

COVID UPDATE

Future in-person events are still postponed or cancelled due to health and safety precautions.

Current Updates

- Aomori (*as of March 1, 2021*)
 - Cumulative Cases: 816
 - Deaths: 20
- Nueva Vizcaya (*as of February 19, 2021*)
 - Cumulative Cases: 778
 - Deaths: 30

WEBSITE UPDATES

New! Jesus' Tomb in Japan

Release date: March 8, 2021



According to tradition, Jesus was crucified on the cross in Calvary in Jerusalem. Or at least that's how the Gospels describe the final moments of Jesus' life. However, that's not the only narrative that describes the life and death of Jesus. In the little village of Shingo (新郷) to the southwest of Gonohe, there lies what some believe to be the final resting place of Jesus.

The Great Tohoku Earthquake of March 11, 2011

Published: February 22, 2021



Ten years ago on March 11, 2011, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck the Tohoku region of Japan. The ensuing tsunami and nuclear meltdown killed over 15,000 people and resulted in economic damages of around 250 billion US dollars. To this day, the events of the 2011 Great Tohoku Earthquake still remains as the country's biggest challenge since the Second World War.

The Battle of Balete Pass

Published: February 26, 2021



Towards the end of the Pacific theatre of World War II, one of the most iconic points of the conflict happened in the town of Santa Fe. Immediately, to anyone from Nueva Vizcaya, this

would be all too familiar; it is none other than Dalton Pass formerly known as Balete Pass. After the liberation of Manila by the allied forces, the commander of the Japanese forces in the Philippines, General Yamashita Tomoyuki, ordered his troops to move north.

A Q&A with former Gonohe Mayor Miura Masana

Published: December 30, 2020



What role have you played in the association so far?

I was appointed as the [chairman] president of the Gonohe International Association in June 2020. But, due to the new coronavirus, all of the plans of the association were suspended. So, I hardly did my job as chairman [as of now].

Prior to becoming the chairman, I was involved in the international exchange as the mayor of Gonohe for 20 years. Gonohe has sister city relations with Bayombong in the Philippines and Okcheon County in South Korea. I have visited Bayombong twice and Okcheon three times as Mayor and have hosted delegations from both cities. Additionally, I have had personal exchanges with the families from Misawa US Air Base.

What experiences do you remember the most?

I have many memories of my visits to Bayombong. During my first visit, while travelling by car from Manila, a police car came in from the roadside as soon as we entered Bayombong. It

was sounding a siren and guiding us. I was also surprised to see welcome banners and sign boards all over the town; I remember being impressed by the hospitality of the townspeople of Bayombong to us.

On the second visit, there was an unveiling ceremony of a memorial in the centre of the town and I remembered well that there was a grand event attended by many people. What I felt most during my second visit was how the [Filipinos] could be so generous [welcoming] towards the Japanese despite the very unfortunate times of the Pacific War [World War II].

What is your message to the younger members of the Gonohe community?

When I was Mayor [of Gonohe], I used to say to junior high school students about a Japanese saying: "To see is to believe". These days, one can get so much information as one can about a foreign country through the television or the internet. But, in many cases you will not know until you actually visit the country. If you do not meet people, you will not be able to understand the customs and the ways of thinking of foreigners. If possible I would like the youth of Gonohe to acquire a certain level of language skills and have conversations. And with that, I would like the youth to visit foreign countries if they have the opportunity.

What is your hope for the association's future?

Now, as the President of the [Gonohe] International Association, I have changed my opinion. From now on, we [the association leadership] must carefully listen to the opinions of the members and work in collaboration of the town. As I have mentioned above, I believe that international exchange means to actually interact with foreigners and to understand each other. When the coronavirus pandemic subsides, we would like to resume our exchange activities.

WEBSITE UPDATES

Are you a member of the Bayombong Gonohe Sister City Association? Have you participated in the delegations or events in the past? We are still looking for contributions for our website and blogs!

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