life.

Takashi Kaji, then Assistant Section Chief of the Shiga Tourism Division, was one of the people who served as a bridge between Shiga and the U.S. He knew that the Joint U.S.-Japan Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs would hold the United States-Japan Conference on Development and Utilization of Natural Resources in Japan, and that there would be a subcommittee meeting for national park management. He suggested to his supervisor that Shiga could attend the meeting as an observer and ask the U.S. representative about a suitable partner. Kaji was assigned the important task of attending the meeting and seeking the American representative's assistance in building a relationship with that partner.



調印会場の様子（ミシガン州立大学 ケロッグセンター、1968年11月14日）  
Signing ceremony (MSU Kellogg Center, November 14, 1968)



協定書に調印する両知事  
The two governors signing the agreement

京都新聞1968年10月24日付より  
From the October 24, 1968, issue of the Kyoto Shimbun newspaper

の意向を伝えます。スエム氏は喜んで受け入れ、琵琶湖国立公園を視察するために来県。その際、野崎知事は、米国内に湖を持つ州のうちミシガン湖を念頭に置き、姉妹提携州の斡旋を正式に依頼したのでした。

1968年5月、第2回会議がワシントンで開かれ、出席した大橋茂二郎滋賀県商工労働部長がミシガン州を視察、姉妹提携を打診します。その後、同年9月にミシガン州自然資源局長ラルフ・マクマラン博士が来県し、姉妹協定の締結について双方が合意しました。

姉妹提携の内容は、湖を有する県・州の特徴を生かした自然環境の保全・保護に重点を置き、経済・生活文化を中心とした住民相互の友好親善を推進するというものでした。そして同年11月、野崎知事は北川啓一滋賀県水政課長とともに渡米し、同月14日、ミシガン州の州都ランシングにて、ロムニー知事と姉妹提携協定書に調印したのです。

During the meeting, held in April 1976, Kaji talked to the Assistant Director of the United States National Park Service, Theodore Swem, regarding the governor's proposal for a sister state agreement with a U.S. state with a lake like Biwa. Swem welcomed the Shiga governor's proposal, before travelling to Shiga to inspect the Biwako Quasi-National Park. During his visit, Governor Nozaki requested his assistance in establishing a sister-state agreement, placing emphasis on the State of Michigan out of all lake states in the U.S.

In May 1968, Director General Ohashi, of the Shiga Prefectural Department of Commerce, Industry, and Labor, travelled to attend the second meeting of national park management in Washington, D.C. He then visited Michigan regarding a possible sister-state agreement. That September, the Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Ralph MacMullan, travelled to Shiga, and both Michigan and Shiga agreed to sign an agreement.

The sister-state agreement between Michigan and Shiga promotes friendship and goodwill through economic and cultural exchanges, and the conservation and preservation of Michigan and Shiga's distinctive lake environments. In November 1968, Governor Nozaki, accompanied by Director Kitagawa of the Shiga Prefectural Water Policy Division, travelled to Michigan and signed the sister-state agreement with Governor Romney in Lansing.



# 市民が一体となって本物の交流を

## Substantial Exchanges with Local Residents

滋賀県とミシガン州は、ともに大きな湖に恵まれた自治体。思いを共有し、幅広い交流を進めるため、1976年から毎年、市民も含めた大規模な友好親善使節団を派遣し合ってきました。県民にとっては、外国の湖の美しさを知り、米国の家庭の文化に触れる貴重な機会。また、米国の使節団の訪問時には各家庭で受け入れ、市民ベースで交流する本格的な取り組みです。

滋賀県知事とミシガン州知事との間で姉妹州提携の協定書に調印が行われたのは1968年11月。その後、大津市とミシガン州の州都であるランシング市をはじめ、県内の市町もミシガン州内の諸都市と提携するなど関係が深まってきました。そして調印から8年後の1976年、市民も含めた大規模な使節団が初めて同州を訪れたのです。

当時団長を務めたのは、武村正義元知事。「就任時にはすでに姉妹提携ができていたけれど、市民レベルの実質的な交流がないことがわかりました。オール滋賀で、中身のある本物の交流を進めていこうと、すぐにそういう判断をした」と語ってくれました。同州から米国独立200

Both Shiga and Michigan are self-governing bodies blessed with great lakes. For the purpose of building a common spirit and developing more dynamic exchanges, they have been organizing mutual visits by members of goodwill missions, made up of local residents, every year since 1976. Shiga residents enjoy the wonderful opportunity to experience the beauty of American lakes and family culture during their stay in Michigan. The sister-state exchange program is a dynamic program that involves Shiga residents actively taking part in the homestay program by hosting the goodwill envoys from Michigan.

