














History of Exchanges between Japanese Saku City and Estonian Saku City

Year	Day/Month	Event
Heisei 10 (1998)	Sep.	When a city of "Saku" in Japan that is the same name "Saku" in Republic of Estonia was found, an exchange between two cities started. (Mr.Marelk Luts, the First Secretary of Estonian Embassy in Japan, found a sign of "Saku Intercange on Joshin-Etsu Expressway.)
Heisei 11 (1999)	Feb.	Mr.Miura, the Mayor of Japanese Saku City, and Mr. Takano, the chairperson of Saku Board of Education, were invited to a reception of Declaration of Independence.
	Apr.	Mr.Mark Sinisoo, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Estonian Embassy in Japan, visited Japanese Saku City.
Heisei 13 (2001)	Oct.	Japanese Saku City invited Mr. Peeter Miller, the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of Estonian Embassy in Japan, to 40th anniversary of Old Saku City.
Heisei 15 (2003)	May.	Japanese Saku City invited Mr.Argo Kangro, the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of Estonian Embassy in Japan, to Saku Balloon Festival.
Heisei 16 (2004)	Jul.	A citizens' group of Japanese Saku City visited Estonian Saku City, bringing a message of Mr. Miura, the Mayor of Japanese Saku City. (Saku Estonia Association was founded from this visit.)
	Nov.	Mr. Arnold RÜÜtel, the president of Republic of Estonia, and his wife visited Japan. Estonian Embassy in Japan invited Mr. Miura, the Mayor of Japanese Saku City.
Heisei 17 (2005)	Feb.	14 Estonian athletes of Special Olympics Nagano stayed with families of Japanese Saku City.
	Jun.	A citizens' group of Japanese Saku City visited Estonian Saku City, bringing a message of Mr. Miura, the Mayor of Japanese Saku City. (Second visit)
	Jul.	Ms. Timo stayed with families of Japanese Saku City. (For 1 month)
	Jul.	Saku Lions Club sent Ms. Sakurai Yuka, a student of North Nozawa High School, to stay with an Estonian family.
	Aug.	Japanese Saku City invited Mr. Sven Kesler, the Mayor of Estonian Saku City, the chairperson of the city council, 7 members of the city council and Mr. Argo Kangro, the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of Estonian Embassy in Japan, to a ceremony of the birth of New Saku City.
Heisei 18 (2006)	May.	Japanese Saku City invited Mr.Argo Kangro, the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of Estonian Embassy in Japan, to Saku Balloon Festival.
	Jul.	Mr.Miura, the Mayor of Japanese Saku City, and Mr. Kikuhara, the chairperson of Saku City Council, officially visited Estonian Saku City.
	Jul.	Soprus, Estonian folk dance group, performed at Saku Cosmo Hall. (550 visitors)
	Oct.	Mr. Miura, the Mayor of Japanese Saku City, visited Mr. Peeter Miller, new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Estonian Embassy in Japan.

<p>Heisei 19 (2007)</p>	<p>1 May.</p>	<p>Signing a Friendship City Agreement Signing Ceremony was held at Japanese Saku City Hall. The chairperson of Estonian Saku Municipal Council, the Mayor of Estonian Saku City and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Estonian Embassy in Japan were present at the ceremony.</p> 
	<p>29 Jun.–6 Jul.</p>	<p>Mr.Miura, the Mayor of Japanese Saku City, and Mr. Kikuhara, the chairperson of Saku City Council, officially visited Estonian Saku City.</p>
<p>Heisei 23 (2011)</p>	<p>3–5 May.</p>	<p>「A delegation of Estonian Saku City, including the Mayor, visited Saku Balloon Festival for the first time.</p>
<p>Heisei 24 (2012)</p>	<p>2–3 May.</p>	<p>Mr. Toivo Tasa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Estonian Embassy in Japan, visited Saku Balloon Festival.</p>
	<p>9-16 May.</p>	<p>A delegation of Japanese Saku City visited Estonian Saku City for celebration of 5th anniversary of signing the friendship city agreement. (Mr. Koike, the Deputy Mayor, Mr. Nakazawa, the chairperson of Saku City Council and 10 citizens.)</p>
	<p>4–26 Aug.</p>	<p>Japanese Saku City invited Mr. Veikko Montonen, the First Secretary of Estonian Embassy in Japan, to an opening ceremony. The festival was held in "Oginoya". We offered Estonian foods, sold beer made in SAKU beer and displayed pictures of Estonia.</p> 
<p>Heisei 25 (2013)</p>	<p>18 Oct.</p>	<p>Mr. Kai Tetsuro, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Embassy of Japan in Estonia, visited Japanese Saku City.</p> 

