

Kunsan Korea



Tacoma's Sister City since 1978.

Kunsan, port city at the mouth of the Kum river on the west coast of North Cholla province, Republic of Korea, about 125 miles S.S.W. of Seoul and 30 miles W.N.W. of Chonju. Its population is about 200,000. There is an American Air Force base located in the vicinity.

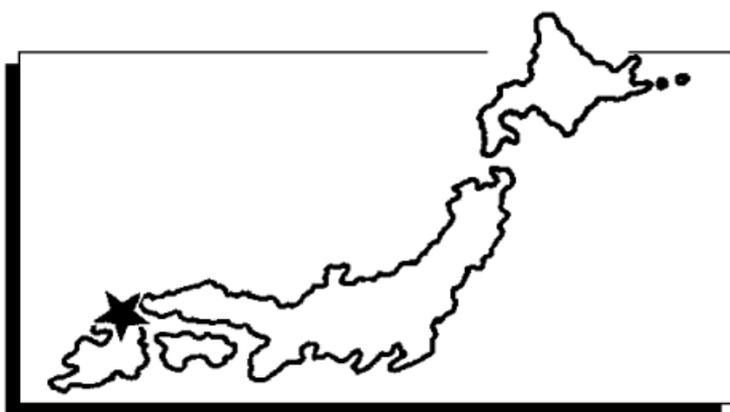
Originally a poor fishing village, Kunsan underwent rapid development when the modern port was opened in 1899 and a rail link was established by a branch line from Pusan.

As a developed intercontinental trade port it has advanced the involvement of the Yellow Sea in maritime trade.

Its major industries include plywood production, paper and pulp, breweries and rubber manufacturing. Kunsan is particularly noted as a rice-shipping port and much of its commercial activity centers around the processing, storing and transport of the rice grown in the rich Kum river basin. The countryside around Kunsan also produces important crops of barley, beans, cotton and rushes, while the adjacent waters yield good catches of fish and shrimp.

Kitakyushu

Japan



Tacoma's Sister City since 1959.

In 1963 the five cities of Moji, Kokura, Wakamatsu, Yahata, and Tobata were amalgamated to form Kitakyushu, with a population of over 1 million.

The Kitakyushu area serves as a nucleus of industry, economy and culture for Western Japan. The city is framed by the beauty of nature with clear, blue seas to the front and green, lush mountains to the back.

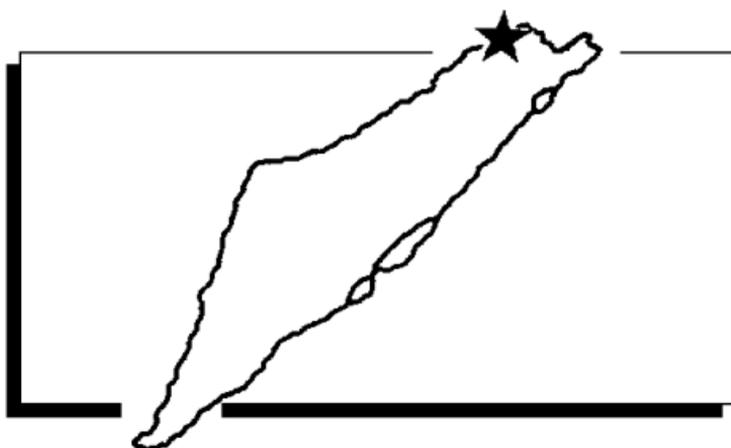
This city has many festivals which date back into ancient history. Especially noteworthy are the three big Gion festivals which decorate the summer months and draw visitors from all over Japan.

From its beginnings as the birthplace of Japan's iron and steel industry, Kitakyushu has grown into one of the largest iron and steel producing cities in Japan. In recent years, the city's value-added types of industry, such as the general machinery and electrical machinery industries, have been growing and the steel and raw materials industries have been diversifying into high processing and high value-added industries.

There are many unique crafts which can be found in different areas of Kyushu. Since 1965, Kitakyushu has hosted a contest for creative folk toys and many new and original ideas have been developed in this contest.

