



WORLD HISTORICAL CITIES



Cover Photos: Kazan City, Russian Federation

AFRICA

Accra / Alexandria / Algiers / Fez / Giza / Luxor / Tunis

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LATIN AMERICA

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MIDDLE EAST

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NORTH AMERICA

Boston / Montreal / Quebec City

PACIFIC

Ballarat / Melbourne / Norwood / Payneham and St. Peters / Whanganui

(119 Member Cities)

CONTENTS

- *Postponed - The 17th World Conference of Historical Cities*
- *LHC Picture Books Exhibition in Kyoto*
- *Kanazawa - A City Preserving its History for the Future*



POSTPONED! -The 17th World Conference of Historical Cities

KAZAN | RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Dates: The new dates will be announced soon on < <https://www.lhc-s.org> >.

Program: The updated program is coming up soon on < <http://lhc2020.kzn.ru> >.

Host City Candidates for the 18th World Conference:



- ▶ The host city for the 2022 World Conference will be determined by vote at the board of directors' meeting which will be held at the 17th conference in Kazan. If you wish to stand as a candidate, please send a letter under the name of your mayor to the LHC Secretariat before May 17, 2020.
*The due date is now extended from 17 April to 17 May, 2020.



- ▶ Every candidate city is required to make a presentation (7-8 minutes) at the meeting. The presentation should include relevant information on the city in general, location and accessibility, accommodation facilities, places to visit, entertainments, financial competence, and expected advantages to the LHC for convening the conference in your city.

If a candidate is unable to attend the 17th Conference due to unavoidable circumstances, it can still make a presentation by documents and/or video messages at the meeting. Please send those materials to the Secretariat by email AND by post.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Secretariat of the League of Historical Cities.

The League of Historical Cities Secretariat



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Message from Chairperson



The League of Historical Cities Secretariat

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Dear colleagues of member cities,

As you have already been informed, the 17th World Conference of Historical Cities scheduled to take place in Kazan, the Russian Federation in June, is decided to be postponed.

The whole world is now faced with the serious crisis which we have never experienced before because of the spread of COVID-19. I would like to extend my deep condolences to the families who have lost the beloved ones. I would also like to show the utmost respect to those who are devoting themselves to preventing the spread day and night.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, strict travel restrictions are enforced, which has economically damaged many historical cities around the world. Your regions and Kyoto are no exception. The advanced globalization in recent years has not only helped people travel much easier but also enhanced worldwide channels for products and information, which has brought us enormous benefits. On the other hand, we must admit that such globalization would also spread the negatives including the virus so rapidly around the world, which is now out of our control. In this open world, it is surely important for historical cities to introduce measures to attract tourists by disseminating their historical and cultural charms to the world, but it is also crucial for us to implement countermeasures against any risks to save our cities and our values. Now, each of you including myself is required to take flexible actions to resolve our current situation.

The temporal restrictions enforced internationally, especially travel restrictions, must not interfere with any future relations nor exchanges amongst cities. At this difficult time, we need to strengthen our ties, share practices and information, and overcome our crisis together. After experiencing this difficulty together, I hope that our stronger bonds and wills will help us retrieve our exchanges and activate them further.

Once the new dates are set for the 17th World Conference, I would like to ask for your kind cooperation on the conference and your support to make it a success.

In closing, let me send you my heartfelt wishes for good health and safety.

Yours Sincerely,

門川 大作

KADOKAWA Daisaku

Chairperson of the League of Historical Cities, Mayor of Kyoto

Picture Books Exhibition

Language is a living cultural heritage characterizing each country and region and building identity of its local people. A picture book is a tool to help children to develop sensibility and enrich linguistic sense and imagination. Furthermore, a picture book in a foreign language often leads us to a new world.

The LHC Secretariat has regularly organized “LHC Picture Book Exhibition” at *kokoka* Kyoto International Community House since 2017 to provide many people including Kyoto citizens with more opportunities to experience such charms of picture books around the world that are full of great potentiality. At the exhibition, picture books written in the languages of member cities are displayed with photos of beautiful scenery of each city, country and region.

In February 2019, picture books written in German, Hungarian and Romanian are showcased featuring Vienna, Bad Ischl, Budapest, Alba Iulia, Constanta and Iasi. In May 2019, Barcelona, Cordoba, and Santiago de Compostela were spotlighted, and in October Chiang Mai was featured. The latest exhibition in February 2020 focused on member cities in Iran.

TÜRME



Two towers, bears, frogs, and a rhinoceros; all characters that appear in the book are unique in colors and forms. Once you see them, you will never forget. It is a pop-up book.

Towers

Vakkancs Szétnéz Budapesten



A fantasy story of a dog called Vakkancs begins when his owner gets drowsy one day. You can enjoy adventures of Vakkancs and beautiful depiction of Budapest.

Vakkancs in Budapest

Limir-Împărat



One day, a hard-working girl Lia comes out in the garden after cleaning a hut and hears flowers singing sadly; “You are kind, pretty and hard-working, but the person you will get married to has been under the ground for nine years. It will be a long journey until you meet him.” Then, Lia decides to set out on a journey.

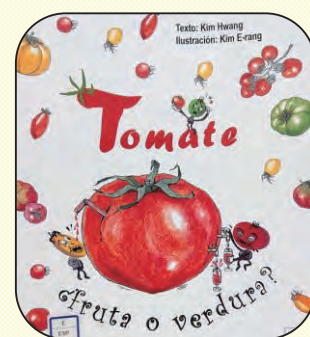


King Limir

Tomate ¿fruta o verdura?



