

【学術論文】

## The Global Relations of Cities in Nagasaki Prefecture: A Survey of 10 Cities

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### 長崎県内都市のグローバルな関係 － 10都市調査－

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#### Abstract

中堅・中小都市はどのようなグローバルな関係を持っているのだろうか。この論文では長崎県内の都市のグローバルな関係について考察した。長崎県は、県内のすべての都市が人口約40万人以下であり、中小都市外交を検討する上で理想なところである。本研究では、長崎県内の10都市を対象に調査を実施した。これらの都市は、人口、歴史的・地理的状況、グローバルな活動の種類が多様であることを考慮し、選定した。その結果、一般的に中規模都市は小規模都市に比べ、部署やスタッフの専門性が高く、姉妹都市関係も充実していることが確認された。また、人口10万人以下の小規模都市では、公的な国際交流活動が少ない傾向にあるが、平戸市は小規模都市でありながら、国際交流が盛んな都市であることがわかる。このことは、独自の文化的・歴史的背景を持つ都市、人口規模や予算に制約があっても、世界とつながる方法を見出すことができることを示唆している。このような知見を踏まえ、学者や学生は、グローバル・シティ・ネットワークへの参加、姉妹都市関係の開始、市民向けの小規模な国際イベントの開催など、小規模なプロジェクトを直接小規模都市に提案することが可能なのではないだろうか。

What kinds of global relations do medium and small-sized cities have? This article examines the global relations of cities in Nagasaki Prefecture. Nagasaki Prefecture is an excellent place to examine medium and small-sized city diplomacy because all of the cities within this prefecture have populations of approximately 400,000 people or less. This research involved surveys of 10 cities in Nagasaki Prefecture. These cities were chosen to maximize the variety of populations, historical and geographical situations, as well as global activity types. This research confirmed that medium-sized cities, generally speaking, have more professionalized departments and staff, as well as more numerous sister city relationships than small cities. Though small cities with populations under 100,000 tend

to have very little official global activity, Hirado stands out as a city with significant global relations despite its small size. This suggests that cities with unique cultural and/or historical backgrounds can find ways to connect internationally even when they are limited by population size and budget. With these findings in mind, it may be possible for scholars and students to propose modest projects to small cities directly, such as joining a global city network, starting a sister city relationship, or hosting small international events for citizens.

Keywords: city diplomacy, sister cities, global cities

キーワード：都市外交、姉妹都市、グローバル都市

## 1. Introduction

Within the discipline of International Relations (IR), interest in the topic of city diplomacy has grown considerably. In the last ten years, the study of city diplomacy has become a thriving subfield in its own right (Amiri & Sevin, 2020; Curtis, 2016; Marchetti, 2021; Van der Pluijm and Melissen, 2007). The growth of this subfield has gone hand in hand with the expanding power of urban centers as the conduits of globalization. Equally conspicuous has been the flourishing phenomenon of global city networks such the C40 Climate Leadership Group, United Cities and Local Governments, the Global Covenant of Mayors, Eurocities, the Fearless Cities Network, the Strong Cities Network, Local Governments for Sustainability, and Mayors for Peace, to name but a few. These forms of city global relations come on top of the more established practices of international tourism, trade promotion, and sister city relationships. However, amongst the growth of city diplomacy and scholarly discourse on the topic, the role of medium size (100,000-500,000 people) and small cities (100,000 people and below) in global affairs has been largely overlooked.

This study attempts to rectify this gap in our understanding by examining cities in Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan. Nagasaki Prefecture offers an ideal environment for studies of the global relations of medium and small-sized cities. The largest city in the prefecture is Nagasaki City with a population of approximately 403,000 residents (Kokudo Chiri Kyokai, 2022). Yet, despite the modest sizes of their cities, Nagasaki Prefecture is a place historically known for its extensive foreign relations, particularly the historic role of locations such as Dejima Island, Hirado, and the international activism of Nagasaki mayors in campaigns to abolish nuclear weapons.

With these details in mind, the current study collected survey information from 10 cities. These surveys asked questions related to sister city relationships, the resources

devoted to international exchanges, membership in the activist network Mayors for Peace, and other forms of global activity.