Heisei 26 (2014)	8 Feb.	Mr. Hanaoka, a president of Japan and Estonia Association of Friendship, and a manager of Tourism and Exchange Promotion Section of Japanese Saku City participated in the retirement ceremony of Mr. Baruto, a sumo wrestler from Estonia and former ozeki.
	6 Oct.	As International Youth Exchange Program, a Estoian youth visited Japanese Saku City. 
	9 Nov.	Kokoronno-Musical' "Koitora", that is set in Estonian Saku City, was performed at Saku Cosmo Hall. A number of audience was 1400 people. And Mr. Jaak Lensment, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Estonian Embassy in Japan, appreciated it.  
Heisei 27 (2015)	2-5 May.	A delegation of Estonian Saku City, including the Mayor and the chairperson of city council, visited Saku Balloon Festival. They were present at the opening ceremony, talked about an exchange training program for children, and visited various places.  
	21-23 Nov.	A delegation of Estonian Saku City, including the Mayor and school officials, visited Japanese Saku City. They had a consultation about the exchange training program for children between two Saku Cities.  

<p>Heisei 28 (2016)</p>	<p>13–19 Jan.</p>	<p>A delegation of Japanese Saku City, including the Mayor and the chairperson of city council, officially visited Estonian Saku City. They were present at 150 anniversary ceremony of a foundation of Estonian Saku City, signed an agreement of the exchange training program for children, and visited Embassy of Japan in Estonia. And they also visited Estonian Athletic Association and Swedish Athletics Association for inviting a training camps of Olympics.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
	<p>26 Jan.</p>	<p>Saku city is registered as the host town of the Estonia at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.</p>
	<p>8 Apr.</p>	<p>Mayor Yanagida, Chairman Kobayashi, Chairman Takakuma of the Japan-Estonian Friendship Association and two others will be invited to attend the welcome party for Prime Minister Taavi Roivas of the Republic of Estonia, sponsored by Prime Minister Abe.</p> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;">   </div>
	<p>2–3 May.</p>	<p>Mr. Kai Tetsuro, Ex Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Embassy of Japan in Estonia, was present at the Saku Balloon festival and a dinner party.</p>

	24-31 Oct.	<p>Children of Estonian Saku City visited Japanese Saku City for the first time. They deepened friendship with Japanese Saku City, through stay with Japanese families and experience of Japanese junior high school.</p>   
	16 Nov.	<p>As a Host Town Exchanges Project, Mr. Baruto, the former sumo wrestling ozeki, was designated as "Ambassador of Friendship Exchanges in Saku". And Mr. Kai Tetsuro, Ex Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Embassy of Japan in Estonia, designated as "Advisor of Exchanges with Republic of Estonia".</p>  
Heisei 29 (2017)	3 Feb.	<p>Ms. Yanagisawa Yoko, the Ambassador of Embassy of Japan in Estonia, visited Japanese Saku City. And she paid a courtesy visit to the Mayor of Japanese Saku City.</p>  
	14 Feb.	<p>Mr. Yanagida, the Mayor of Japanese Saku City, was invited to a party of Declaration of Independence, hosted by Estonian Embassy in Japan.</p>

22 Apr.

Estonian minister of Agriculture and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Estonian Embassy in Japan visited "Goryokaku" and "Sakugoi (carps) Farm".



3-5 May.

As a celebration for 10th anniversary of signing the friendship agreement, a delegation of Estonian Saku City (including the Mayor), Mr.Argo Kangro, a counselor of Estonian Embassy in Japan, and Mr. Kai Tetsuro were present at the Festival.



3-5 May.

Mr. Baruto, "Ambassador of Friendship Exchanges in Saku", participated in Saku Balloon Festival and "Sakugoi" marathon.



29 Jul.-5 Aug.

Junior high school students of Japanese Saku City visited Estonian Saku City for the first time. They stayed with Estonian families and exchanged with Estonian children.



