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## 発刊にあたって

水と緑とひかりの村にしはら。2010年は山西・河原村が合併して50周年の記念すべき年であります。合併以来の半世紀を振り返ってみますと紆余曲折はありましたが着実に歩みを進め、諸般にわたり大きく進展をみることができました。本村は熊本都市圏の東部に位置し、自然豊かな村であります。このような貴重な自然環境を維持保全しながら、子や孫の時代にも引き継ぎ、より豊かな共生協働の福祉の村づくりに今後も邁進してまいりたいと存じます。村勢要覧を発刊するにあたり、心新たに全村民が協和し、西原村の輝かしい未来に限りない希望をはせてご挨拶といたします。

## 西原村長 日置 和彦

## A Word from the Mayor

Nishihara is a village blessed with natural beauty and light. This year, 2010, marks the 50th anniversary of the merger between Yamanishi and Kawahara villages into what is now Nishihara. Looking back a half century into our past, I see that it was filled with complications, yet over the years we have made steady and significant progress toward a brighter and better future. We have fought to maintain a balance between industry and nature, progress and tradition. Our past and our future.

Preserving this balance and preserving the beauty that surrounds us has been essential to the creation of a home where people of all ages can live in peace and harmony.

We look forward to the future, which we as a community have shaped into something better.

To all my villagers, thank you for your hard work and your kind spirit. If you are new to Japan or to this region, I hope that this handbook will serve to further your interest in Nishihara Village and Japanese culture. Please accept my warmest welcome to Nishihara!

With Blessings for a Bright Future,

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