Is a tomato a fruit or a vegetable? The book shows how tomatoes were brought to Europe and became popular. It also explains how to cook tomatoes. Tomato lovers would love this book.



Tomato, fruit or vegetable?

We would like to thank member cities for providing us with valuable materials such as photo data and links to organize the exhibitions. We would like to ask your cooperation when we feature your city at an exhibition.

Kanazawa

~A City Preserving Its History for the Future~



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3

The original city of Kanazawa was founded 440 years ago after the founder of the clan ruling Kaga Domain, Maeda Toshiie, moved to Kanazawa in 1583. Thanks to generations of lords avoiding war and endeavouring to foster culture such as crafts and the performing arts, Kanazawa was never damaged by any wars or large-scale disasters, and as a result the city still preserves its original townscape. Special residential areas for *samurai* and merchants were located around the castle. In order to protect the city, narrow winding paths, open spaces on those paths called *hiromi*, and waterways were constructed, and groups of temples were relocated to the northeast, southeast, and southwest ends of the town. If you compare an early period map of Kanazawa to a present-day map, you can see that the foundation of the town has remained the same throughout the years.

The people of Kanazawa have endeavoured to preserve the original form of the city. When Japan faced urbanization during the period of rapid economic growth after World War II, Kanazawa formulated a city ordinance prior to that of the national government in order to preserve the city's original landscape, and have maintained a healthy balance between the preservation of historical assets and development.

For example, since the acceleration of motorization in 1960-70's Japan, waterways were covered over in order to make room for new parking spaces in the narrow city centre (*Image 1*). However, the city is now uncovering these waterways and replacing power poles underground to recreate Kanazawa's scenic landscape of waterways (*Image 2*). In addition, the city has designated historical merit to certain buildings and areas, offering them subsidies for repair work and establishing rules for the usage of specific colours and materials in order to preserve the original landscape. Kanazawa has four zones designated as *Preservation Districts for Groups of Historic Buildings*, which along with that of Kyoto City and Hagi City, is the largest such cluster within Japan.

Moreover, the craftspeople who have passed down their traditional techniques have also played a crucial role in maintaining historic landscapes, including that of the Preservation Districts. The Kanazawa Institute of Traditional Crafts was established in 1996, where craftspeople currently learn and study the traditional techniques in nine different artistic fields (*Image 3*). These craftspeople has enabled Kanazawa to maintain its historic buildings. Their techniques are also used for maintaining Kenroku-en Garden, (the representative Edo Period garden built by a feudal lord) and for restoring the Hishi-Yagura Turret, the Gojyukken Nagaya Storehouse, the Hashizume-mon Gate, and the Hashizume-mon Tsuzuki Yagura Watchtower located within the grounds of Kanazawa Castle.

Kanazawa's cultural potential has been nationally recognized. So much so that the National Museum of Modern Art Crafts Gallery will be relocated from Tokyo to an area nearby Kenroku-en Garden in the heart of Kanazawa City in the summer of 2020. The museum will be newly named as the "National Museum of Kogei", and will be housed in the historical buildings of the Old 9th Infantry Division Command Headquarters and the Old Army Generals Club, which were both built for the former Imperial Japanese Army in the Meiji Period and are registered as "Tangible Cultural Properties". The buildings have been dismantled and relocated to a new area, and many craftspeople in Kanazawa have contributed greatly to completing their reconstruction.

The extension of the Hokuriku Shinkansen to Kanazawa in 2015 has enhanced accessibility to the city, allowing for more tourists from a much wider variety of nations to be able to visit. We expect that the relocation of the "National Museum of Kogei" to the Kenroku-en Cultural Zone, where Kenroku-en Garden, Kanazawa Castle, the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of Art are all assembled, will further improve the area's status as an artistic and cultural spot and help to attract even more tourists to the city.

Although Kanazawa has succeeded in preserving historical assets while also developing the city, we still have various issues to resolve. One of these issues is the decreasing number of *Kanazawa Machiya* townhouses. While *machiya* are a crucial part of the old townscape of the city, numerous townhouses are demolished every year. To tackle the issue, we opened the "*Kanazawa Machiya* Information Center" in 2016 which offers consultation related to *machiya* townhouses including procedures for receiving a renovation subsidy, information on how to buy, sell, and rent the townhouses, as well as guidance for starting a business or moving into a *machiya*. The centre itself is a renovated *machiya* townhouse, serving as a good example of a re-utilized *machiya* that helps people understand the importance of preserving historical buildings for future generations.

Kanazawa will continue to uphold its responsibility to preserve tangible and intangible heritage, and will further promote building a city in which history and development can coexist, as well as protecting our city for future generations by exchanging ideas and practices with people from other historical cities around the world.

©Kanazawa City



LHC official website has been renovated!

As authorized at the 2019 LHC Board of Directors Meeting, we have completed renovation on our official website, and it has been newly open since January 15, 2020. You can visit our new website from the following URL or QR code.
<<https://www.lhc-s.org>> The old website will be closed by the end of 2020.

We would like to thank all the members who kindly offered photos for the renovation. If you wish to post anything to share with us on the website such as photos for your city's page, news, event information, please contact the Secretariat.



The League of Historical Cities Secretariat

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