31 Jul.



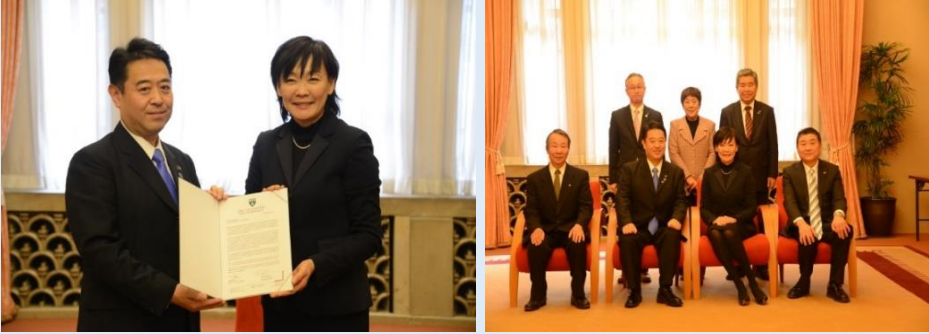
Mr. Martti Raju, a Deputy Secretary- General of Estonian Olympic Committee, and Mr. Argo Kangro visited Saku General Sports Park Athletic Field and accomodations.



23-31 Oct.

Estonian children exchanged with junior high school students of Japanese Saku City and stayed with Japanese families.



	25 Oct.	<p>Ms. Tuulikki Bartosik, an Estonian performer of accordion, played at Civic Hall of Saku Municipality. (200 citizens)</p> 
	27 Oct.	<p>Estonian cooking class was held by Estonians who lived in Japan. And we exchanged with an Estonian who had won at Japanese speech contest in Estonia.</p>
Heisei 30 (2018)	24 Feb.–2 Mar.	<p>We sold Estonian foods at local supermrkets. Also we held "Estonia Festival", where Mr. Baruto, Mr Argo Kangro and Mr. Kai Testuro were present. (Talk Show and Tourism Presentation, etc)</p> 
	26 Feb.	<p>The Mayor of Japanese Saku City received a letter, signed by the Mayor of Estonian Saku City and the chairperson of city council, from Ms. Abe Akie(wife of the prime minister) at an official residence of the prime minister.</p> 

3-5 May.

Mr. Jaak Lensment, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Estonian Embassy in Japan, Mr. Argo Kangro and Mr. Baruto were present at the Festival.



17-24 May.

As a celebration for 10th anniversary of concluding Friendship-City Agreement with Estonian Saku City, Japanese Saku City visited Estonia at 100th anniversary of Estonian Declaration of Independence. We deepened our friendship through face-to-face exchange. And Japanese Saku City recommended Estonian Team to hold a pregames training camp for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in Saku City, Japan.



30 Jul.-6 Aug.

Junior high school student of Japanese Saku City visited Estonian Saku City. They stayed with Estonian families and exchanged with Estonian children.



19-22 Aug.

Estonian Radio Girls Choir exchanges with choir of junior high school, visited elementary school and have lunch at there. They held mini-concert and had exchanges. They also toured in the city such as a factory of Citizen.



15 Sep.

Japan & Estonia Association of Friendship and citizens of Japanese Saku City cleaned up around Sakudaira Station.



16 Sep.

Estonian National Male Choir held a performance at Saku Cosmo Hall. And they also sold Estonian honey and sundry goods.



10 Oct.

"Estonian Music Festival" was held at Sakudaira Community Center. And "Estonian Design Day", when works of Estonian designers were displayed and sold, was also held.



19-25 Oct.




Children of Estonian Saku City visited Japanese Saku City. They stayed with Japanese families and exchanged with Japanese junior high school students.

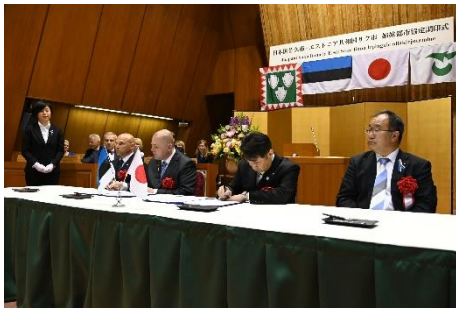





10-13 Nov.

Ms. Sirje Lippe, a Secretary-General of Estonian Athletic Association, and Ms. Kristel Berendsen, a Sport Director of the same Association, visited Japanese Saku City. They visited athletic facilities such as Saku General Sports Park Athletic Field. And they also visited municipal elementary school and exchanged with children.



