

Correspondence

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Fukuoka Prefecture

Fukuoka Prefecture has long been a key point of exchange in Asia, and Japan's window to the world. It currently has a population of over 5 million, and a GDP of roughly 190 billion US Dollars.

Fukuoka is the industrial and cultural centre of Western Japan, with a market of 15 million people.



Fukuoka Prefecture is a key national and international hub for sea, land and air transportation.

Fukuoka Airport is one of the most conveniently located airports in the world—only 10 minutes from the centre of Fukuoka City.

Fukuoka Prefecture is linked by air with 25 cities in Japan and 21 cities abroad. And its extensive network of expressways makes Fukuoka an extremely convenient location for travel and distribution of goods to and from almost anywhere in Japan.

One of Fukuoka's most attractive features is its well-balanced urban and natural environment.

With urban shopping centres and arcades located in close vicinity to nature, Fukuoka has gained global recognition as a shopper-friendly city.

In recent years Fukuoka has become a popular stop for cruise ships. Travellers from around the world come ashore to shop.





Visitors from around Japan come to pray to the Shinto God of Education at Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine.

The city of Yanagawa is famous for its leisurely punt canal cruises. Fukuoka also features many historical sites and old towns.

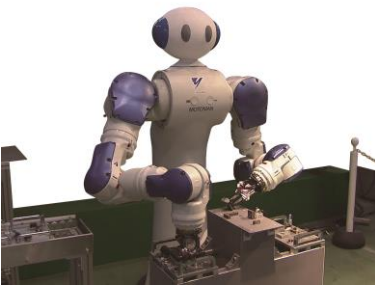
But perhaps more than anything, visitors come to Fukuoka for its delicious cuisine.

Fukuoka has a rich variety of fresh foods, including seafood caught from the bay and a wide range of produce.

Its abundance of unique local cuisine, foods from Asia and around the world, and elegant confectionery has earned Fukuoka the name "*gourmet heaven*".



Fukuoka Prefecture is advancing efforts to become a centre for growing cutting-edge industries including "Ruby" programming, digital contents, automobiles, advanced semiconductors, robotics, biotechnology, organic EL technology, and hydrogen energy among others.



Northern Kyushu centring around Fukuoka Prefecture has roughly 450 automotive industry companies, including carmakers Toyota, Nissan and Daihatsu.

It is a prominent automobile production centre with an annual capacity of over 1.5 million automobiles.

With the perfect balance of urban life and a rich natural environment, as well as a diverse range of industries such as commerce, engineering and agriculture, Fukuoka Prefecture continues to grow.



Fukuoka Prefecture, a focal point of dynamic exchange in Asia, welcomes you.

For more information on Fukuoka, please click on the link:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/FukuokaPrefecture>

<http://www.crossroadfukuoka.jp/en/>

Snow Travel Expos in Sydney and Melbourne

At Snow Travel Expos in Sydney (17 May) and in Melbourne (24 May), exhibitors from around the world, including Japan, promoted their region's winter playgrounds. The Sydney and Melbourne Expo aimed to promote ski tourism and cutting edge ski goods to Australia. According to organisers, the event attracted over 6,000 people in each city.

With the support of CLAIR Sydney, the Hokkaido Tourism Organization, Tohoku Tourism Promotion Organization, Nagano region and Niigata region each ran booths at the Expo to further encourage and promote visits to their respective ski resorts.



Japan related booths



Hakkoda ski resort booth

The day after the Expo in both cities, the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) organised seminars catered for Australian travel agents, whom the exhibitors gave talks and presentations to.

CLAIR Assistant Director, Hiroaki Seino delivered his last seminar presentation, which was a harmonious mixture of laughter, inspiration and awe.

“He really put in 100%, and everybody just kept on talking about how great he was. If there is an increase in Australian tourists to Hakkoda ski resort, I reckon that bloke and his snow gear did it.”

Many Australians love to go skiing in Japan, attracted by the powder snow, the many *onsen* (hot springs), and the Japanese food.

Come have a great snow experience in Japan this summer!



Business consultations in Sydney



Presentation in Sydney

Assisting Matsudo city at the Japan Festival

Matsudo city, located just east of Tokyo in the Chiba prefecture, had two booths at the Japan Festival that was held in its sister city Whitehorse on 17 May. One booth was a booth to promote Matsudo city as a destination and the other to sell Shiratama-zenzai (Japanese traditional sweets) which is made using one of Matsudo's specialities called Shiratama-ko.

