



- Correspondence -

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Kanagawa Prefecture

ENJOY JAPAN ~KANAGAWA IS WAITING FOR YOU~

A video to introduce Kanagawa to the world has just been released. In addition to the famous sightseeing spots of Yokohama, Kamakura and Hakone, Kanagawa has many more to recommend, like Jogashima & Misaki, Oyama, Oiso and Enoshima.

Watch the video and visit the shooting locations, then you are already an expert on Kanagawa!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eV2A7WMFmlc>



Hakone

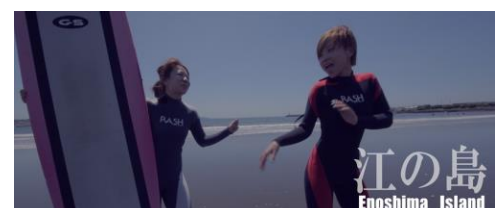


Widely-known in Japan and overseas as the hot-spring resort. Enjoy Japan's best view points, such as Owakudani (volcanic valley) filled with volcanic smoke and Mt. Fuji, the symbol of Japan, behind Lake Ashinoko.

Enoshima Island

Located at the iconic Shonan area which is best remembered for its beaches.

Historical spots and lush greenery attract many of visitors throughout the year, especially in summer.



Jogashima Island



Jogashima Island, the biggest natural island in the prefecture, is located at the farthest south of the Miura Peninsula and known for its dynamic landscapes of blue sea and indented coastline.

Umanose-domon (Sea Cave), the natural erosion created by waves, winds and rains over time, makes you feel the mystery of nature.

Oiso

Shigitatsuan (haiku house) at Oiso.

One of the three great haiku houses of Japan with history of 300 years is located in Oiso Town in the coastal area of Sagami Bay. Hosts of the house hold schools and lectures of Japanese literature including haiku, making the place a centre for education and local culture.



Oyama



Koma-sando (approach to shrine) at Oyama.

Mt. Oyama, situated at the middle of Kanagawa Pref., boasts rich nature and long history as one of the icons of mountain worship. Koma-sando is lined with souvenir shops and retains the atmosphere of the good old days of Japan.

Misaki

"Fisherina Wharf Urari" at Misaki. Located adjacent to the Misaki Fishery Port, Urari is a hub for marine leisure activities and the base of boats to Jogashima Island. Visitors can enjoy shopping for local products including vegetables, tuna and other fish. Neighbouring restaurants offer special dishes made with tuna.



Kanagawa Prefecture



Located south of capital Tokyo, Kanagawa has the second largest population in Japan.

There are many fascinating places, such as the port city of Yokohama, Kamakura, the ancient city of Samurai, and Hakone, the leading hot-spring resort, as well as beautiful ocean and mountains.

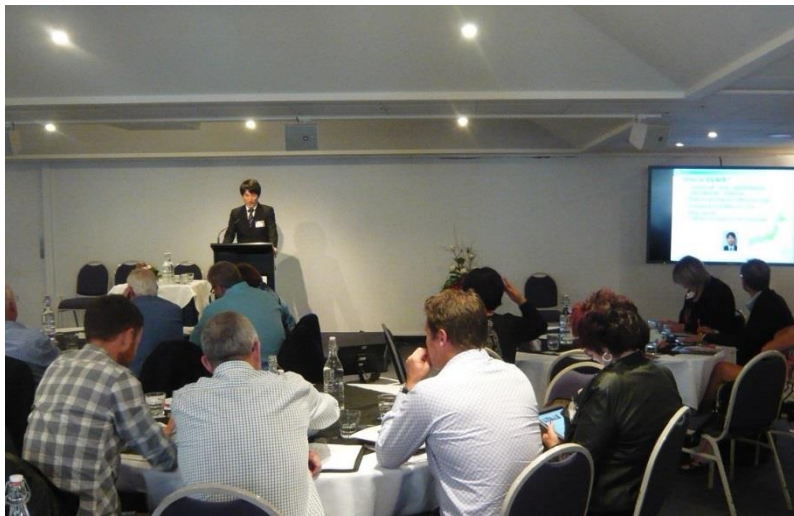
2015 Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) National Congress

From 29 April-1 May, we attended the LGMA National Congress & Business Expo in Darwin, Northern Territory. We promoted CLAIR's activities, Japan's tourism and sister city relationships between Australia and Japan. We also met many people at our exhibition booth and made a lot of contacts.

We were very happy to talk to all the people who visited our booth. Thank you very much and we look forward to seeing you again and working with you in the future. Also, we are always happy to offer information on the Japanese local government system at Australian and New Zealand Local Government events.



Sister Cities New Zealand Conference in Wellington



From 9-11 April, we attended the Sister Cities New Zealand (SCNZ) Conference in Wellington, and the SCNZ Workshop at Government House, the official residence of the Governor-General of New Zealand.

During the conference we gave a presentation about the trend of sister city activities between New Zealand and Japan, how Japanese local governments are working to attract overseas tourists and the kinds of support CLAIR offers them. We also promoted the Rugby World Cup in 2019, which Japan will host for the first time, and the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020.

We exchanged views with many attendees and shared ideas about sister city activities with them during both the conference and workshop sessions. CLAIR wishes to continuously support sister city and sister school activities – if you have something you want to know concerning Japanese local governments, or you have information you would like to share, please feel free to contact us.

