

Greetings from the Village Chief of Higashi-Chichibumura

“Hosokawa hand-made Japanese paper,” which had been designated as an important intangible cultural property of our village, has been registered as an UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage as “*Washi*, craftsmanship of traditional Japanese hand-made paper.” It is said that the history of our village’s hand-made paper craft dates back to the year 700AD, about 1,300 years ago. The hometown of *washi*, Higashi-Chichibu village, is surrounded by green mountains and clear streams. Irrespective of the season, many people visit our community wishing to see this nature-rich village. I firmly believe that this scenic place is the origin of our beloved hometown itself, and that this is the basis of the love and pride the people of Higashi-Chichibu feel for our village.

I have high expectations for the new path of the village administration, which we are now establishing together. To that end, it is vitally important now, supported by both the power of our predecessors, who guarded our village together hand-in-hand, and by that of our youth, which is the source of our present and future vitality, to have pride in our village and to hand over to the next generation our love for our hometown. Heretofore and from this day forward, I shall be most pleased to dedicate myself, together with our fellow villagers, to the entire effort of making our village “Heartfelt Village, Washi-no-Sato.”

Thank you,
Risuke Adachi
Village Chief of Higashi-Chichibumura