The data from these surveys will be used to answer the following questions:

- What resources do small and medium-sized cities devote to global activities?
- Do these activities revolve mainly around sister city relationships, or are there other activities worth examining?
- What follow-up research would deepen our understanding of the global relations of small and medium-sized cities?

## 2. Literature Review

The study of city diplomacy is a growing subfield within the disciplines of IR and urban studies. This research field has found that cities, especially large urban centers, are having a more substantial impact on the international stage through city networks such as the C40 Climate Leadership Group, the Global Covenant for Mayors for Climate and Energy, the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, and the Resilient Cities Network (Acuto, 2013; Amiri & Sevin, 2020; Marchetti, 2021; Van der Pluijm & Melissen, 2007). Research has also found that cities are becoming more strategic and purposeful in their approach to global policy and often have full-time staff and departments dedicated to foreign affairs (Acuto et al, 2016; Kosovac et al, 2020). Within this literature, there is a noticeable omission that is only now beginning to be explored. This omission is the global relations of medium-sized and small cities.

One of the reasons for this omission may be that there simply is not enough activity to warrant scholarly research. However, several pieces of research suggest that further study is indeed necessary. A study by Miyazaki (2021) examined the antinuclear peace activism of both Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as Mayors for Peace, an organization that enrolls cities throughout the world as non-nuclear cities and engages in activities to boost awareness about the threat of nuclear weapons. Miyazaki's study is relevant to the study of the global relations of medium-sized and small cities because it includes the global activism of Nagasaki (with a population of approximately 403,000) and shines a light on the activity of Mayors for Peace, an organization that includes many medium and small-sized cities.

In addition, at least one scholar has conducted an intensive study of medium-sized city diplomacy. A case study by Clerc (2020) examines the global relations of

Turku, Finland, a city of about 190,000. Clerc's intensive case study finds that city global relations often defy attempts to theorize about them. City global relations may include commercial promotion, cultural exchanges, city branding, networking, and other semi-diplomatic activities (Van der Pluijm & Melissen, 2007; Clerc, 2020), but attempts to theorize too broadly about these trends risk ignoring the historical contingency of city global relations (Clerc, 2020, p. 332). Clerc's findings suggest that a survey approach to medium and small-sized city global relations may not produce generalizable theories. Nevertheless, a survey approach with open-ended questions may point to unique examples worthy of follow-up research. Most importantly for this study, the case of Turku serves as a positive example that there is often more going on in medium-sized to small cities than what is apparent at first sight.

### 3. Research Design

In order to learn more about city diplomacy in Nagasaki Prefecture, a survey was conducted (see Appendices 1 and 2). The questions were designed to investigate the entirety of a city's global relations, including sister city relationships, membership in Mayors for Peace, and other global activities. The questions also examined the capacity of local governments to engage in global affairs by including questions about the nature of the department responsible for international exchanges, the number of staff who specialize in international issues, and budgetary allocations.

For this article, various municipalities and local governments are referred to as "cities" and their activities as part of "city diplomacy," despite having designations that are usually translated differently from Japanese. The terms "city" and "city diplomacy" were used in order to maintain the precedent established by Amiri and Sevin (2020) as well as Van der Pluijm and Melissen (2007). Given that the term "city diplomacy" is now the most commonly used within the scholarly literature, it was chosen over alternative terms such as "local diplomacy" or "municipal diplomacy."

The cities were chosen to maximize the variety of population sizes and types of international activities. For example, Nagasaki City was chosen because of its relatively large size and its leadership role in the Mayors for Peace organization. However, Sasebo was also chosen because of its relatively large population size and its role as a host to a U.S. naval base. Whereas Omura and Isahaya were chosen as cities that could be classified as around 100,000 residents, and thus, in between the designations of medium and small-sized cities. On the other hand, cities such as Unzen and Hirado

were chosen as small cities that are known for tourism promotion. Cities such as Nagayo, Togitsu, and Kawatana were chosen because of their small size and because very little was known by the researchers about their foreign relations. Thus, it was hoped that the survey would produce some surprising information that might be useful for follow-up research. Shin-Kamigoto, on the other hand, was chosen because the researchers' university has an ongoing relationship with the location and the possibility exists for intensive follow-up study.

#### **4. Survey Research**

##### **Questions 1 -7**

Questions 1-7 gathered basic information about each municipality, such as contact information for follow-up questions. These questions have been omitted from the article in order to conserve space.

