



June 8, 2020

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Hasekura Cup Now Proposed to Have in Japan!

### PROPOSAL

#### 1. Background

The lord **Date Masamune**, who built Sendai (now the biggest city in Tohoku region) and “Date’s Black Ship (San Juan Bautista) as a founder of Date Clan in 1600, dispatched **Keicho Delegation** headed by **Hasekura Tsunenaga** to Spain and Rome in 1613. The mission arrived in a small town called Coria del Rio in Seville region in 1614, when they were presented to King Felipe III in Madrid. Next year, they arrived in another port called Civitavecchia in Italy to have an audience with Pope Paulus V in Rome. They stayed in Coria area for some time, where their descendants still live under the surname **Japón** (more than 700 in Coria only and 1,000 in entire Seville area). Those Japón-sans organized Hasekura Association in the 1980s and started cultural and friendship interaction with Japan. It has been further strengthened after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011. They believe that they are the Samurai descendent and are proud of taking over its blood. They’ve therefore dedicated themselves for the recovery of devastated area after the disaster. In 2018, Japón-Hasekura Supporting Association (<http://www.japon-hasekura.com>) was founded in Sendai, Japan to collaborate with such activities by Japón-sans. This is the association of volunteers who would love to share their interest and passion with over 400 years of history connecting the relationship of New York, Sendai/Ishinomaki/Onagawa and Madrid/Seville/Coria del Rio. Our mission is to tell the great ambition and accomplishment of Masamune and Tsunenaga to the younger generations and encourage them to grow with a global vision to become true and tough leaders for the challenging future.

#### 2. Hasekura Cup

The 1<sup>st</sup> Hasekura Cup was successfully held as the first project by Japón-Hasekura Supporting Association (JHSA) in 2019. It appointed 23 junior youth players of Cobaltore Onagawa as the Heisei’s last Japón-Hasekura delegates to Spain for 10 days from March 29, 2019. Cobaltore Onagawa (<http://www.cobaltore.com/>) is the 5<sup>th</sup> division amateur soccer club in Onagawa. Onagawa was one of the most affected areas by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami where 827 died out of 10,014 residents. And this club is a ray of hope for the town. The club’s U15 team played against Real Betis U15 and CF Coria U15 for the 1<sup>st</sup> Hasekura Cup. They did home-stay at Japón’s residents in Coria and refreshed their 400 year old relationship.

In the summer of 2019, more than 20 Japón-sans visited Japan from Coria as Reiwa’s first Japón-Hasekura delegates to further strengthen their historical bonds between Seville/Coria and



Sendai/Ishinomaki/Onagawa, or Spain and Japan. JHSA supported their visit to Hasekura-related areas including Sendai, Ishinomaki/Onagawa, Osato-cho and Kawasaki-cho. During this trip, Mr. Juan Carlos Palma Japón got married to Miss Yolanda Mellado in Sendai, Japan. This Spanish couple was celebrated by Mr. and Mrs. Hasekura, the direct descendant of Hasekura Tsunenaga, as their acting guardians of the wedding ceremony which was carried out at the most prestigious venue called “Shozan Kan” run by a deeply related family of the Date clan. The ceremony was nationally broadcasted by mainstream TV stations.

### 3. Toward the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hasekura Cup

Since the great success of the first Hasekura Cup in Coria del Rio, JHSA has considered the possibility to hold this sport program in a home & away style under the circumstance of following favorable developments:

#### 1) Hasekura League Concept:

Mr. **Modesto González**, the Mayor of Coria del Rio, has developed his idea of establishing a friendship league (alliance) among the Hasekura-related cities through musical and sport activities to give respect and deepen understanding each other's culture and history as well as cooperating in the fields of tourism, economical activities, education and academics for mutual prosperity and growth. When he stayed in Japan in 2017, he disclosed his plan to each mayor during the tour he made. He would like to target the following cities as a start where the same Hasekura statues were set up : Sendai, Ishinomaki/Onagawa, Coria del Rio/Seville, Civitavecchia, Acapulco and Havana. The cities or towns where Tsunenaga is known to be born or buried may be extended later, such as Kawasaki mcahi, Osato cho and Yonezawa.

