

# NEWS RELEASE

## JAPAN CYCLING NAVIGATOR

Web site: <http://www.japancycling.org>

### JCN PUBLISHES HOKKAIDO SECTION OF THE LENGTH OF JAPAN CYCLING ROUTE.

Tokyo, Japan— June 20, 2008 - The Japan Cycling Navigator (JCN) announced cycling route information of the Hokkaido section of the *Length of Japan*, which is now available on the JCN Web site . “International cyclists planning a cycling expedition in Japan typically face lack of information in their desired language. We strive to meet cycling-related information needs that international cyclists have. The cycling route information dubbed *Length of Japan* is one of our core projects,” says Eiichi Watanabe, Chairman of the Japan Cycling Navigator.

As you can imagine, Hokkaido is one of the most popular places for visitors and local cyclists as well. The Hokkaido route connects Wakkanai, the northern end of Hokkaido and Hakodate, a major port city in southern Hokkaido.

Kenichi Ikeda laid out cycling routes in Hokkaido based on his own cycling experiences. “You must be satisfied by taking any route in Hokkaido, the cyclists’ heaven. So, the route described on the JCN web site is just a sample, but actually it is a special sample for cycling enthusiasts” says Ikeda who arrived home in Sapporo after traveling 55,750km in 26 countries in September 2005. He believes that Hokkaido is an ideal place for cycling as there are so many good places to visit in Hokkaido.

Ikeda wrote the text for the Hokkaido section in Japanese and his colleagues, including Eiichi Watanabe, Yoshi Oe and Shigehiro Koizumi, translated from Japanese to English, which then was reviewed by a native English speaker Paul Phenix, an Australian cyclist who participated in the tour from Nikko to Tokyo, another section of the Length of Japan, organized by Watanabe in November 2005.

“I anticipate the *Length of Japan* cycle route information will be completed in the next two years,” said Watanabe. The *Length of Japan* consists of Part 1 – Fukuoka to Tokyo, available since November 2004; Part 2 – Tokyo to Aomori, work in progress; Part 3– Hakodate to Wakkanai, announced this time; and Part 4 – Fukuoka to Kagoshima, work in progress.

Creating the *Length of Japan* and maintaining it up to date is not trivial task. Completing the whole *Length of Japan* route in two years seems very challenging. “We are very fortunate to have hard-to-find, talented staffs like Kenichi Ikeda, Takashi Abe, Shigehiro Koizumi, and Hideo Tomita at JCN. All of them have the technical skills, cycling experiences and bilingual language skills that are essential to tackle the project,” said Watanabe. “Watch the *Length of Japan* grow and enjoy the international friendship grow together!” he added.

The Japan Cycling Navigator organizes guided cycling events from time to time, and the next major one is “*JCN One Day Tour - Tokyo to Mt. Fuji*” on Saturday, September 6, 2008. For more information, please visit the JCN web site.

#### About the Japan Cycling Navigator

Started by Osamu Naganuma in October 1996 as an informal group within the Japan Adventure Cyclist Club (JACC) and became independent in March 2004, the Japan Cycling Navigator serves international cyclists who plan to travel in Japan.

As a group of individuals who enjoy cycling more than anything else, we at JCN wished to provide a place where cyclists from the world share their experiences and knowledge in order for those who speak different languages and are used to different rules and practices enjoy cycling in Japan. We wish to nurture cross-cultural friendship through cycling events and hospitality offered to them on grass-root basis. It is our pleasure to provide a place where people from the world help each other to gain nice experiences and to see an increased number of travelers on the saddle from the world to Japan. We aim to build an organization that can accommodate more individuals who share our spirit of hospitality.

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