##### **Questions 8 -11 - Sister City Relationships**

Sister city relationships, also known as city twinning, are a crucial aspect of city diplomacy. This is especially true for medium and small-sized cities where residents may not have much experience with foreign cultures on a daily basis. Sister city relationships can serve a number of important functions, including fostering tourism promotion, business connections, cultural exchanges, advocacy and solidarity, and city branding (Marchetti, 2021, p. 73-74; see also, Joenniemi & Jańczak, 2017). An article by Toyoda (2016), which focused on the sister city relationships in the prefecture of Akita, discovered that even small and medium-sized cities can benefit from sister city relationships when they are conducted pragmatically and sustainably. Toyoda (2016) found that local residents can enjoy the experience of foreign culture and languages, even when the economic benefits are limited (p. 20). A study by Sato (2014) examined the support that was given to various cities throughout Miyagi Prefecture following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 2011. The article found that sister cities were essential in providing various types of relief in the form of condolence letters, material goods, and funds. One example of this support was found in Plymouth, Massachusetts, which held a telethon to raise funds for its sister city Shichigahama, Miyagi (Sato, 2014, p. 142).

With these points in mind, our survey included several questions that examined sister city relationships in Nagasaki Prefecture.

Q8, Do you currently have a sister city relationship with a municipality outside of Japan? (Yes/No)  
 Q9, (For those who answered "Yes" to Q8) Please list all the foreign municipalities that are sister cities with your municipality.

City	Population	Number of Sister Cities	Which Cities?
Nagasaki	403,628	6	Saint Paul, U.S.A.; Santos, Brazil; Porto, Portugal; Fuzhou, China; Vaux-sur-Aure, France; Leiden, Netherlands
Sasebo	240,871	7	(Sister Cities) Albuquerque, U.S.A.; Coffs Harbour, Australia; Paju, Korea (Sister Port) Port of San Diego, U.S.A.; (Friendship Cities) Xiamen, China; Shenyang, China (International Friendship City) West District of Busan Metropolitan City, Korea
Isahaya	134,949	3	Pingjiang-qu, Suzhou, China; Zhangzhou, China; Athens, Tennessee, U.S.A.
Omura	97,704	3	Minhang-qu, China; Sintra, Portugal Republic; San Carlos, U.S.A.
Unzen	41,911	2	Banff, Canada; Gurye-gun, Korea
Nagayo	40,614	1	Town of Wethersfield, Connecticut, U.S.A.
Hirado	29,509	3	Noordwijk, The Netherlands; Nanan, China; Tainan, Taiwan
Togitsu	29,381	0	
Shin-Kamigoto	17,736	0	
Kawatana	13,460	0	

The findings above support previous research that found that cities with larger populations are more likely to have more sister city relationships (Acuto et al, 2016, p. 13, p. 21). However, the three sister cities supported by Hirado suggest that historical and cultural factors may also be important motivations for cities to connect with one another. Several of the relationships between cities in Nagasaki Prefecture and Fujian Province, China – Nagasaki City-Fuzhou, Sasebo-Xiamen, Isahaya-Zhangzhou, and Hirado-Nanan – are a result of the larger relationship between Nagasaki Prefecture and the Fujian Province (Isahaya City, personal communication, October, 13, 2022).

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For the purpose of this article, city-to-city relationships with Chinese cities have been categorized as “sister cities”; however, the term “friendship city” is typically used in order to avoid the implication of a hierarchical relationship (Sasebo City, personal communication, October 11, 2022; Isahaya City, personal communication, October, 13, 2022; Hirado City, personal communication, November 17, 2022).

In addition to its official sister cities, Nagasaki City has three cities it designates as Citizen Friendship Cities (Shimin Yūkō Toshi). These are cities that have significant ties with Nagasaki in a field such as history, culture, or the economy, but which lack the same level of formal recognition as a sister city (Nagasaki City, personal communication, October 12, 2022). Nagasaki’s Citizen Friendship Cities are Würzburg, Germany; Zhongshan, China; and Aberdeen, Scotland (Nagasaki City, 2022, April 4). The designation of “Citizen Friendship City” may be a topic worthy of follow-up study because such a designation might be more attractive for smaller cities that do not believe they can sustain a full sister city relationship.

