

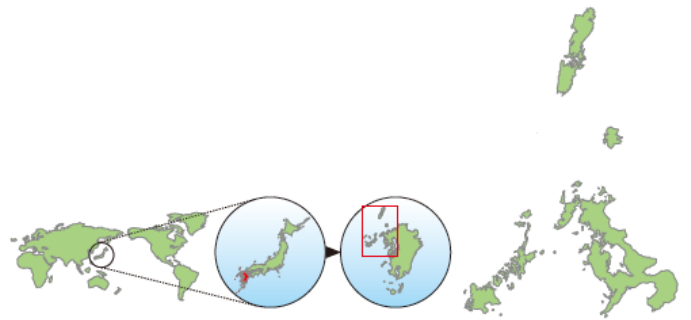
*- Correspondence -*

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## Nagasaki Prefecture

Nagasaki Prefecture, located at the far western end of Japan, has a long history of overseas exchange, and to this day it retains a special international atmosphere.



### *-Nagasaki, Rich in Natural Beauty and International Flavour-*

Our vast ocean area, long coastline and rich forests bring forth bountiful delicacies, from seafood to meats, vegetables and more. This is a place where visitors can get their fill of Japanese cuisine, or 'washoku' (recently named by UNESCO as an item of Intangible Cultural Heritage) in all its rich seasonal variety, as well as enjoying the waters of the hot springs that well up from the earth.



### *-Nagasaki, Spreading its Message of Peace to the World-*

Alongside Hiroshima, Nagasaki suffered mankind's first usage of atomic weaponry. The city was laid waste in an instant by the atomic blast, heat and radiation of a single nuclear bomb, and huge numbers of precious lives were lost.

Over the next 70 years, this city, which suffered such enormous damage, has been reborn as a beautiful city that prays for world peace. Just one example of its beauty is the glittering nightscape, which was chosen alongside Hong Kong and Monaco as one of the New Top 3 Night Views in the World.

Nagasaki calls for the abolition of nuclear weaponry and the establishment of lasting world peace at the earliest possible occasion.



### *-Twin Bids for World Heritage Recognition: Recounting the Story of Overseas Trade-*



Thanks to its position close to the Asian continent, Nagasaki has long formed a window to the outside world. For that reason, it played a vital role as the starting point for the modernisation of Japan, which became the first country outside of the Western world to accomplish such rapid development. The process can be traced from the arrival in Nagasaki in the 16<sup>th</sup> century of Western learning and Christianity, which flourished in the region, through to the introduction of the latest Western technology in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and beyond.

Nagasaki is currently advancing initiatives to have two valuable collections of cultural heritage sites, which tell the story of the processes of material and personal exchange that occurred here, registered on the UNESCO World Heritage Site list. The two collections are the “Churches and Christian Sites in Nagasaki” and the “Modern Industrial Heritage Sites in Kyushu and Yamaguchi”.



For more detailed information on Nagasaki Prefecture, please see the official website of the Nagasaki Prefecture Tourism Association: <http://www.visit-nagasaki.com/>

or Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nagasaki-Prefecture-Convention-and-Tourism-Association/242394415887920>



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## Sydney-Nagoya 35th Anniversary Preparations in Full Swing (15-18 March)



2015 marks 35 years since the commencement of sister city relations between Nagoya and Sydney. In preparation for this milestone, a host of activities are planned in both cities.

As part of these preparations, two members of Nagoya City Office's International Exchange Division arrived in Sydney for consultations with their Australian counterparts at the City of Sydney and Taronga Zoo.

Councillor Robert Kok welcomed the Nagoya delegation at the City of Sydney's Council Chambers.

The officials from Nagoya confirmed that an official delegation from the city will visit Sydney in 2015 for activities celebrating this important anniversary.

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## Victoria-Aichi 35th Sister State Relationship Anniversary Preparations

### Under Way (18-20 March)

This year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of sister state relations between Aichi Prefecture and the State of Victoria.

Representatives from both governments have been working together on preparations to mark this milestone, with two members of Aichi prefectural government's International Division travelling to Melbourne for discussions with the Victorian State Government (Dept of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; Dept of Education and Training), also visiting two universities and one high school.



The officials from Aichi confirmed with their Victorian counterparts that an official delegation from the prefecture will visit Victoria in 2015 for activities celebrating this important anniversary.

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## Discussion about revitalising local areas with ACELG



On 2 March Mr Okamoto, Chairperson of CLAIR, met with the Director and the Deputy Director of ACELG and discussed about ways to revitalise rural areas.