Kiryat-Motzkin

Israel



Tacoma's Sister City since 1979.

Kiryat-Motzkin is located on the west coast of Israel five miles north of the major port city of Haifa on the flat plains leading to ACCO (Acre). It was founded in 1934, and in 1940, a town council was established.

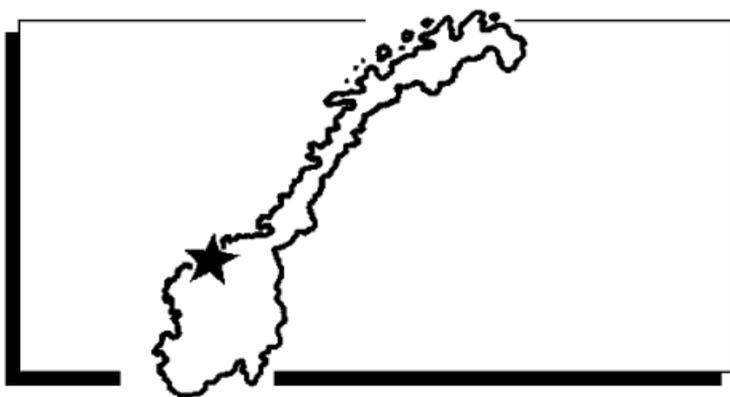
The original inhabitants were almost all of Eastern European stock, but today this modern city of some 40,000 citizens represent all the diverse nationalities that have emigrated to Israel since World War II. Most recently the various Russian national groups and Ethiopians have been welcomed to Kiryat-Motzkin and are fast being assimilated.

The city is recognized throughout Israel for its day care program as well as the outstanding activities it conducts both for the youth and elderly of the community. It boasts an impressive list of cultural activities and takes great pride in sponsoring a broad-based, diverse athletic program that provides intramural competition for all citizens as well as participates at the national level.

Kiryat-Motzkin has fast become the commercial center for the surrounding communities. Businesses, workshops and offices render services to the entire population of the Bay Area totaling nearly 200,000 residents.

Ålesund

Norway



Tacoma's Sister City since 1986.

In the northern region of western Norway, about midway between Bergen and Trondheim, lies Ålesund, a town which, with its population of 35,000, constitutes the natural hub of northwestern Norway. By tradition a fishing, industrial and commercial town, Ålesund is today a modern business center with interests reaching far and wide. The sound thrusts its way into the heart of the town, making boats and the sea an integral part of the townscape. The waterway is jammed with fishing boats. Ålesund offers a wide range of shopping, cultural, and service facilities. Its cultural attractions include art galleries, churches, and an aquarium.

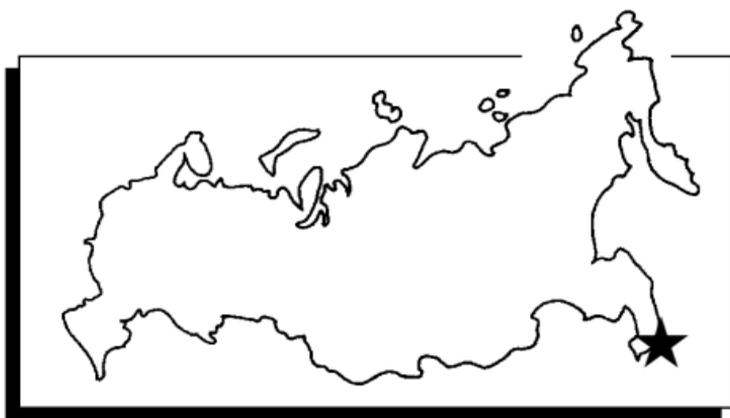
The town is also an important regional communications center, linked to the surrounding area and the rest of the country by air, road, and sea.

Ålesund was founded in 1848, razed by fire in 1904 and rebuilt in the contemporary Jugendstil, a style of architecture which gives the center of the town a highly distinctive appearance.

