



CITY OF SHIZUOKA

December 5th, 2014

To the Esteemed Members of the Sasquan Committee:

Picture, if you will, Japan in the early 17th century: a land awash with the blood of samurai felled in battle between feuding states. From this darkness arose a hero by the name of Tokugawa Ieyasu, the legendary shogun who unified the nation, ushered in two-and-a-half centuries of peace, and then set his sights on developing Sumpu, or what is known in modern times as Shizuoka City.



Have you, by chance, heard of Shizuoka City? We are just one hour from Tokyo and one-and-a-half from Kyoto via a thrilling ride aboard the Shinkansen, Japan's world-famous bullet train. Companies such as Tamiya and Bandai are based in Shizuoka, and their radio-controlled cars, Gundam models and more are made here and sold all over the globe. Every year, over 100,000 hobbyists from elsewhere in Japan as well as overseas descend on Shizuoka City for our annual Hobby Show.

People also come from far and wide for the outstanding variety of authentic, healthy and delicious Japanese food we have in Shizuoka. One can find natural hot springs hidden deep in our mountains and dotted along the Pacific coast, where the saltwater baths provide copious medicinal benefits. You can see world-renowned *ukiyo-e* woodblock prints from two centuries ago at the Hiroshige Museum, or experience the Japan of two millennia ago at the Toro Ruins.

The summers here are not too hot, nor the winters too cold. This makes Shizuoka one of the nicest places to live in Japan, and its people some of the kindest. Even those with no experience of Japan will be taken care of here; if you get lost, please ask any Shizuoka citizen for directions. Despite their initial shyness, I'm confident they will make sure you get to your final destination.

Shizuoka City is all systems go and ready to welcome science fiction fans from all corners of the universe. We invite you to experience everything Japan and Shizuoka have to offer when we host the 75th Worldcon in 2017. The view of Mt. Fuji from our city is the most beautiful in all Japan; I hope you will come to see it for yourself!

Yours Sincerely,

田辺信宏

Nobuhiro Tanabe

Mayor, Shizuoka City