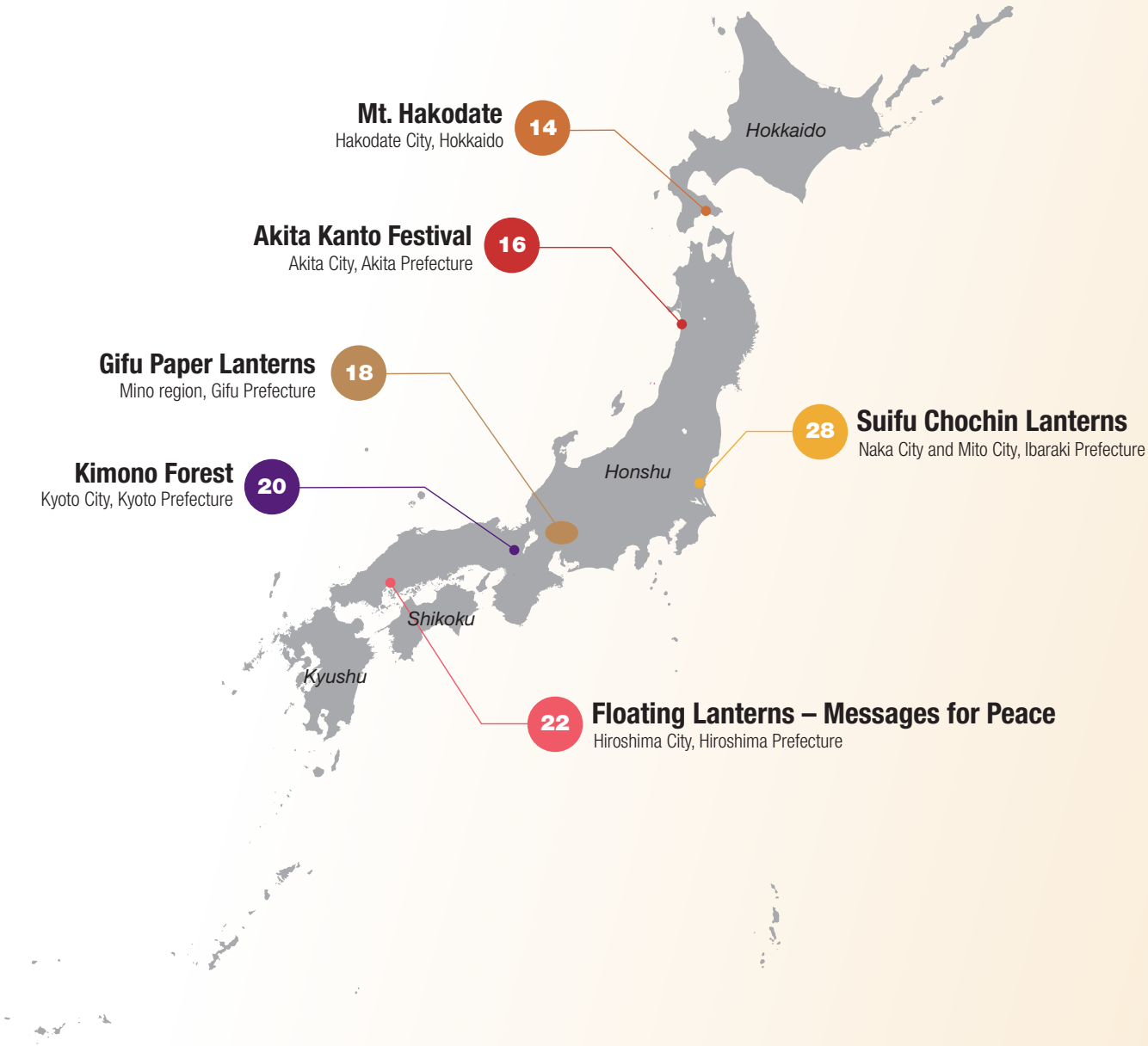
Viewed from Mt. Hakodate, the city resembles the stem of a wine glass
Photo: Fantasia/PIXTA

Huge *kanto* with lanterns lit at the Akita Kanto Festival
Photo: Courtesy of Akita City Kanto Festival Executive Committee

The Lighting of Japan

A Gifu paper lantern in a traditional Japanese living space
Photo: Courtesy of OZEKI & Co., Ltd.

In this month's issue of *Highlighting Japan*, we take a look at the lighting of Japan. The issue opens with an interview with lighting designer and researcher of lighting culture Fujiwara Takumi, who gives us an overview of the history of lighting in Japan. We meet top Japanese lighting designers Ishii Motoko and Mende Kaoru. We visit a scenic spot famed for its sparkling night views and a train station known for its illuminated "kimono forest." We introduce the age-old craft of Gifu paper lantern making. And we look at some striking examples of lighting use both in lively summer festivals and solemn memorial ceremonies.