Ålesund is located in the heart of Norway's most famous tourist region and thus makes an excellent base for excursions to such renowned scenic attractions as the Geiranger fjord, Trollstigen and the island of Runde.

Vladivostok

Russia



Tacoma's Sister City since 1992.

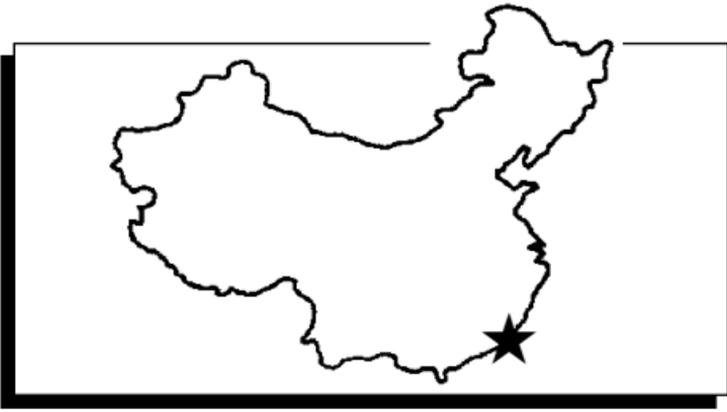
Located on the far eastern border of Russia, at the sea-side is the city of Vladivostok—the capital of Primorye, whose population of 750,000 is primarily associated with the sea. Vladivostok begins from the coast of the Bay of Zolotoy Rog with many dozens of terminals where hundreds of commercial vessels, fishing boats and fish-factory boats moor. Here the ocean breath is felt in everything ... in the sultry taste of the wind, in the thick fogs covering the city, in the strident cries of sea gulls, and in the ship bells' ringing.

This area serves as a nucleus of industry, economy and culture for the Russian Far East. A closed city until mid-1992, Vladivostok is home to one of the largest navy fleets of Russia. Vladivostok has a major Russian University, the Far East Institute, including schools of oceanography, fisheries, and engineering. It is the favorite city for many Russians as a resort and relaxation area. It hosts many cultural and performing arts events of Russia.

Vladivostok is said to be the city of optimists, of people who look confidently into the future with hope.

Fuzhou

China



Tacoma's Sister City since 1994.

Fuzhou, a port city and the capital of the southeastern Chinese province of Fujian, lies near the mouth of the Minjiang where it flows into the Straits of Taiwan. A city and suburban area of more than a million inhabitants, it is known for its timber industry, local tea, and lacquerware. As part of Fujian, it is also the ancestral home of many Chinese Americans who settled in the Pacific Northwest in the nineteenth century.

Fuzhou has long held a key position in China's maritime trade. Soon after its founding in the 6th Century, it became renowned for the export of tea, and Marco Polo wrote of thriving commerce in pearls and precious stones in the 13th Century, especially with India. Western powers gained a foothold in Fuzhou in the 1840s, when it was declared one of 5 Chinese ports open at the end of the first Opium War, and Japan was granted a concession there in 1898.

Today, international contacts are welcomed wholeheartedly, and the exotic teas and pearls have become secondary to trade in wood and agricultural products floated down the Minjiang from the mountainous and mystically beautiful highlands. With technical assistance from the Port of Tacoma, Fuzhou is currently building five deepwater port facilities to secure its position as a key southeastern commercial center. In addition, its electrochemical complex for the production of sulfuric acid and its lacquerware factories make it an industrial hub for Fujian Province.

The name Fuzhou, which actually means "wealthy town", has never been more fitting than today for this bustling river city.

Davao City

Philippines



Tacoma's Sister City since 1994.