<p>Q10, (If you answered "Yes" to Q8) In the last 5 years, please tell us about any exchange activities you have conducted with your sister city partners outside of Japan.</p> <p>Q11, (If you answered "yes" to this question in Q8) Please tell us about any benefits your municipality has received from exchanges with sister cities outside of Japan, or any benefits you think you have given to your counterparts.</p>		
City	Types of Activities	What are the benefits?
Nagasaki	International Student Exchange, Cooperation in Music, Art, and Cultural Activities, Other Activities	In our exchange with the city of Leiden, we believe that one of the mutual benefits is that the museums that study Siebold have formed a friendship agreement with each other, and the exchange of researchers has deepened the academic depth of the relationship. We also believe that sister city affiliations with cities with which we have deep historical ties will help to foster civic pride by making citizens aware of Nagasaki's unique connections with foreign countries.
Sasebo	International Student Exchange, Cooperation in Music, Art, and Cultural Activities, Other Activities	Strengthening intergovernmental ties and creating opportunities for exchange for citizens.
Isahaya	Other Activities	*Sharing of human resources, facilities, and other resources possessed by the area. *Deepen citizens' understanding and awareness of

		different cultures.
Omura	International Student Exchange, Other Activities	Fosters an international sensibility among citizens and promotes the development of an internationally-minded city.
Unzen	Other Activities	In the past, we sent junior high school students as part of an exchange program, and through their experience at that time, they became interested in Japan-Korea relations. Now as high school students, they are working on a research project as part of their classes, which we believe is a result of the exchange.
Nagayo	Other Activities	The presence of a sister city contributes to an international sensibility among town residents.
Hirado	Organizing international symposiums and events, International student exchange, Cooperation in music, art, and cultural activities, Other activities	Analysis underway.

The answers to these survey questions suggest that creating strong ties between the citizens of other countries is a powerful motivation for engaging in sister city relationships, as is the objective of giving the city an international or cosmopolitan sensibility. Though this study did not explore any one sister city relationship in depth, it seems that there are many opportunities for researchers in the Nagasaki area to explore sister city relationships and their impact on individual citizens. As the answer by Nagasaki City demonstrates, the motivation for creating sister city ties may be very specific, rooted in history, and thus may go beyond general motivations such as the desire for the city to appear more cosmopolitan. Future studies of sister cities in Nagasaki Prefecture would do well to include other cities with known sister city relationships, such as Matsuura, Tsushima, Hasami, and Minami-Shimabara.

### Questions 12-13 - Historical and Cultural Background as a Motivation

The following question was included to understand more about what outside pressure city governments feel to be involved in international exchanges. The rationale behind this question is that factors such as history or culture might influence why a city becomes engaged internationally. It is possible that cities did not understand



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this question or did not know how to respond. In future survey research, it may be necessary to reword this question in order to improve responses.

<p>Q12, Based on your historical and cultural background and the international inter-municipal exchange you are currently conducting, do you think that your municipality is expected to conduct activities related to international exchange programs both internally and externally (e.g., Nagasaki Prefecture, national ministries and agencies, foreign governments, etc.)? (Yes /No/Unsure)</p> <p>Q13, If you answered "Yes" in Q12, please indicate the reason.</p>		
City	An expectation for international exchanges?	Details
Nagasaki	Yes	Nagasaki Prefecture also has sister city affiliations and exchanges between cities, and we are working together.
Isahaya	Yes	As internationalization progresses greatly, it is essential to promote multicultural coexistence and international understanding.
Shin-Kamigoto	Yes	Because we are hiring a Coordinator for International Relations (American) from this year.
<p>These cities answered "unsure": Sasebo; Omura; Unzen; Hirado; Nagayo; Togitsu                  These cities answered "no": Kawatana</p>		