In November 1968, the governors of Shiga and Michigan signed the sister-state agreement. The relationship has deepened since then, leading to other Michigan-Shiga sister relationships such as the one between Otsu and Lansing, the two capitals. In 1976, eight years after the signing of the sister-state agreement, Shiga sent a large goodwill mission, including local residents, to Michigan for the first time.

The Shiga Goodwill Mission was led by then-Shiga governor Masayoshi Takemura, who said, "The sister-state relationship had already been established when I took office as governor. However, I realized that there had been no practical exchanges in which local residents participated. I quickly decided to initiate a substantial exchange program that involved all Shiga citizens."



滋賀日日新聞1977年8月11日付より August 11, 1977 issue of the Shiga Nichinichi Shimbun newspaper

年を記念して招かれ、総勢165人と姉妹州提携以来の親善交流史の中でも最大規模で訪米。7月31日から17日間、ホームステイを通じて米国民の生活や習慣、文化を理解するとともに、県と州との友好親善を深めました。

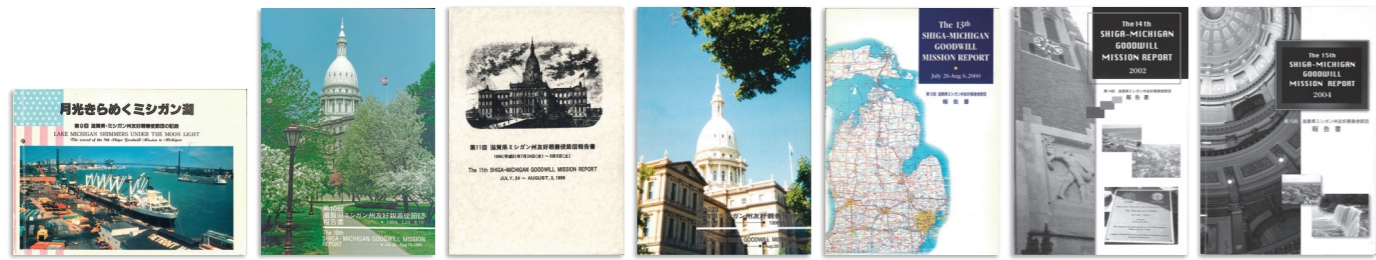
使節団は、県市町村議会議員、医師、教員、会社員、学生など県民の各界各層で構成され、大津児童合唱団も参加しました。「当時、多くの自治体が外国の都市と姉妹提携を結んでいたけれど、首長や議員が行き交うのみというケースがほとんど。市民も一体となる取り組みは、全国的にも珍しかったのではないのでしょうか」（武村元知事）。団員は一般家庭にホームステイし、片言の英語でコミュニケーションをとります。ボリュームのある米国の食事に驚きながらも、異文化を肌で感じる新鮮な日々を過ごしました。武村元知事は、各地で心温まる歓迎を受け、ウイリアム・ミリケン州知事らと湖国で

Shiga received an invitation from Michigan for the 200th anniversary of U.S. Declaration of Independence, and a 165-member delegation of the Shiga Goodwill Mission, the largest in the history of the relationship, visited Michigan. For 17 days from July 31, 1976, the Shiga Goodwill Mission delegates learned about American lifestyle, customs, and culture from their homestay experience. The friendship between Shiga and Michigan grew even stronger.

The large delegation consisted of people from all walks of life, including prefectural and municipal representatives, medical doctors, teachers, office workers, and students, as well as a children's choir from Otsu. "In those days, many Japanese local governments had relationships with cities in foreign countries, but friendship exchanges were only formed between administrations. Exchange programs involving citizen participation were not common in Japan," explained Governor Takemura. The Shiga Mission delegates



第1回からの友好親善使節団報告書（次頁へ続く） Issues of the Shiga Goodwill Mission Report (continues on the next page)



の再会を誓いました。「ミリケン知事はとても忙しい人でしたが、選挙の応援で州外に出ているところを私たちのために帰ってきて、来客を迎えるための別宅で歓迎してくれました」。友好親善を大切に考えているミリケン知事の気持ちを感じる訪問となったのでした。