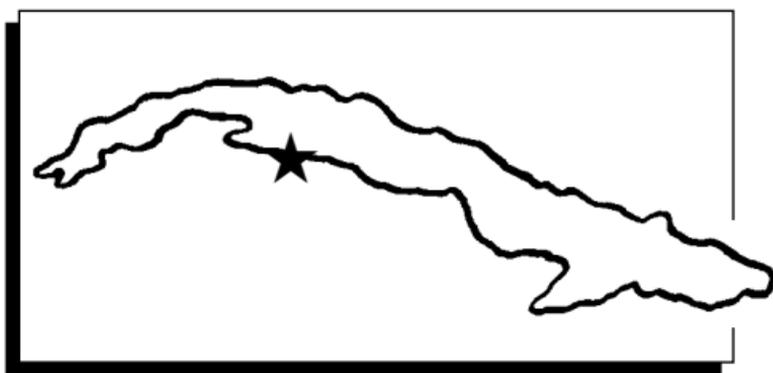
Lying at the southeastern corner of the Philippines, Davao City, the largest city in the world (244,000 hectares), is considered the Orchid Capital of the Philippines. It is also famous for fruits and as a take-off point for climbing Mt. Apo, the Philippines' highest mountain and habitat of the monkey-eating Philippine eagle. It has a mild pleasant climate all year round and is shielded from typhoons. Its setting on Davao Gulf and the fertility of the land have made Davao the agricultural and industrial center in the South. Davao is also noted for ethnic groups that still follow their traditions as can be seen from their arts and crafts.

A tour of the city and the outskirts will bring the visitor to Dabaw Ethnics, a tiny settlement of the Mandaya Tribe; Dabaw Museum whose displays include tribal artifacts and costumes; and the Taoist and Lon Wa Buddhist Temples. Visitor attractions include Greenhills and Derling Orchid Farms where Davao's orchids blossom and bloom. The more popular attractions in the province are: Fort del Pilar; Pasonanca Park with its botanical garden, Rio Hondo and Taliksangay, where members of the Samal Tribe live in their huts on stilts. For shopping variation, the nearby sea becomes afloat with Muslim boats with colorful sails called vintas, filled with handicrafts such as mats, brassware and handwoven native cloths.

The first East Asian Business convention was held in Davao. Davao is considered the fastest economic growth area of the Philippines.

Cienfuegos

Cuba

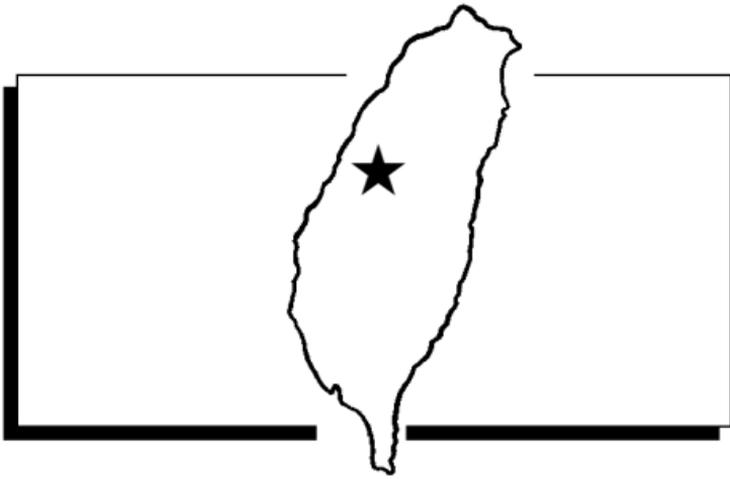


Tacoma's Sister City since 2000.

Cienfuegos is a beautiful port city nestled between lush mountains and rich agricultural lands. Cienfuegos, with a population of approximately 130,000, is located in south central Cuba and is the third largest port in the country. It is also known as *La Perla del Sur* or the Pearl of the South because of both its natural and architectural beauty.

Cienfuegos has something for everyone! The sea and the air are clean and warm in this industrial city and its surrounding province by the same name. Hotels and resorts with a variety of accommodations by the sun-dappled sea and in the mountains welcome visitors. History and architecture buffs will marvel at the well-preserved Town Square and quaint streets. Medical, mental health, and educational professionals will be interested in getting to know their colleagues at the various universities, schools, nurseries, clinics and medical center. Baseball and other athletic fans will not only enjoy the Cubans' enthusiasm for sports, but there is a stadium and athletic fields available for everyone to enjoy. Art in all its forms and among all ages abounds in Cienfuegos. The cultural center is a focal point for both the professional and the novice. And, of course, what would a visit to Cienfuegos be without its rhythmic music, its suave dances, and its delicious tropical flavors. There is all this in Cienfuegos and more. There is something for everyone.