**Questions 14 - 18 - The Capacities of Cities in Nagasaki Prefecture for Conducting Global Relations**

Until very recently, not much was known regarding the resources that cities have at their disposal to engage the world. However, studies by Amiri (2020) and Kosovac et al (2020) have done much to remedy this gap in our understanding. Amiri (2020) examined three existing Mayor’s Offices of International Affairs (MOIA) in the United States: New York, Atlanta, and Los Angeles. These case studies provided a granular view of how departments dedicated to foreign affairs in cities operate. In addition, survey research by Kosovac et al (2020) has expanded our scholarly knowledge of the capacities of city halls to act globally. These scholars surveyed 47 global cities throughout the world in order to discover how many have departments dedicated to global affairs and what type of training their staff receive. Their research found that most big global cities have departments devoted to international affairs. Nevertheless, the survey research also found that most city staff suffer from a lack of training and that the city budget devoted to international involvement is typically minimal. Thus, the survey research concludes that the global impact of cities is often constrained by small

budgets and a lack of training (Kosovac et al, 2020). Continuing the work of Kosovac et al (2020), our survey investigated the various roles of city halls, the budgetary resources devoted to international affairs, and the number of staff employed.

Question 14 of our survey asked the respondent for each city to describe all of the functions of their particular office. However, for the purpose of space, we only report the duties that relate to international affairs and international exchanges.

<p>Q14, Please tell us all of the duties (division of duties) of your department (please use bullet points).                  *(Duties not related to international affairs have been omitted.)</p>		
City	Department	Please tell us all of the duties (division of duties) of your department (please use bullet points).
Nagasaki	International Affairs Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of internationalization</li> <li>• Development of infrastructure for international exchange</li> <li>• Sister city relations, etc.</li> <li>• Collection and utilization of overseas information</li> <li>• Translation and interpretation</li> <li>• Liaison and coordination with foreign diplomatic missions and international exchange organizations</li> </ul>
Sasebo	Cultural and International Affairs Division, Planning Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sister city exchange</li> <li>• JET Program</li> <li>• International student support</li> <li>• Multiculturalism promotion</li> <li>• Support for Ukraine</li> </ul>
Isahaya	Planning and Finance Department Planning and Policy Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International and domestic exchange</li> <li>• Peace administration</li> </ul>
Omura	Planning Policy Division, Planning and Policy Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange with sister cities and friendship cities in Japan and abroad</li> </ul>
Unzen	Tourism and Products Division, Department of Tourism, Commerce, and Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism strategy development project</li> <li>• Utilization of tourism resources</li> <li>• Other matters related to tourism</li> </ul>

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Nagayo	Policy Planning Division, Planning and Finance Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immigration promotion projects</li> <li>• International exchange</li> </ul>
Hirado	Cultural Exchange Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correspondence with foreign countries, support for CIRs</li> </ul>
Shin-Kamigoto	Tourism, Commerce, and Industry Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-bound tourism</li> </ul>
Kawatana	Planning and Finance Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International exchange</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cities that did not reply: Togitsu</b></li> </ul>		

Out of the ten survey responses, only three departments could be classified as having a specified international focus (Nagasaki: International Affairs Division; Sasebo: Cultural and International Affairs Division; Hirado: Cultural Exchange Division). Isahaya, Omura, Nagayo, and Kawatana managed their foreign affairs through departments that typically had an overarching planning and policy function. Whereas Shin-Kamigoto and Unzen managed their foreign affairs responsibilities through their tourism departments.

Q15, What percentage of your department's initial budget was spent on exchange with sister cities outside of Japan? Please give us the average percentage (rounded down to the nearest whole number) for the five years from FY 2008 to FY 2020. If it is unclear, please answer to the best of your ability.

Q16, Does your municipality have a department (e.g., International Affairs Division, International Exchange Promotion Office, etc.) dedicated to international exchange programs? (Yes/ No)

Q17, Does your municipality have any specialized staff (e.g., interpreters, international exchange promoters, etc.) who are engaged in international exchange activities? (Yes/ No)

Q18, (For those who answered "Yes" to Q18) How many professional staff does your municipality have? Please divide the number into full-time and part-time. If there are non-native speakers of Japanese, please tell us their nationalities if possible.