翌77年7月から8月にかけては、ミシガン州の親善使節団（団長＝サムエル・ミルシュタイン州自然保護局長）の団員81人が滋賀県を訪問します。ランシング短大の学生や音楽劇団スーツケースシアター、一般市民らが相次いで訪れ、県内の一般家庭にホームステイしました。一行は、日本の食事を味わったり、びわ湖まつりに参加して浴衣や花火を楽しんだり、日本の文化を堪能しました。

大規模な使節団の訪問が実現したことで友好親善に勢いがつき、その後、さまざまな草の根交流や教育・文化の交流、環境交流、ビジネス面での提携などへと発展していきます。1985年に交換教員のミシガン州への派遣

stayed with families in Michigan, communicating in broken English. While surprised by the hearty American meals, they got a fresh perspective from their first-hand cross-cultural experiences. Governor Takemura and the delegates received a heartwarming welcome wherever they went. He promised that, next time, he would meet with Michigan governor William Milliken in Shiga. "Governor Milliken had a very busy campaign schedule outside the state, but he came back especially to welcome us at his second residence," he revealed. He was touched by Governor Milliken's great consideration for the sister-state friendship, which tinted the visit.

From July through August of the following year, an 81-member goodwill mission from Michigan, led by Samuel Milstein, Deputy Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, visited Shiga. Soon afterwards, Michigan residents, the Suitcase Theatre group, and students from Lansing Community College came to Shiga and stayed with local families. The delegates ate Japanese meals, enjoyed Japanese culture at the Biwako Festival, and watched fireworks while

がスタートしたほか、91年には大津管弦楽団がミシガン州を訪れて州内各地で公演。長浜子供歌舞伎や県吹奏楽連盟高校生プラスバンドなどもランシング市で公演し、江州音頭フェスティバルが開催されるなど、特に文化的な交流は盛り上がりを見せました。

また、友好親善使節団に参加した県民の中には、語学に関心を持ったり、ミシガン州訪問をきっかけに国際的なキャリアの道に進んだりする人もあります。たくさんの方の人生に新たな道を拓く、大切な事業ともなっています。

wearing yukata, a traditional Japanese summer kimono.

Such large-scale visits by the goodwill mission invigorated the friendly relations between Shiga and Michigan, and the sister-state program became more dynamic, with wide-ranging grassroots exchanges, programs for educational, cultural, and environmental exchange, and business collaborations. Shiga's teacher exchange to Michigan started in 1985. Cultural exchanges have been especially widespread; for example, an Otsu Philharmonic Orchestra toured several Michigan cities in 1991, and a Nagahama children's kabuki troupe performed in Lansing. In addition a high school brass band from Shiga's Brass Band Association held a parade and concert, and the Gōshū Ondo Festival was also held in Lansing.

Lastly, many members of the Shiga Goodwill Mission ended up studying English, and others pursued an international career path. The sister-state program has played an important role in opening the way to new opportunities for many Shiga residents.



1st 1976



10th 1994



5th 1984



15th 2004

### 江州音頭で心ひとつに One Gōshū Ondo Dance, One Heart



江州音頭フェスティバルの様子 (1998年8月)  
The Gōshū Ondo Festival (August 1998)

藤原久美子さん  
Ms. Kumiko Fujiwara

1998年8月、私は総勢110名余の姉妹提携30周年記念友好親善使節団に同行する形で、第10代研修生としてミシガン州に赴任しました。目玉の催しは、テトロイトとランシングで開催した江州音頭フェスティバルで、櫓を組み、滋賀から歌い手・踊り手の方々にも参加いただく盛大なものでした。団員、ホストファミリー、政府関係者等が揃いの法被を着て、太陽が照りつけるサマータイムの夕べに心地よい汗をかきながら、楽しく踊り交流を深めたことが懐かしく思い出されます。

(藤原久美子)

In August 1998, I was dispatched to Michigan as the tenth Shiga visiting official, accompanying more than 110 members of the Shiga goodwill mission for the 30th anniversary of the sister-state agreement. The Gōshū Ondo Festival, held in Detroit and Lansing, was the highlight of the anniversary event, livened up by the singers and dancers invited from Shiga. We put up a temporary tower at the venue and the festival ended up being a splendid experience for the participating goodwill delegation, Michigan host families, and government officials wearing matching happi coats. I still remember that pleasant time, when the close and friendly relations between Shiga and Michigan became stronger and more dynamic as we all worked up a nice sweat dancing together in the sunny summer evening.

(Kumiko Fujiwara)