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< Situation of exchange between Kumpo city and Atsugui city >

Atsugi city concluded a treaty of friendly city with Kumpo city Korea in Feb.2005.

These 2 cities have been promoting the bond of friendship through the sports such as gate ball, badminton and etc. and they celebrated its 9th anniversary this year.

Kumpo city located 23km south distant from the Capital Seoul is abundant in beautiful nature and this city commands Molaksan in east side, Shuurisan in west side and Gohousan in south side.

Kumpo grows rapidly as a core city and now its population is 280 thousand, so this city is in the spotlight at present as an important area of culture, industry, and traffic.

By the way, famous ice skater Kim Yuna's native place is Kumpo.

This attached photo is Kumpo.



< Situation of the exchange between Korea and Japan in Kendo >

The exchange between Atsugi Kendo Federation and Kumpo Kendo Association begun with a visit of Kumpo's side to Atsugi by Kumpo's proposal.

Atsugi received 15 persons of Kumpo in Jan.2009 and we promoted friendship through doing practice together.

Later we received a letter from Kumpo saying that we'd like to invite you to come here in order to promote friendship in Kendo more and then in Oct.2010 we, 38 persons, visited Kumpo.

We met Mayer of Kumpo to exchange greetings and visited public facilities in addition to training and match.

Our participants were astonished at the facts that a slogan "with book" is displayed on the wall of city hall, that public library is open 24 hours and that they push English Education

The majority of participants visited Korea for the first time and they came back to Japan comfortably with being satisfied with their first visit to Korea thanks to warm welcome done by people of Kumpo.

Though the exchange had been postponed by that terrible earthquake disaster since, Korean mission consisted of 35 persons came to Atsugi in Oct.2012 and promoted friendship by taking part in the Atsugi city Kendo title match.

Following 2 photos were taken at that time.



And in Oct.2013 Atsugi mission consisted of 24 persons visited Korea again to make friendship strengthen.
We became felt friendly more each other by understanding mutual culture, locality and people through these exchanges.
It is a delightful thing that we have become friends of 10 years standing every time we visited each other,
This is a photo taken at visiting Korea in 2013.



< Situation of Kendo in Korea >

In Korea Kendo is very popular and they say that the population of Kendo is 600 thousand following Japan (1.2million).
Korea is veteran country which meets us every time at final match in the World Kendo Championship.
Korea got Gold medal in the World Kendo Championship held in Taipei 2005.

Majority of Kenshi in Kumpo are young and there are 4 Kendo halls in Kumpo city.

In this time 8 persons will visit Japan and 5 persons among them have and manage Kendo hall.

They do Kendo very seriously and make the best efforts to rear boys and girls.

From Seoul also 2 persons will come.

Whenever Mr.Kim of Korea SONY makes a business trip to Japan, he carries tools of Kendo and does training at our Kendo hall.

Mr.Jin is owner of Kendo hall when Mr.Kim does training, and he is veteran player who has won many local championships.

(Written by Atsushi Koyama, Director -General of Atsugi International Kendo Festival)