

The Reason I recommend BIHORO as a Sister-City of CAMBRIDGE

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- (1) Bihoro is a good-sized scale town for Cambridge with a population of approximately 25,500.
- (2) Bihoro is a lovely town having many places of scenic beauty, especially "Bihoro-Pass", so over a million tourists visit Bihoro a year.
- (3) Bihoro is fifteen minutes drive from Memanbetsu-Airport. You can fly direct from Memanbetsu-Airport to Osaka International Airport, which is on the Auckland-Airport direct line. Osaka is a good alternative to Tokyo for arriving in Japan as it is next to the famous ancient capitals of Kyoto and Nara, major tourist destinations for every visitor to Japan. Memanbetsu-Airport will also be put on the Nagoya-Airport line in the very near future, and Nagoya also has direct flight to Auckland.
- (4) Bihoro is located at the centre of "Akan-National Park" and is quite convenient for visiting many beautiful tourist spots. Akan-National Park is one of the famous sightseeing areas in Japan.
- (5) In the suburbs of Bihoro, there is an area where an aboriginal culture, the AINU people lives. (Most of the "AINU" people live in Hokkaido especially in the east which includes Bihoro.) Many people have noted similarities between the AINU culture and the MAORI culture, for example a strong oral tradition and some handicrafts. I think this makes Bihoro a special town for cultural exchange.
- (6) Bihoro's main industries are rice-growing and dairy farming, so Bihoro is a beautiful and quiet rural town similar to Cambridge.
- (7) The people of Bihoro are very warm and friendly and open to cultural exchange. English is their first foreign language and they are keen to welcome visitors from New Zealand. Many native English speakers are needed as English teachers so the possibilities for exchange programs,

working holidays and so on for our young people are limitless.

(8) Bihoro has had a strong desire for a Sister-city international exchange for some time. They have a strong belief in exposing their young people to different cultures so they grow up with a spirit of international co-operation. Thus there is a very high chance of successful exchanging. A Private organization "Bihoro International Friendship Club" has already expressed that they would back this exchange program up. "Bihoro International Friendship Club" has sixty members.

(9) Japan is located in the Northern Hemisphere, so the season is contrary between Cambridge and Bihoro. Bihoro has much of snow in Winter. Therefore you can enjoy winter sports at Bihoro in your Summer Holiday season, and summer activities such as boating, fishing, and hiking in your winter so the seasons are reversed. Bihoro has a lot of snow in winter and good facilities for skiing and skating. There is also a small Snow Festival similar to the famous but crowded Sapporo Snow Festival. Accommodation is no problem as we have a good range of alternatives from Youth Hostels to Japanese inns to the Grand Hotel, and of course with Sister-City Relations there is always the Home-Stay alternative.

(10) Japan has an excellent record for public safety and health. The medical services are reliable and accessible and it is well known that it is a safe country to live or travel in. In Bihoro we take pride in the cleanliness and safety of our environment. It is very important to be able to drink fresh tap-water and to enjoy good fishing from the lake and rivers, and our children can walk, bike or ski safely around the town. We feel we have all the advantages of a small country town as well as the convenience of a bigger city only half an hour's drive away. I think the landscape and environment of Bihoro and its relationship with Kitami is very similar to Cambridge and its proximity to Hamilton.

I have travelled all around the New Zealand and I believe Cambridge is the best town in New Zealand. Bihoro is my home town, so of course I think it is the best town in all of Japan! What better way to enter into a Sister-City Relationship, than between two best towns!!

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