

HISTORY OF THE SISTERHOOD OF BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND GONOHE, AOMORI, JAPAN

As written by Mrs. Rafaela R. Guzman ca. 1990 re-encoded on May 20, 2020

The beautiful program of the Gonohe people fostering friendship, peace and goodwill was formally launched in Bayombong during the incumbency of Mayor Adriano L. dela Cruz which made Bayombong a sister city of Gonohe, Japan. This program was organised and implemented in 1983.

The Gonohe - Bayombong Sisterhood Relationship had its humble beginnings in 1944 when the Honourable Mayor Yoshio Kawasaki who was a young army officer of the then Japanese Imperial Army during the last year of the Japanese occupation came to Bayombong and stayed at the house that belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Alfredo Zuraek.

Mayor Yoshio Kawasaki and his men had a very memorable time during their stay in Bayombong so that in the late 1960's he made a sentimental journey to Bayombong. In his desire to find out if the house he used to occupy was still intact, he traced his way to the Zuraek's house. He introduced himself to them and their good friendly relationship began. That started the frequent visit of Mayor Kawasaki's family to Bayombong. While in Bayombong, they visited schools and the school were recipients of supplies, toys and musical instruments for pupils.

Cognizant of his love for Bayombong and his verbal request to be an adopted child of this town, the Sangguniang Bayan (Municipal Council) of Bayombong having been notified by Mayor Yoshio Kawasaki with his son Nanao and other officials of the city of Gonohe of their coming to Bayombong, the undersigned presented the idea of adopting him as a son of Bayombong. A resolution sponsored by then Vice-mayor Hipolito C. Mamuric II and Kagawad (Councilor) Tagumpay C. Sta. Ines, seconded by me, was unanimously approved by the Sangguniang Bayan under the leadership of the Mayor Adriano L. dela Cruz. This was presented to [the] Honourable Mayor Yoshio Kawasaki on February 14, 1983 during a Valentine's Dance that was tendered in their honour at the municipal quadrangle. Upon their return to Gonohe, the city council of Gonohe also passed a resolution adopting Bayombong as a sister City of Gonohe. In 1984, the Gonohe sister city invited Mayor Adriano L. dela Cruz and the undersigned to go to Gonohe to sign the contract for the sisterhood relationship. However, Mayor dela Cruz could not make the journey so

he requested me to get somebody to accompany me. It was Attorney Gloria V. Europa who was appointed as municipal attorney for Bayombong who was chosen to be my companion. So, both of us went to Gonohe, Japan to sign the contract. That was from August 29 to September 9, 1984. Our stay in Gonohe coincided with their harvest festival and we enjoyed our stay there.

On August 29 to September 9, 1985, another group led by Vice-mayor Hipolito C. Mamuric II with Mr. Mateo Tugab and his child. Mr. and Mrs. Rey Tiongson and [their] child also went to Gonohe.

After a break for quite some time, there was another letter of invitation forwarded to [the] Honourable Vicente T. Lumicao. The year 1988 marked the golden year for the high school students, teachers and adult members of the exchange friendship with the students, adults and people of Gonohe Japan. This was the beginning of the first batch of students, teachers/representatives and adult members that availed of this very nice program of Gonohe, Japan.

[In the] meantime, on June 23, 1989 the members convened in a meeting to reorganise the sister city association into a private organisation. The body selected the Bayombong Sisterhood Association as the name of the organisation. The governing body of the organisation is vested on the Board of Directors with the following elected officers:

President:	Engr. Hipolito C. Mamuric II
Vice President:	Mr. Mateo O. Tugab
Treasurer:	Mrs. Lourdes C. Tiongson
Auditor:	Kgd. (Counc.) Rafaela R. Guzman
Secretary:	Ms. Maria Conception G. Tugab
Honorary Chairman:	Mayor Vicente T. Lumicao

Then, there was another invitation for the second batch this time Mrs. Corazon B. Lumicao and Vice-mayor Fred Santos heading the group. This year, August 30 - September 8, 1990. A letter of invitation was addressed to the president of the Bayombong Sisterhood Association, Engr. Hipolito C. Mamuric II who headed the delegation for the third batch.