Taichung Taiwan



Tacoma's Sister City since 2000.

The island of Taiwan is located 100 miles off the coast of Mainland China between Japan and Hong Kong. Portuguese mariners who reached Taiwan in the 16th Century named it Formosa, which means beautiful.

Taichung is the third largest city in Taiwan and is home to approximately 914,000 residents, 13 colleges, numerous temples and Taiwan's 2nd largest port – Taichung Port.

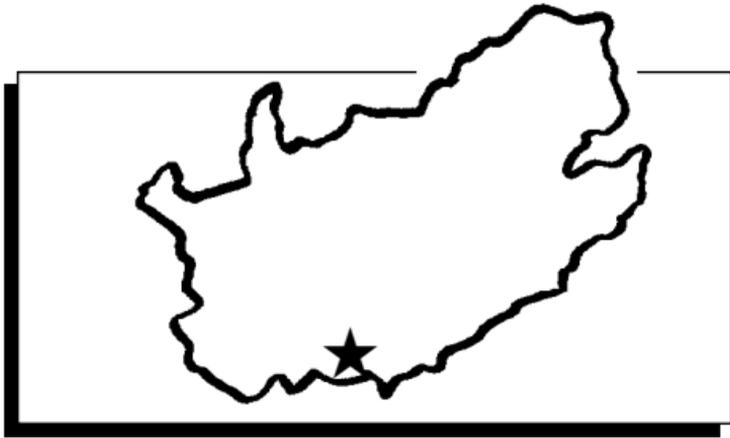
The eastern half of the area features mountains, river valleys and forests, including the snow-capped Mt. Jade, the highest mountain in Taiwan. The western half has plains, basins, terraces, and miles of beautiful seashore. Taichung is an economic, cultural, industrial and educational center of Taiwan and an important transportation hub.

Taichung takes pride in its clean environment, cultural and educational activities, open space and recreational facilities, business vitality, and industrial and high-tech development. The City also places emphasis on social welfare programs, such as city-build day care centers, regular health check-ups for elders and insurance for the low-income families.

The Taiwan's central government has designated Taichung as one of the regional manufacturing operation centers in the Asia-Pacific owing to its strong industrial base. Some 70% of Taiwan's newly developed industrial zones are in this area.

Taichung is home to approximately 914,000 residents, 13 colleges, numerous famous temples and Taiwan's 2nd largest port – Taichung Harbor.

George South Africa



Tacoma's Sister City since 1997.

The city of George is located along South Africa's Garden Route on the coast in the Western Cape Province. The population of George is approximately 100,000.

George is nestled below magnificent George Peak. The town is situated in a picturesque environment on a coastal plateau between the Outeniqua Mountains and the Indian Ocean. The area consists of a remarkable blending of mountains, rivers, indigenous and cultivated forests. It has colorful shrubs and wild flowers, glorious beaches and rich farmlands.

Of all the natural wonders in which the region abounds, nothing is quite as breathtaking as the grandeur of the forests. The forests derive their diversity and lushness from year-round rainfall, averaging 34 inches per year, with no month having more than 3.5 inches. Mild temperatures prevail throughout the year, with winter temperatures averaging 68°, summer 73°.

George is known as one of the fast developing towns in South Africa and, based on the growth over the past ten years, is expected to develop into a secondary city within the next decade. It has a sophisticated infrastructure with banks, conference facilities, businesses, major shopping chains, transportation and recreation facilities. It is also a major tourist center with a variety of places to suit every taste and pocketbook.

Because of its location, George is a popular distribution center for both governmental and non-governmental goods and services. Forestry, farming (vegetables, hops, dairy), light industries and tourism form the basis of the local economy.