It is believed that the international goodwill matches of children's soccer under the name of “Hasekura Cup” that commemorates Tsunenaga's great achievement could make a historic milestone in this ambitious and unlimited future program.

#### 2) New stadium in Onagawa

Onagawa cho is building a new stadium to be used as Cobaltore's home ground. The town's new symbol for recovery from disaster will accommodate 5000 people and be qualified for J3 category games. When Cobaltore is promoted to JFL and then to J3, a number of opponent teams' fans and supporters are expected to rush in this small town from throughout Japan to boost Onagawa's economy as well as the recovery.

The stadium was scheduled to be completed within 2020, but due to COVID-19 pandemic, the completion should be postponed to 2021. Holding a Hasekura Cup at this stadium should make a good chance for Cobaltore and the town to appeal their existence all over the nation.

#### 3) Announcement of victory over COVID-19 pandemic

As all of us know, the coronavirus flu occurred in Wuhan, China last December and it now spreads globally. Especially in Europe, death toll in Spain and Italy are serious. That virus killed people in Coria del Rio and Civitavecchia regrettably. One is Tsunami, while the other is the epidemic, but if those young boys play soccer together and share the valuable moment, the world will be cheered up and know Msamune's great achievement.



#### 4) 400<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Hasekura's death

At least three towns claim that they have Hasekura's graveyard, while 1622 as the year of his death has been approved as a historical fact. 2022 will be the 400<sup>th</sup> year. Organizing an event to commemorate Hasekura in his town is another good reason to support.

#### 4. 2<sup>nd</sup> Hasekura Cup summary (tentative)

Name	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hasekura Cup, commemorating the 400 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hasekura Tsunenaga's death	
Purpose	Soccer boys unite together from the disaster affected area, COVID-19 pandemic and the great east Japan earthquake to establish friendship and bonds by playing soccer	
Date	July 23, 2022 (tentative)	
Place	New stadium in Onagawa (to be completed in 2021)	
Teams	Spain	CF Coria (Coria del Rio), Real Betis (Seville, 1 <sup>st</sup> division)
	Italy	Civitavecchia, sister city of Ishinomaki
	Japan	Sendai, Kawasaki, Osato
	Host	Cobaltore Onagawa
Style	Details will be discussed depend on how many teams join	
Budget	20 million yen	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2500 Euro x 60 people = 150,000 Euro (approx. 18 million yen) Supports 3000 Euro x 20 people each team (three teams Coria del Rio, Seville and Civitavecchia). Parents will pay 500 Euro each</li> <li>● 2 million yen for bus, cups, medals, etc.</li> </ul>	
Organized by	Cobaltore Onagawa	

This is only a rough proposal for brainstorming. Details will be discussed further with people to be involved. What we intend is not simply holding a soccer playing opportunity but giving a once-in-life-time experience which could change their lives or help shape their dreams. Cobaltore boys enjoyed precious hospitality like homestay, visiting 1<sup>st</sup> division stadium and games. We want to give the same hospitality to those boys from Spain and Italy. We will take them to Hasekura related area and towns and welcome any idea.

Therefore, we would like to ask help from any cities and educational agencies in the "Hasekura League". We would like to recruit local businesses and private donors broadly, and work together with media partners.

Masamune and Hasekura's dream almost come true after 400 years, which is not how they expected. In order to realize this meaningful project, we would like to ask your immense support.

Sincerely,



Mike Shiota

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**Cobaltore Onagawa Junior Youth U15**



Hasekura Cup



Ceremony at Hasekura Park



Press conference with  
Coria Mayor





Real Betis visit

La Liga game invited

Homestay

**New York Wind Circle Boys and Girls Choir**



Japan National Anthem



Hanami Festival



Tomares city concert