In Japan, we are concerned about the overconcentration of population in cities such as Tokyo.

As well, we have recently been trying to revitalise local areas in Japan. Mr Okamoto explained these issues, and ACELG introduced several projects conducted in Australia to revitalise rural areas.

ACELG introduced plans to create a core-base city system in a rural area, similar to what the Japanese government is now doing. We also discussed several ideas to attract young people living in local areas to enrol in their local university.

For example, the University of Tasmania has been successful to attract people all over the world because the university has become famous due to extremely specific areas like constitutional law and marine sciences. This example would be helpful for Japanese universities.

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## Snow show in Brisbane (14-16 March)

In Brisbane, from where Qantas will begin direct flights to Tokyo's Narita Airport as part of the airline's expansion of services into Japan, the snow show took place for ski and snowboarder lovers.

At the show JNTO made a Japan booth to provide information on Japan's ski resorts, especially Hakkoda in Aomori, Hakuba and Nozawa Onsen in Nagano. Our assistant director Mr Seino from Aomori prefectural government took part in the JNTO booth to promote Hakkoda.

Many visitors came to the booth. One was just coming back from a Japan ski tour, others were considering going to Japan. We hope more Aussie skiers would go skiing in Japan this coming winter.



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## Supporting Hiroshima activity regarding cycling tourism



Hiroshima has been welcoming a lot of tourists from all over the world thanks to two famous world heritage sites.

However, the Hiroshima prefectural government is trying to promote a new attractive place called “Shimanami bridges” where people can enjoy cycling. Due to the large cyclist population Australia has and Hiroshima being a favourite destination among Australian tourists, officials from Hiroshima came to Sydney and Melbourne to discuss with travel agents, a cycling organisation and a travel magazine company.

We were told by a cyclist who has ridden through Hiroshima that the warm Japanese hospitality and destinations not easily accessed by bus were attractive. As well as promising to further cooperate in the future, some travel agents have begun to put together cycling tours to Shimanami. Hiroshima looks forward to seeing more Australians cycling in Hiroshima.

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## Meeting with staff from Okinawa prefecture

Two staff from the Okinawa prefectural government visited CLAIR Sydney’s office on 16 March. We talked with them about the possibilities for Okinawa to become a destination for Australian tourists.

Okinawa has recently been getting more tourists from overseas. During their visit they researched on how Sydney attracts tourists from overseas, so that Okinawa could do as well as Sydney does.

We expect them to develop an excellent tourism policy based on their research.



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## Supporting Matsudo City, Chiba Prefecture

A staff member of Matsudo city in Chiba prefecture, which is the sister city of Whitehorse in Victoria visited the CLAIR office, where we talked about the information booth Matsudo city opened this March at the Japan festival in Whitehorse.

It was Matsudo’s first time to open a booth. Next year is the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sister city relationship, and we are looking forward to a stronger connection and cultural exchange between the two cities.



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## Internship in Clarence, Tasmania

From 11 to 14 March, Assistant Director Hiromi Hakuta visited the Clarence City Council in Tasmania for his internship.

Whilst there he talked with some managers and staff, and learned from them about community development, community consultation, economic development, strategic planning, museum operation and so on.

One of the things he noticed through his internship was the difference of local government finance – especially the “local tax” – between Australia and Japan. In Japan, local taxation rate is basically the same throughout the country.

However in Tasmania, council rates are not the same all over the state and if additional income is needed, rates from tax payers can be increased. Hakuta felt that to avoid rate increases, councillors and council staff worked more effectively, and residents were keen to cooperate with the council’s work as volunteers to minimise council expenses (this is of course not the only reason why residents volunteer!)

Hiromi sincerely appreciates the council staff’s assistance and Alderman James Walker’s effort to make this internship a reality.

CLAIR organises an annual exchange program called

[“The Local Government Exchange & Cooperation Seminar”](#)

for senior staff of Australian and New Zealand’s local governments or related organisation to visit Japan and learn about Japanese local governments. Why don’t you join the exchange program this year?



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## Special lecture about Japan at UNSW



Assistant Director Noriyuki Shiba (from Wakayama Prefecture) gave a special lecture on the many charming aspects of Japan to students learning Advanced Japanese at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) School of Humanities & Languages.

The lecture sought to convey the many instances of Japanese culture one may not readily find in Australia, such as Japanese food featuring regional characteristics, regional dialects with a focus on Kansai-ben (dialect from Japan’s Midwest), and celebrations accompanying the four seasons. This lecture was especially focused on Japanese regional aspects. Students looked like they were most interested in Kansai-ben.