We are always impressed with the dedication of SCNZ in their activities and their tireless work to fulfil their goals – have a look at their article on *page 4*.

We are more than happy to put a message from your council, school or organisation in our Newsletter – please contact our office for further information.

Sister Cities New Zealand Workshop at Government House

~ Article and photo by Sister Cities New Zealand ~

It was an honour for Sister Cities New Zealand and the wider sister city community to hold this important workshop at Government House Wellington on 9 April 2015.

Sir Jerry Mateparae, Patron to Sister Cities New Zealand, shared his insights on the importance of working together to achieve global connections, both inspiring and encouraging leaders all over New Zealand to collaborate and foster the sister city movement as one.

It was a memorable day for Mayors, CEOs, Councillors, Government officials, business and community leaders to share their personal stories and experiences, and discuss ideas around working together to build greater people-to-people connections between New Zealand and the world.

Sister Cities New Zealand, a non-profit organisation, has reached a significant milestone and is celebrating its 35th anniversary next year. Those involved and interested in sister city work are welcome to attend our annual conference, which will be hosted by Nelson City Council in May 2016.

Thank you to all those who contributed and participated in the Workshop at Government House and our 2015 SCNZ Conference, we look forward to carrying the momentous passion and energy gathered from our sister city family into the future of Sister Cities New Zealand.



Universities in Kyoto collaborate to offer 2-week Study Programme

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.

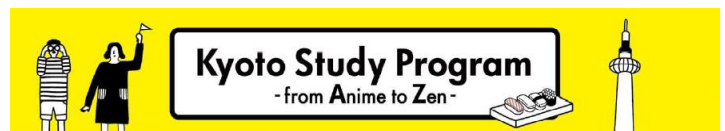


Apart from lectures, participants can deepen their understanding from various angles through cultural experiences and activities such as a Zen session at a temple, Japanese cooking at the city's wholesale market, a buddy program with local university students and so on.

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 26 July to 8 August, 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:

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JETAA NSW Activities

~ Articles and photos by JETAA NSW ~

This year's new JETAA NSW committee sees many new faces, with lots of enthusiasm and ideas to bring to the table. This year, our strategy is to hold fewer events, so that we have more resources to prepare for each event. While our past events have always been great and enjoyed by all, we want to continue improving and building on our past accomplishments.

Shaberanaito

This is a regular event we co-host with the Australia-Japan Society of Sydney.

Happening four times throughout the year, this year being- April, June, Sept and Oct, it is a popular event, held at Daruma, a local Japanese restaurant that serves a great banquet for our guests and members.



Trivia Night @ AB Hotel, Glebe

A fun event of trivia, prizes and general fun and merriment. Trivia nights at pubs is an Australian cultural institution, and we can think of no better way to combine Australian and Japanese culture.

Predeparture Orientation

While this is only open to departing JET participants, it's worth mentioning that for the first time, we will be working with AJET, to get a current JET to help out with this year's workshops.

Not only will we be able to provide up to date information, but also demonstrate the strength of community links and network within JET.

Networking Careers Night

Scheduled for October/November, we are looking to invite returning participants, and recruitment agents, mentors and past JETs to network as well as share the benefit of their experience and advice for those coming home.

Bonenkai

A chance to celebrate and reflect on a year of accomplishments, and to reconnect with members of the community, many of whom may only participate during this event. This is often our biggest event of the year.

This is just some of what we have planned. There are other major cultural events we will join, which will be announced at a later date.



To keep up to date with what we do, readers can like our [Facebook Page](#), [Facebook Group](#), follow us on Twitter (@jetaansw), Instagram (jetaansw), [LinkedIn](#) and last but not least, our [website](#).

We hope to see you at our events!

From the Director

Japanese local government and tourism

Most Japanese local governments think it's very important to regenerate local vitality by promoting tourism. As you know, Japan is relatively a small country, but varying climate and history between regions, makes for a wide variety of cities to visit.

Access to and from central cities became easier with the development of transportation such as the Shinkansen. With the recognition of these strengths, tourism is ranked as an important pillar to revitalise rural areas.

While around 5.8 million tourists every year visit Australia, Japan reached a record of 10 million overseas tourists in 2013. Tokyo is hosting the Olympic Games in 2020 – we aim to get 20 million visitors that year.

We became able to go anywhere easily throughout Japan, but at the same time, we have seen the start of severe competition to attract tourists between local governments.

In addition, avoiding past mistakes of building once-popular theme parks, Japan's local governments are looking for new ways to attract tourists without making huge budget allocations.

Apart from the basic route of "Tokyo to Kyoto", thanks to feedback from overseas tourists, there are many other new must-sees that are becoming popular.

For example, Australian tourists rediscovered the value of the Snow Monkeys!

As well, skiing is popular among Australian tourists. We are proud of Japan's world famous powder snow, reasonable lift tickets and accommodations with hot springs and delicious Japanese food and sake.

This is why a lot of Japanese ski resorts collaborated with local governments will participate in the Snow Travel Expo that will be held in Sydney on 17 May and Melbourne on 24 May. I hope you will visit it.

For more information about how and why Japanese local governments promote tourism, please watch our staff, Mr. Hiroaki Seino's presentation at the 2014 CLAIR Forum.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7AHJle6QNw>