Many people came to their booths, allowing Matsudo to make themselves and their sister city relationship known to the attendees. Furthermore they sold over 500 cups of Shiratama-zenzai.

Their sister city relationship will mark its 45th anniversary next year. It is easy to imagine how hard they have worked to keep this healthy relationship going for such a long time.

The day after the festival Matsudo delegates met and talked with Whitehorse officials about the 45th anniversary celebrations. They have already started to consider how they should celebrate their anniversary and how they will make their exchange programmes more exciting.

We look forward to seeing their future activities as well as their anniversary.



Supporting Saitama Prefecture

During a visit to Australia to promote their region to Australian tourists, staff from the Saitama prefectural government tourism board visited the CLAIR Sydney office.

Director Tanabe and the delegates discussed about marketing one-day trips to Saitama from Tokyo, especially to Kawagoe city or to take part in farm experience.

With an increasing number of tourists visiting Japan, we hope that tourism to Saitama will also grow.



Tree Planting at Taronga Zoo in memory of former Higashiyama Zoo director Mr Kashima

The Sydney Nagoya Sister City Committee (SNSCC), which CLAIR Deputy Director Yoshimi is a member of, attended a eucalyptus tree planting ceremony held at Taronga Zoo on 5 May.

This ceremony was held in memory of former director at Nagoya's Higashiyama Zoo, Mr Eisuke Kashima, who passed away last December. Kashima was Higashiyama's director, as well as one of its veterinarians.

He was involved in and supportive of the sister zoo relationship between Taronga and Higashiyama, a friendship which began nearly 30 years ago, when Taronga gifted Higashiyama its first Koala.

During the planting ceremony, SNSCC chairman David Butcher and Taronga Zoo senior curator Erna Walraven shared words of condolences and anecdotes of Kashima with the attendees, made up of SNSC Committee members, Zoo staff who had known Kashima for many years, as well as staff that participated in the Sister Zoo staff exchange programme.

This year marks the 35th year anniversary of the Sydney and Nagoya Sister City relationship.

This kind of mutual exchange, which takes part in a variety of fields, contribute greatly to strengthening ties between the two cities.



*Committee Chair David Butcher(centre)
and
Senior Curator, Taronga Erna Walraven(right)*

JETAA VIC/TAS/SA Activities ~ Article and photos from JETAA VIC/TAS/SA ~



JETAA Vic/Tas/SA held the Big Bento Lunch over March this year, with all proceeds going towards Playground of Hope, a charity based in Tohoku that builds playgrounds in kindergartens and primary schools in areas affected by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

The Big Bento Lunch this year raised over \$2,400 for Playground of Hope. Many schools, businesses and the Japan Consulate in Melbourne participated in the BBL.

We also held our annual trivia night in April, with 60 people attending for a fun night of Japan and Australia-related trivia, and had a stall to promote the JET Programme at the Box Hill Japan Festival.

We are preparing to help the Consulate with the upcoming pre-departure orientation session for departing JETs at the end of June.



From the Director

Japanese Local Governments and Pets

In New South Wales, pet registrations are recorded on the NSW Companion Animal Register. Dogs must be registered by six months and by an owner 18 years of age or over.

A record is created when a council receives an identification form with the animal's microchip number, owner and animal details. A council will post a Certificate of Registration to the pet owner. Registration tags are not issued however it is the responsibility of the owner to attach an ID tag to their pet's collar displaying name and contact details.

In the case of Japan, if you have a dog that is more than 90 days old, you must register the dog at the municipal office. After completing the registration, you will be given a dog license tag. Since the license tag is required for the life of the dog, it would be good to attach the license tag to the dog's collar.

When the dog runs away from home or becomes lost somewhere, if the person who finds it contacts the municipal office or the public health centre, it is almost certain that the dog can be returned to the registered owner. The owner of a dog is also required to have their pet vaccinated against rabies. Rabies shots are given collectively once a year by the municipal office, and all registered dog owners will be notified of the vaccination period by the municipal newsletter.

Please keep in mind there are not so many apartment buildings in Japan that allow pets. Before moving in with your pet, it would be advisable for you to first confirm with the building manager or owner whether pets are allowed.