Some of them have been to Japan. However it seemed like few of them have even been to rural areas in Japan such as Wakayama as well. According to their questionnaires, they were interested in the lecture.

We hope that more will go to regional areas in Japan and discover a Japan they yet have.

# Universities in Kyoto collaborate to offer 2-week Study Program

## introducing city's full-featured academic environment

~ Articles and photos by Kyoto City ~

Kyoto, Japan, March 18, 2015 - Kyoto City and The Consortium of Universities in Kyoto has launched "Kyoto Study Program: from Anime to Zen," which is a non-degree 2-week program offering international students an excellent introduction to Japanese society and culture.

The program provides special lectures in English selected from among 51 Consortium member institutions, including the history of Japanese Manga at Kyoto Seika University, which opened the first manga class in the world in 1973, and Japanese business at Kyoto University, which has produced numerous Nobel Prize recipients.

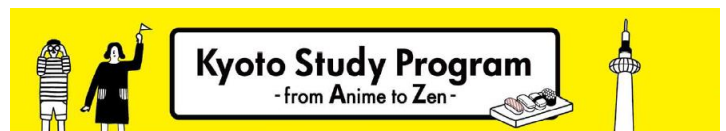


Apart from lectures, participants can deepen their understanding from various angles through cultural experiences and activities such as a Zen session at a temple, Japanese cooking at the city's wholesale market, a buddy program with local university students and so on.

Takuya Nishimatsu, director at the International Relations Office, commented, "Such wide-ranging cooperation with universities is the first initiative of its kind in Japan. We will provide unique learning opportunities that only Kyoto can offer for international students."

The program will run twice a year, and the first session will be held from July 26th to August 8th, 2015. Each session can take a maximum of 25 participants.

More details: <https://studyinkyoto.jp/>



### -About Kyoto City-

Kyoto is the ancient imperial capital of Japan, and is recognised worldwide as the country's historical, cultural and spiritual heart. With its array of higher educational institutes, The Consortium of Universities in Kyoto offers Japan's largest city-wide credit-exchange system. Students can study unique aspects of Japanese culture such as Ikebana (flower arrangement), Japanese gardens or anime at other schools and gain credit, while deepening knowledge in their own area of expertise.

In the "Best Student Cities 2015" (<http://www.topuniversities.com/best-student-cities>) ranking of the world's top-50 cities for students conducted by QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd., Kyoto jumped to 34th in the world, up from 50th in the previous year, indicating its great desirability as a learning environment.

*For more information contact:*

International Relations Office, Kyoto City

[kokusai@city.kyoto.jp](mailto:kokusai@city.kyoto.jp)

+81-75-222-3072

# Sister Cities Festival

## Planning and Economic Sustainability – Phil Stone

~ Articles and photos by Latrobe City Council ~

Latrobe City's Sister Cities Festival at Kernot Hall on Saturday 14 March will go down as one of the best ever. The Festival attracted over 3000 visitors who experienced Japanese and Chinese culture, celebrating our Sister Cities relationship with Takasago, Japan and Taizhou, China.

The day had a mix of traditional and ultra-modern that makes Japan and China such vibrant places. Kernot Hall came alive with the sights, sounds and smells of both cultures.

The Festival continues to grow in both scope and status, attracting many people from the Latrobe City area, Gippsland and Melbourne communities. This year, we were fortunate to have the presence of Melbourne Consul-General of Japan, Ms Keiko Haneda to help us celebrate the festival.



The day was a free event for people of all ages who enjoyed both Chinese and Japanese vibrant cultures, discovering more about our sister cities. There was a range of activities to take part in and stage performances which were very entertaining.

The festival allowed the wider community, who may not have had the opportunity to visit these amazing countries, a closer connection with the extraordinary contrasts of the Japanese and Chinese lifestyle.

Crowd favourites Wadaiko Rindo returned with their crowd-pleasing Japanese drumming performances. Their energising display of drumming was mesmerising.

There were a number of new additions to this year's festival which added another dimension. Making their debut was a Chinese musician performing the classical Erhu and a Japanese musician performing the Koto. Both musicians conducted interactive workshops enabling the audience to put their skills to the test.



In another first, the Cosplay and Anime competition saw twenty-eight entrants with some great costumes and anime characters coming to life.

The Chinese Lion dancing performance continues to be a crowd pleaser as was Peking Opera and Chinese Ribbon Dancers.



