

29 July 2020

Mr OKADA Yasuhiro
Mayor of Kakogawa
Kakogawa City

By email: Kakogawa International Association kia@bb.banban.jp

Kia ora Mayor Okada

Konnichiwa and greetings from Auckland.

On behalf of Auckland Council and the people of Auckland, I am pleased to send you a message of congratulations on the auspicious occasion of your commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of Kakogawa City this year.

While it is regrettable that the city's scheduled commemoration ceremony last month had been cancelled out of concerns for the COVID-19 pandemic, I understand there have been very few new confirmed cases in Kakogawa this month. This itself is an achievement by the city and people of Kakogawa that is worth acknowledging during this challenging time.

I also wish to acknowledge the strength of the formal partnership between Auckland and Kakogawa which dates to the early 1990s with the sister city agreement signed in 1992 and re-affirmed in 2012. Despite the temporary halt to international-travelled related activities due to border restrictions in place to contain the pandemic, it is important that we stay connected and share best practices with our international partners and other like-minded cities as we prioritise the health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens and the resilience, sustainability and prosperity of our communities in the COVID-19 recovery in the months and years to come.

Mayor Okada, please accept my best wishes for the continuous health and happiness of the people of Kakogawa as your city commemorates the significant milestone in her history.

Yours sincerely

Phil Goff
MAYOR OF AUCKLAND