<p>Heisei 31 (2019)</p>	<p>9 Mar.–14Apr.</p>	<p>Japanese Saku City held a special exhibition “A tiny treasure box in Northern Europe, Estonia – Ancient Estonia expressed by Kaljo Pollu – at Saku Municipal Museum of Modern Art.</p>   
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<p>Reiwa 1 (2019)</p>	<p>1 May.</p>	<p>Signing a Sister-City Agreement Signing Ceremony was held at Assembly Hall of Japanese Saku City. Mr. Tiit Vahenõmm, the chairperson of Estonian Saku Municipal Council, Mr. Marti Rehema, the Mayor of Estonian Saku City, and Mr. Väino Reinart, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Estonian Embassy in Japan, were present at the ceremony.</p>    
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2 Jul.–9 Jul.

Japanese Saku City and Estonian Olympic Committee signed Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Pre-Games Training Camp for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Japanese Saku City also paid a courtesy visit to Estonian Paralympic Committee in order to invite Pre-Games Training Camp for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

Japanese Saku City paid a courtesy visit to Her Excellency, Kersti Kaljulaid, President of Republic of Estonia, and also to Mr. Matsumura Hajime, Charges d'affaires ad interim of Embassy of Japan in Estonia, in order to report signs of Sister-City Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Pre-Games Training Camp for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.


Members of Japan and Estonia Association of Friendship participated in "Estonian Song and Dance Celebration" held once every 5 years.





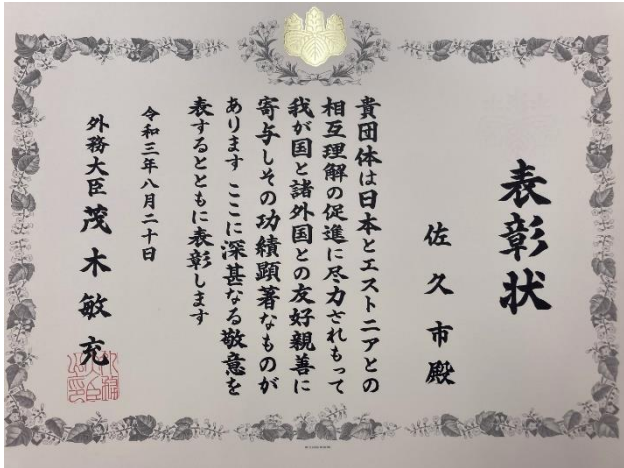
1 Aug.–8Aug.






Junior high school students of Japanese Saku City visited Estonian Saku City. They stayed with Estonian families and exchanged with Estonian children.



<p>21Aug.– 24Aug.</p>	<p>8 Estonian Judo athletes, who competed in Tokyo World Judo Championship, participated in pre-games training camp at Japanese Saku City. They practiced and exchanged with a Judo team of Saku Chosei High School.</p>	
<p>27Aug.– 29Aug.</p>	<p>Japanese Saku City held a tour for citizens to cheer Estonian Judo athletes in Tokyo World Judo Championship.</p>	
<p>1 Sep.</p>	<p>Japanese Saku City held “Estonia Music Day”, in which Estonian musicians and students of Saku Music School participated. And a workshop of “Kannel”, an Estonian traditional instrument, and shops of Estonian goods were also held.</p>	

<p>2 Sep.</p>	<p>Japanese Saku City concluded “Agreement Regarding Host Town Project of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games” with Meiji Co., Ltd which is a Gold Partner of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.</p>	
<p>24 Sep.</p>	<p>Mr.Hajime Kitaoka, the Ambassador of Embassy of Japan in Estonia, visited Japanese Saku City. And she paid a courtesy visit to the Mayor of Japanese Saku City.</p>	
<p>28 Sep.– 29Sep.</p>	<p>Japanese Saku City held a concert performed Estonian musicians at Saku Children’s Science Dome for the Future. They played “Kannel”, an Estonian traditional instrument, at “Machi-ju Music Festival” (Machi-ju means “all around the city”).</p>	

