

# Sister City Report

## Ikata

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### SEEING IKATA'S SCENERY THROUGH HAIKU

On June 4th, Mr. Toshinori Tsubouchi visited Ikata to give a lecture on haiku. A poet talented in the haiku and tanka styles, he is originally from the Kucho area of Ikata. On the following day, Mr. Tsubouchi and a local poetry group toured the town, visiting places such as the Seto Windhill Park and Kamegaike Onsen, as well as Mr. Tsubouchi's old elementary school and other areas in Kucho. Reflecting on their trip and this homecoming, they translated these feelings into haiku, which they presented at a gathering of poets.



### KIRARA FESTIVAL – AN EVENT FULL OF BRIGHT SMILES

In May, the roadside station Kirara-kan held its 25th "Kirara Festival" for the first time in three years. The event started with a live musical performance by Misaki High School students. This was followed by a variety of activities, from stalls selling festival food and local goods to weaving workshops and a rock-paper-scissors tournament. The building director of Kirara, Ms. Kazuko Nakamura, said, "We had a lot of worries about holding the event after three years, but many people came out, and it was a great success. We will continue to prepare fun events and bring smiles to everyone's faces."



### THE "SEA AND WIND" SUMMER MARKET

Early June brought the first "Sea and Wind" Market, held at the parking lot in front of the main town hall office in Ikata. A name filled with the hopes of creating a lively environment by the gateway to Ikata, the event was named for the two well-known symbols in the town. There was a good turnout for the first event, and these markets will be held in town twice a month throughout the summer. Later events will feature not just local businesses operating stalls, but also performances by both residents and professionals.