The crowd were interactive participating in activities such as Chinese and Japanese art activities, Chinese calligraphy demonstrations, traditional Chinese costumes and photos, Japanese games and competitions, musical workshops and the Chinese Ribbon Dancing workshop, all provided plenty of entertainment for the young and not so young.

The festival was complimented by local restaurants offering their Japanese and Chinese cuisine. The taste buds where delighted by the Teppanyaki and Sushi Bars and Chinese flavours on offer.

The Night Market theme certainly compliment the festivals program and offerings, we're looking forward to bigger and better things next year.



For further information please contact Jason Membrey, Coordinator Events and International Relations on 5128 5604 or email: [jason.membrey@latrobe.vic.gov.au](mailto:jason.membrey@latrobe.vic.gov.au)

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## Meeting with JETAA Vic/Tas/SA and JETAA NSW



On 4 March CLAIR Chairperson Mr Okamoto met with committee members of the Vic/Tas/SA chapter of JETAA and on the following day he met with their counterparts at the NSW chapter of JETAA.

During the meetings attendees discussed the JET programme, especially on how to teach English with Japanese English teachers, make the pre-departure training more effective and use the programme effectively for the Rugby World Cup in 2019 and the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020.

The JET programme has a lot of participants from all over the world. After graduating the programme, many of them act as bridges between Japan and their countries.

The programme will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. We felt that the JETAA's activities will be more active and the programme will better thanks to these productive meetings.

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## Promoting the JET Programme at the University of Queensland Career Fair

On 25 March, Noriyuki Shiba, our Assistant Director from Wakayama, attended a Career Fair at the University of Queensland (UQ) to promote the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Programme along with members of JETAAQLD.

The JET Programme offers university graduates the opportunity to live and work in Japan for up to 5 years. After passing some selection phases, JETs are able to work in Japanese schools to assist language teachers (mainly English), or in Japanese local governments to become involved in their international-related works and so on.

Many students who were interested in Japan came and asked JETAA members what to expect from the JET programme.

Not only students who had known about the JET programme but also students who had not looked very interested in the programme. We hope that more and more people want to become a JET and do great work in Japan as a JET.

For more information about the JET Programme, Visit <http://www.jetprogramme.org/>



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## JETAA South Island Activities

~ Articles and photos by JETAA South Island ~

A new year has just begun for JETAASI and we are feeling positive for 2015/16 after gaining some good momentum during the past year. Here are some recent events we've participated in and some things we are focusing on for the coming year.

### *-Japan Day-*

At the start of March we volunteered in association with the Japan Society of Canterbury and Consular Office of Japan stalls at Canterbury Japan Day. This year's theme was 'Japanese Autumn' and record numbers of people interested in Japanese culture turned out on a gorgeous day to eat, learn and enjoy.



### *-Culture Galore-*

JETAASI always enjoys this local festival where many different groups from around the region celebrate their cultures. Our stall demonstrated 'Shodo' where young (and old) people could try out Japanese calligraphy. It was a lot of fun meeting people and talking about the JET programme.



### *-Annual General Meeting-*

Our AGM was held in March and with a bit of a change around in members, we are looking forward to another good year. It's a small but strong group and we hope to boost the numbers over the coming year.



### *-April JET Departures-*

President Caroline was able to meet with the early departing JETs recently before they left for Japan.

She was on the interview panel earlier this year with the Consular Office of Japan, so meeting the applicants in a casual setting was very interesting and she was able to give them some advice and share in their excitement.

In order to keep relevant for the August departees, the JETAASI committee want to really modernise and digitise 'JETSTREAM', the pre-departure handbook for departing JETs.

JETAASI has been in touch with other chapters, getting advice and ideas about their departure guides for JETs.

### *-Fundraising Quiz Night-*

Something that JETAASI has not done enough of recently is fundraising for a good cause, and this year we have locked in our first fundraising event for May.

To celebrate Childrens' Day, we are holding a pub quiz evening where all funds raised will go to a childrens' charity in Japan called Playgrounds of Hope, which builds playgrounds in challenged communities throughout Japan. We hope to get a great turnout and that this kind of event can be a regular happening.

### *-J-Kaiwa-*

This continues to be a great event each month. We trialled a more casual version of J-Kaiwa at a bar, rather than a restaurant, and got rid of RSVPs, which allowed for a more relaxed vibe where people can mingle and chat without having to feel like they are stuck in one seat all night.

We have had a good contingency from the local polytech, both Japanese and English students, as well as JET alumni and friends. This will continue on the first Tuesday of each month.