City	Population	Department Name	Number of Professional International Affairs Staff?	Percent of Budget Devoted to Sister Cities

Nagasaki	403,628	International Affairs Division	<b>4 Staff</b> 2 full-time 2 part-time (American, Korean)	20%
Sasebo	240,871	Cultural and International Affairs Division, Planning Department	<b>7 Staff</b> 5 Japanese (eligible to rotate to other divisions) 2 international exchange staff (Korean, Chinese)	(Calculated based on international relations operations only) 47.73%.
Hirado	29,509	Cultural Exchange Division	<b>4 Staff</b> 2 regular staff 2 international exchange staff *Nationalities not specified	Less than 20%
Shin-Kamigoto	17,736	Tourism, Commerce and Industry Division	<b>1 Staff</b> (American)	No reply
<p>• The following cities did not have a department devoted to international affairs nor specialized staff. The percentages represent what the respondents estimated as their department's total budgetary commitment to sister city relationships: Isahaya: 1%; Omura: 5%; Unzen: 1%; Nagayo: 0% Togitsu: 0%; Kawatana: 0%</p>				

Perhaps not so surprisingly, the number of cities with a specialized international affairs department and staff is small, represented mostly by the most populous cities in Nagasaki Prefecture. As the population drops, so do the resources committed to international affairs. Follow-up correspondence with Sasebo revealed that their department has five Japanese staff who are eligible for reassignment to other divisions, but that the two foreign staff were dispatched from the Council for Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) and were on temporary contracts that were limited to five years (Sasebo City, personal communication, October 11, 2022). Hirado stands out as a city with a specialized division and specialized staff, perhaps reflecting its unique history as a city that had strong connections with Dutch traders and Portuguese missionaries. Its Cultural Exchange Division employs four staff in total, two regular staff and two foreign staff who, like the foreign staff in Sasebo, are on temporary contracts limited to five years (Hirado City, personal communication, November 17, 2022). The desire to attract tourists might also explain why Shin-Kamigoto employs

one American staff member. These findings suggest that both Hirado and Shin-Kamigoto might be places favorable for follow-up research.

### Questions 19 - The Value of International Exchanges

Question 19 inquired about the value residents placed on international exchanges. Of the cities surveyed, only Omura provided specific statistical data regarding how citizens feel about international exchanges (Omura City Government, 2021). As stated in the survey response, residents of Omura ranked international exchanges as low in terms of their city’s overall priorities (20 out of 24) (Omura City Government, 2021).

Q19, To what extent do you think residents of your municipality value the promotion of international exchange programs by your municipality? Please provide survey results or other statistical information, if available.		
City	Population	Answer
Nagasaki	403,628	Although there is no statistical information available to indicate citizen awareness, the city has included "enhance opportunities for international exchange and understanding" as an individual measure in its 5th Comprehensive Plan, with the aim of enabling citizens to experience international exchange and enhance international understanding.
Omura	97,704	In the "2021 Citizen Satisfaction Survey," a question regarding the importance of Omura's city planning policies was asked, "Of the 24 policies, which do you think are important to focus on in the future? (Select 3)," the percentage of respondents who answered "promotion of international and inter-regional exchange" was 4.2%, ranking 20th out of 24 policies. In the 2020 survey, the percentage was 9.7%.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cities that did not reply: Sasebo; Unzen; Togitsu; Kawatana.</li> <li>• Cities that answered with “no data” or “analysis in progress”: Isahaya; Nagayo; Hirado; Shin-Kamigoto.</li> </ul>		

### Question 20 and 21 - Differences with Prefectural and National Government

Questions 20 and 21 inquired into any tensions or differences between the respondent city and the prefectural or national government with regards to international exchange programs. Most of the cities answered “no” or “unsure” to these questions, suggesting that the cities perceived no differences with the prefectural and national government or were uncertain how to respond.

Q20, In your experience as a person in charge of international exchange programs, have you ever felt a difference in perception, lack of cooperation, or difficulty in communication with the measures taken by the national government or Nagasaki Prefecture?

Q21, (If you answered "Yes" in Q20) Please describe the circumstances to the extent you are comfortable with.

City	Population	Q20 (Yes / No)	Details
Sasebo	240,871	Yes	There are differences in the concept of support for local foreign residents and the needs that should be understood.
Nagayo	40,614	Yes	In the promotion of Japanese language education, the needs for Japanese language education in the region are unclear, but the prefecture has not fully grasped the needs.

- These cities provided “no” answers: Nagasaki; Omura; Togitsu; Shin-Kamigoto; Kawatana.
- These cities answered with “unsure”: Isahaya; Unzen; Hirado.

