



Toastmasters International District 76 (Japan)

December 25, 2018

**A Kofu Toastmasters' special event — The Kofu Global Citizen Forum: “Let's enjoy becoming a global leader!” — was shortlisted for the 500th Anniversary of the Establishment of Kofu, 3rd recruitment of the project by Kofu**

Toastmasters International, an international non-profit organization that enables people to cultivate their communication and leadership skills, is proud to announce that Yamanashi Prefecture's first Toastmasters club, this Kofu Toastmasters' forum, is a finalist of the 500th anniversary's commemorative event sponsored by Kofu 500th Anniversary Celebration Committee.

**Event name: The Kofu Global Citizen Forum: “Let's enjoy becoming a global leader!”**

This event will celebrate the 500th anniversary of Kofu's establishment and discuss the way we will raise global citizens in Kofu City. In this event, participants will learn the essential points about individual development, while attending our workshops. By participating in this event and listening to Japanese and English lectures, participants can learn and improve their communication skills. Furthermore, they can acquire skills that are useful for individual development in communicating with people from different cultures and backgrounds. This event will be conducted primarily in Japanese, but English will also be used at times. This event is open to the citizens of Kofu and people from around the city.

Mr. Yoshihiro Kawano, the founder of Kofu Toastmasters, commented, “With the globalization of the economy, opportunities to communicate with people around the world are increasing. In response to the changes in today's society, we have planned this event to let the people of Kofu experience our passion for raising global citizens. We want to thank the Kofu 500th Anniversary Celebration Committee for shortlisting our event. We will work hard to prepare for the future implementation of this project.”

Volunteer members of Kofu Toastmasters are in charge of the operation of this event. We will also receive assistance and cooperation from Toastmasters International (D76 Japan Branch).

**What is “the 500th Anniversary of the Establishment of Kofu”?**

In 2019, Kofu City will celebrate its 500th anniversary since its foundation in 1519, when daimyō (feudal lord) Nobutora Takeda held residence at Tsutsujigasaki, Kofu. Further, in 2021, the city will celebrate its 500th anniversary since Takeda Shingen's birth. Hence, we wish to celebrate its 500th anniversary in Kofu City. The people of Kofu love and honor their home district. Kofu City will be looking at different aspects regarding town planning for the future of Kofu City.

Kofu City has many sister and friendship cities, which are as follows:

Des Moines, Iowa (USA); Pau, Pyrénées-Atlantiques (France); Lodi, California (USA); Chengdu, Sichuan (China); Yamatokoriyama, Nara (Japan); Cheongju and North Chungcheong (South Korea).

**Kofu 500th Anniversary Celebration Committee**

18-1 Marunouchi, the 6th floor, Kofu city 400-8585, Japan

Homepage: <https://www.kofu500.com/>

### **Kofu Toastmasters Club**

Toastmasters studies English communication and leadership at Kofu City. If you are interested to know further details concerning this activity, please inquire at the contact information provided under "Participant Contact" as stated below. As meeting places may change, please check the information from the website prior to each event.

Meeting day: 2nd Saturday of every month, 13:30 to 16:00

Venue: Yamanashi Prefectural Library (near the north exit of JR Kofu Station) or Yamanashi International Association

Homepage: <https://inspireyoshi.wixsite.com/kofu-toastmasters>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ToastmastersKofu> ; Language: English

### **Toastmasters International District 76 (Japan)**

To know more about Toastmasters International, log on to <https://www.toastmasters.org/>

From a humble beginning in 1924 at the YMCA in Santa Ana, California, Toastmasters International has grown to become a world leader in helping people become more competent and comfortable in front of an audience. Moreover, Toastmasters International is a world leader in communication and leadership development. Members can improve their speaking and leadership skills by attending one of its 16,600 clubs located across 140 countries, which constitute our global network of meeting locations. As of August 2018, Toastmasters has more than 357,000 members worldwide, including 4,000+ members in Japan, and 193 clubs globally.

To know more about District 76 (Japan's branch), log on to <http://district76.org/>

Toastmasters' global motto is "Toastmasters: Where Leaders Are Made."

Each club will continue to contribute in order to improve the communication and leadership abilities of the nation its located in.

## Participant Contact

Kofu Toastmasters

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## Media Contact

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こうふ開府500年  
1519 – 2019