### *-JETAA Oceania Conference-*

From the 16th to 18th of October JETAASI will be hosting the conference in Christchurch. Our broken city is now in a rebuild boom, and we are looking forward to showing it off to delegates later in the year!

Work is now underway finding a venue, planning social events and of course, deciding on a theme. Stay posted for details coming soon.



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# Introducing Our New Staff

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**Masahisa Yoshimi**

Deputy Director from Nagoya City,  
Aichi prefecture

Hello, my name is Masahisa Yoshimi.

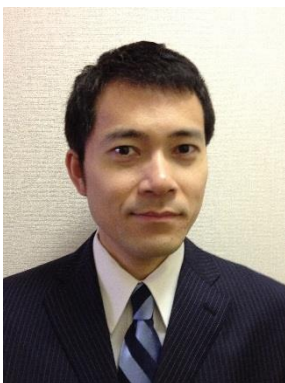
As of this April I'm the Deputy Director of CLAIR Sydney. This is my first time working outside of Japan, and what is more, I have never been here in Australia until 15 March this year!

That is why I am not only excited but also disorientated, being surrounded by Sydney's many historic and scenic sites such as the Rocks, Town Hall, cathedrals, Sydney Harbour, and of course all the English spoken around me!

By the way, I have worked at EXPO Aichi, the Nagoya International Center and the International Division, City of Nagoya, which means that I have been in charge of promoting Nagoya's multiculturalism, so I am very excited to experience another culture and to work with my CLAIR Sydney's colleagues from all over Japan.

In addition, this year the Sydney-Nagoya sister city partnership's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary is to be celebrated. Two events Nagoya collaborates on – the Nagoya Day, and the Sydney Marathon – will be held.

I hope these will be successfully implemented and that I will be able to help other cities experience similarly successful relationships as part of the many important roles CLAIR plays.



**Tomohiro Koike**

Assistant Director  
from Ministry of Internal  
Affairs and Communications

Hello! My name is Tomohiro Koike. I am from Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

I was born and grew up in Tokyo, but I lived in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture with my wife and 1 year old daughter before expatriating.

Tokyo is Japan's capital and the hub of politics and economy. In addition, Tokyo has a lot of famous sightseeing spots such as Asakusa, Ueno, Shinjyuku, Odaiba, Roppongi, etc. Please visit the following link for your reference.

<http://www.gotokyo.org/en/index.html>

Yokohama is also a very big city which is located about 30km south of Tokyo. The city is home to 3.7 million people, and residents and tourists usually frequent places such as Yamashita Park, Chuukagai, Minatomirai (also known as the Bayside Area).

Below is the webpage of Yokohama, where you can find more information about this vibrant city.

<http://www.yokohamajapan.com/>

I would like to research the local government systems and issues of Australia and New Zealand. In addition, I would like to exchange and share the positive features of our governmental systems.

Although a little nervous about my first overseas assignment, I am trying to settle in Sydney as fast as I can!

I hope to meet you all in the near future!

Tomo Koike

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## From the Director

### Local government in Australia and New Zealand

One of our important tasks is to conduct research on Australian and New Zealand local governments and make reports for the benefit of Japanese local governments.

We have just published “Local government in Australia and New Zealand” which explains both countries’ local government structure, mayors and councillors, financial situation, election system, local government employee system and recent issues about local government.

When you have a visiting Japanese delegation and would like to explain the outline of local government, just download the guide from here <http://www.clair.or.jp/j/forum/pub/docs/i49.pdf> and distribute it to your guests.

Our staff, Misa and Hiromi, who have just left our office, have also finalised their reports.

Misa’s report is about gender equality in New Zealand and focuses on how New Zealand has developed women’s participation in society.

<http://www.clair.or.jp/j/forum/pub/docs/410.pdf>

Since one of the challenges the Japanese government faces is to develop women’s participation in the workforce, I am looking forward to Japanese local government executive members and business leaders reading her report and finding something new for their respective female participation strategies.

Hiromi’s report looks at the history and the legacy of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, exploring the development process of Sydney Olympic Park from 2000 to the present, and the lasting legacy the Games has left for the wider Sydney area.

<http://www.clair.or.jp/j/forum/pub/docs/414.pdf>

Japan will host the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games; preparation and planning for the Olympics, including the concept of legacy planning is now under way. I hope this report will have some positive impact on the Tokyo Olympic Games.

I would like to express special thanks to all the people who have supported us in our research activities.