### Questions 22-24 - The Participation of Cities in Mayors for Peace

Mayors for Peace is an organization devoted to the abolition of nuclear weapons through the solidarity of cities around the world. It is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) registered in Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with headquarters in Hiroshima. Nagasaki City serves as a Vice President City within the organization and, alongside Hiroshima, was instrumental in its founding. According to the organization’s covenant, the main goal is to “contribute to the attainment of lasting world peace by arousing concern among citizens of the world for the total abolition of nuclear weapons through close solidarity among all cities” (Mayors for Peace, n.d.). The number of member cities belonging to the organization has risen to over 8,000 cities (Mayors for Peace, n.d.; see also Miyazaki, 2021). For the purpose of this research, Mayors for Peace is important because of Nagasaki City’s leadership role in the organization and because it is an example of a network that allows medium-sized and small cities to engage in global advocacy.

Q22, Our research focuses on the activities of Mayors for Peace as one element for promoting international inter-municipal exchanges (city diplomacy). Is your municipality a member of Mayors for Peace? (Yes/No)

Q23, (If you answered "yes" to Q23) Please describe any duties that have arisen as a

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<p>result of your membership in Mayors for Peace, and the role your municipality plays in it.          Q24, (If you answered "No" to Q23) Please choose the most appropriate reason why you are not a member of Mayors for Peace. (I don't feel the need to join Mayors for Peace / The principles that Mayors for Peace stands for do not match the policies of my municipality or the environment surrounding my municipality / Budgetary and staffing issues make it difficult to engage in the activities that are required of Mayors for Peace after affiliation. / I have never discussed Mayors for Peace affiliation or did not know it existed.)</p>		
City	Affiliation with Mayors for Peace (Yes / No)	Activities related to Mayors for Peace *(Or, reason for not joining)
Nagasaki	Yes	Mayors for Peace was established by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with the mayor of Nagasaki serving as vice president. (*The name was changed from "heiwa shichō kaigi" to "heiwa shuchō kaigi" on August 6, 2013.) Together with the Mayor of Hiroshima, who serves as the President of Mayors for Peace, the Mayor of Nagasaki has been taking an active role in the organization, attending international conferences and making appeals to the governments of various countries and to the United Nations. In addition, the General Conference of Mayors for Peace, which takes place approximately once every four years, is held alternately in both cities.
Sasebo	No	*The principles espoused by Mayors for Peace do not match the policies of local governments or the environment surrounding local governments.
Isahaya	Yes	Compilation of surveys and applications from the General Conference of Heads of State for Peace, dissemination of information, etc.
Omura	Yes	Attendance at the General Conference of Mayors for Peace and the General Conference of Member Cities of Mayors for Peace
Unzen	Yes	No Reply
Nagayo	Yes	None in particular
Hirado	Yes	No Reply
Togitsu	Yes	Although there is not much work associated with the General Conference of Mayors for Peace, we are promoting peace promotion projects, peace education, and other initiatives to realize lasting peace, referring to the initiatives of the General Conference of Mayors for Peace.

Shin-Kamigoto	Yes	No Reply
Kawatana	Yes	No Reply

As expected, nearly all the cities surveyed for this research are members of Mayors for Peace. This was anticipated given that Nagasaki City serves as a Vice President City within the organization. The exception is Sasebo, which hosts a U.S. naval base. Though their answer was vaguely worded, we might assume that the presence of the U.S. naval base has some bearing on Sasebo’s decision not to join the organization. In addition to registering as members, several cities (Omura, Isahaya, Togitsu) responded that they participated in the General Conference of Mayors for Peace (heiwa shuchō kaigi). A search of the respondent cities’ official websites also revealed that several cities have their own “peace declaration” modeled on Nagasaki’s peace declaration. It is possible that several cities also have their own individual programs related to peace education. The variety of peace-related activities that occur within Nagasaki Prefecture is a worthy topic for follow-up study.

## 5. Discussion

Our study was designed to answer fundamental questions regarding city diplomacy. One of these questions was about the importance of city size. The findings from our survey research suggest that bigger cities have significantly more sister city relationships and are more likely to employ specialized staff. Cities with larger populations, such as Nagasaki (403,628) and Sasebo (240,871), have more sister city relationships (between 6-7) and have specialized departments that include dedicated staff for foreign relations. Cities with lower but still generous populations, Isahaya (134,949) and Omura (97,704), have several sister city relationships but do not have specialized departments for international affairs. Cities below the population of Omura (97,704) have either two, one, or zero sister city relationships.

