

## Ceremony to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Sister-State Relationship between Washington and Hyogo Prefecture

On Monday, August 19, a series of events was held at the capitol in Olympia to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of sister-state relations between Washington and Hyogo. Washington Governor Jay Inslee and a group of 250 from around the state welcomed a delegation of 250 from Hyogo prefecture led by Governor Toshizo Ido, joining together to participate in the opening ceremony and a commemorative planting of a magnolia tree.



Opening ceremony



Commemorative planting of magnolia tree

Following that, a Joint communique on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sister-state relations was signed at a ceremony in the Senate Chambers, affirming the continuation and expansion of disaster prevention, environment, economic, grassroots, and education-related exchanges between the states.



Joint communique ceremony



Congratulatory address from Consul General Omura



Governor Ido signing the communique



Presenting the signed document

On this occasion, Consul General Omura presented Consul General Commendation to Senator Karen Fraser, chairperson of the Washington-Hyogo Sister State 50th Anniversary Ceremony Host Committee, in recognition of the committee's great contributions to relations between the two sister states and the success of the anniversary events. Senator Fraser has helped to expand ties between the U.S. and Japan through many years of dedicated service.



Award ceremony led by Consul General Omura