<p>22 Oct.– 26 Oct.</p>	<p>Children of Estonian Saku City visited Japanese Saku City. They stayed with Japanese families and exchanged with Japanese junior high school students.</p>	
<p>10 Feb.- 11 Feb.</p>	<p>Seiji Yanagida, Mayor of Saku City in Japan was attended by invited to the Prime Minister Abe hosted dinner meeting to welcome Prime Minister Jüri Ratas. (At the Prime Minister's Office)</p> <p>Seiji Yanaigida and the chairman, the chairman of the Friendship Association was invited to the Republic of Estonia Independence Day reception party, which was held in the Meiji Memorial Hall, participated.</p>	
<p>1 Dec.</p>	<p>Saku Municipality in Estonia received the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation for their contribution to the promotion of mutual understanding between the Republic of Estonia and Japan.</p>	

<p>Reiwa3 (2021)</p>	<p>23 Feb.</p>	<p>The recipients of the medal have been announced by the Office of the President of the Republic of Estonia, and Seiji Yanagida, Mayor of Saku City in Japan awarded “The Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana IV class” for his achievements in developing relations between the Republic of Estonia and Japan through sister city exchanges with Saku Municipality.</p> 
	<p>23 May.</p>	<p>Mr. Takashi Kashiyama, the former chairman of the MK Kashiyama Group, donated a grand piano made by Estonia Piano Factory. We invited the donor, Mr. Kashiyama, and His Excellency Väino Reinart, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Estonia to Japan for the Estonian piano unveiling ceremony which was held at AEON MALL Sakudaira Central Court.</p>  
	<p>12 Jul.–29 Jul.</p>	<p>The Estonian team held the Pre-Games Training Camp for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games at the athletic facilities of their host town in Saku City. 8 athletes in 4 events of Fencing, Judo, Wrestling, and Athletics made final adjustments to the conditions before they headed to the Olympic Village in Tokyo.</p>  
	<p>23 Jul.</p>	<p>The opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games was held at the Japan National Stadium, and the Olympic Games have started.</p>

6 Aug.

President Kersti Kaljuride of the Republic of Estonia visited Saku City. The awarding ceremony of "The Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana IV class", received by Mayor Yanagida was held at the city hall.



5 Sep.

The closing ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics Games was held at the Japan National Stadium, and the Olympics and Paralympics ended. A fencing Olympic athlete who came to Saku City for the Pre-Games Training Camp made a big success with a gold medal for a female epee group and a bronze medal for an individual female epee.





9.Oct.

Mr.Yukihiko Matsuoka, the Ambassador of Embassy of Japan in Estonia, visited Japanese Saku City. And she paid a courtesy visit to the Mayor of Japanese Saku City.



<p>Reiwa4 (2022)</p>	<p>18 Oct.- 22 Oct.</p>	<p>As the youth exchange with Saku, Republic of Estonia, children of this city visited Saku, Nagano and got to know having experiences Japanese cultures such as “Onsen(Japanese hot springs)” and visiting a junior high school in the city.</p> 
<p>Reiwa5 (2023)</p>	<p>11 Feb.- 16 Feb.</p>	<p>As the Host Town of The Republic of Estonia legacy project, we held the “Estonia Fair” so that citizens of Saku city could experience Estonian culture directly.</p> <p>They could feel close to the Republic of Estonia through the demonstration of cooking Vastlakukkel(Estonian sweets), selling foods or merchandises of Estonia, and the concert and setting the street piano using a grand piano made by Estonia Piano Factory, donated by Mr. Takashi Kashiwama, former chairman of MK Kashiwama Group.</p> 
<p>2 May.- 3 May.</p>	<p>2 May.- 3 May.</p>	<p>During the Saku Balloon Festival 2023, three people from the Embassy of the Republic of Estonia in Japan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Väino Reinart, wife of Ambassador Kaire Jürgenson, and secretary Anna Madli Pill, visited Saku City.</p> <p>At this time, We were presented with the sheet music of Mr. Arvo Pärt, a composer from the Republic of Estonia.</p> 

<p>Reiwa5 (2023)</p>	<p>31 July.- 7 August.</p>	<p>Eight junior high school students from Saku City, Japan visited SAKU City, Republic of Estonia, and through homestays with ordinary families and exchanges with children, they were exposed to Estonian culture, which is different from Japan, and deepened their relationships with local students.</p> 
	<p>16 October.- 21 October.</p>	<p>Children from SAKU City, Republic of Estonia visited Saku City, Japan, and deepened their friendships by experiencing Japanese culture through calligraphy and sake breweries, and visiting a junior high school in the city.</p> 

※Titles are those of the then positions.