The survey, however, did point to the potential for outliers. Hirado (29,509) stands out as a city with a small population but significant global relationships. Not only does the city have three sister city relationships, but it also has a specialized department for cultural exchange. Though no follow-up research has been conducted yet, it appears Hirado’s exceptional international activities may be attributed to its history as an early location of Dutch trade and Christian missionary activity. Shin-Kamigoto may also be a



location ripe for additional study because of its recent employment of a Coordinator of International Relations.

With regards to Mayors for Peace, the survey results mostly confirmed the researchers' expectations. As anticipated, all the cities in the prefecture are members of the organization, with the exception of Sasebo. However, what was surprising was that two of the respondents to the survey were unaware of their membership. These two cities were contacted and informed of their membership. Both cities requested that their answers be changed to "yes" in the survey results. These errors might be due to a lack of knowledge on the part of individual staff. However, it might also suggest a degree of inactivity on the part of cities that sign up for the Mayors for Peace organization. This suggests a question for follow-up research: How active are members of Mayors for Peace (other than the president and vice president cities)?

Though the survey did not cover the activities of international centers in global relations, this would be an excellent topic for follow-up research. To the knowledge of the authors, at least three cities covered in the survey – Omura, Isahaya, and Nagayo – have some organization or association with an international focus. These organizations may be sponsored by city hall or private donations. Follow-up correspondence with Isahaya City revealed that the Isahaya International Center has a staff of three and receives a subsidy from the city that promotes internationalization (Isahaya City, personal communication, October 13, 2022). With regards to the Nagayo International Association, follow-up correspondence revealed that the city both provides subsidies for the association based on applications and supports the organization with office work (Nagayo, personal communication, October 19, 2022). The motivation, budgetary resources, and history of these various organizations are interesting themes to explore but hard to capture in a survey designed to cover multiple cities.

## **6. Conclusion - A Role for the Study of Medium and Small-Sized City Global Relations**

Let us return to the questions that motivated this study.

### **What resources do small and medium-sized cities devote to global activities?**

Though there was a noticeable difference between medium and small-sized cities, it appears that all the cities surveyed devote few public resources to global relations, especially in relation to other priorities. This is not a surprising finding, confirming previous research by Kosovac et al (2020). Even within the population range of

Nagasaki cities (approximately 410,000-13,000), it appears that the size of the city matters in terms of what resources can be devoted to foreign relations. Relatively larger cities like Nagasaki (403,628) and Sasebo (240,871) are able to support more sister city relationships and specialized staff. Isahaya (134,949) and Omura (97,704) are able to sustain about half the sister city relationships of these bigger cities and lack any specialized staff. Whereas cities below the population of these cities (with the exception of Hirado) may have just a few sister city relationships and one or two specialized staff members.

**Do these activities revolve mainly around sister city relationships, or are there other activities worth examining?**

Unfortunately, this question could not be answered definitively with the data on hand. In the future, the survey could be redesigned to include a question regarding how much time is spent on activities related to (1) peace, (2) tourism and trade, (3) sister cities, (4) support for foreigners, and (5) other activities. Having respondents assign percentages or hours spent per month to different types of activities would help researchers understand the priorities of various cities. However, the survey responses do suggest that, with the exception of Nagasaki City, few cities are actively contributing to Mayors for Peace on a regular basis. Again, the level of activity of members of Mayors for Peace outside of vice president cities is a topic in need of follow-up research. It may also be the case that several cities are sponsoring peace activities outside of this organization.

**What follow-up research would deepen our understanding of the global relations of small and medium-sized cities?**

The most fruitful form of follow-up research, at least in the humble opinion of these researchers, would be to focus on action research (Berg, 2001, p. 178-188). The survey research was indispensable for creating relationships with cities around Nagasaki Prefecture. These relationships could be used to create projects that involve city officials, scholars, and students. Such research would blend thoughtful inquiry with action. Action research is a wonderful way to build understanding and theory from the ground up and to create positive changes to the world. Though the exact content of this research is unknown at this time, possible projects could include supporting international students in local volunteering, creating a sister city relationship, or

involving cities in global city networks. In addition, the project might also involve taking an existing program and adding much-needed volunteer time and energy.

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