



Correspondence

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Farewell Message from the Director

Our Director Yasuhiko Tanabe is leaving Sydney in late July to take up his new role in Japan.... ☹



Yasuhiko Tanabe

Director of CLAIR Sydney
(July 2012-July 2015)

From Ministry of Internal Affairs
and Communications

My term of office as the Director of the Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR, Sydney) will sadly come to an end soon and I will go back to Japan on 24 July for my new assignment. (actually yet to be assigned!)

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you for the kind support and warm friendship extended to me and CLAIR Sydney during my three year tenure. Mr Katsunori Kamibo is coming on 17 July and will replace me as the Director. I ask you for your ongoing support for him and his team.

It was my pleasure to have the chance to meet and work with people dedicated to developing their local community and fostering friendships with Japan.

With my background of local government for many years, it was interesting to find differences in the structure and operation of local government between Japan, Australia and New Zealand, but what I have learned most is the common challenges local government face, such as financial sustainability, regional cooperation and revitalising rural areas.

It is my great honour if you have learned something new through my presentations about Japanese local government and reconstructing communities after the Tsunami.

Working with the JETAA family and the sister city family has provided me with a volunteering spirit. After I settle back home, I would like to be voluntarily involved with the 30th anniversary project of the JET programme next year and sister city activities of where I will live.

I take with me a lot of unforgettable memories of living in Sydney and travelling around Australia and New Zealand with my wife. We have always been surrounded with beautiful nature, fantastic food and wine and above all warm and friendly people.

I hope the relationship between Japan and Australia/New Zealand will continue to stay strong well into the future.

I hope we can catch up soon in Japan.

All the best,

田辺康彦

Yasuhiko Tanabe

For past columns by Mr. Tanabe, please visit:

<http://www.jlgc.org.au/about-japan/from-the-director/>

For past presentations by Mr. Tanabe, please visit:

<http://www.jlgc.org.au/about-japan/1110-2/>

Welcome to Aichi Prefecture

Profile of Aichi – Heartland of Japan

Aichi Prefecture is located in the very heartland of Japan and has long prospered as a crossroads between the cultures of eastern and western Japan.

Its capital city, Nagoya, forms the centre of one of Japan's three major metropolitan areas, alongside Tokyo and Osaka. Aichi has developed into a region of industry and technology, as represented by the world-famous Toyota Motor Corporation, whose corporate headquarters are located in Aichi. Taken together, the economy, culture, and wide range of industries found in Aichi Prefecture serve as a major driving force behind the economic might of Japan.



Industries – Japan's manufacturing capital

Aichi's total production accounts for approximately 7% of the national share and ranks third in Japan after Tokyo and Osaka. Since 1977, the value of its manufactured goods shipments has been the highest among all of Japan's 47 prefectures. Aichi has long been known as a manufacturing base, and its industrial efforts range from high-tech industries such as automobiles, machine tools, and aerospace, all the way to more traditional areas such as the textile and ceramic industries.

The industrial tourism these centres attract is one of the defining features of tourism in Aichi.



Sightseeing – Birth place of three great samurai



Aichi not only has natural riches, such as the sea, mountains, and parks that allow you to enjoy the scenery of each season, but also abounds in historical sites related to samurai culture.

Aichi is the birthplace of the three military leaders who shaped Japan's pre-modern history: Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, and Tokugawa Ieyasu.

Long a crossing point for the eastern and western cultures of Japan, the Aichi area prospered as one of Japan's leading castle towns during the Edo period and today boasts many historical relics.



Fine food

Aichi's rich culinary delights from both land and sea offer a wide range of local dishes such as Nagoya meshi as represented by Misokatsu, Tebasaki, and Miso nikomi udon. You can enjoy a wide variety of dishes, from creative to traditional, everywhere in Aichi.



Sister state in Australia

Aichi Prefecture established a sister-state relationship with the Australian State of Victoria in 1980.

This year, in commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the relationship, Aichi and Victoria will mutually send delegations and celebrate this milestone of the successful history of friendship.

In the future, public and private cooperation will be further deepened, helping this friendship endure for many years to come.



Supporting Hyogo Prefecture

Mr Masataka Onishi, Director of the Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre in Perth, visited CLAIR's office in Sydney on 9 June. We talked about current issues in Australia, and assisted his visits to travel agencies and other places.

Western Australia, where the Centre is located, has a sister state relationship with Hyogo prefecture. The centre is the only independent office of Japanese Local Government in Australia.

We look forward to the exchange relationship between Japanese and Australian regions continuing to grow.



Supporting Chiba Prefecture

Staff from Chiba prefectural government's tasked with looking after inbound tourism promotion visited CLAIR Sydney's office on 10 June. We discussed education/study tours and day-trips from Tokyo (Chiba prefecture is right next to Tokyo).

The purpose of their visit to Australia was mainly study tour promotion. They have already had a lot of experience with overseas study tours and have a well-developed framework for cooperation in their organisation for accepting groups from abroad.

We look forward to Chiba prefecture continuing to work to attract overseas visitors.



2015 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly of Local Government



From 14-17 June, we attended the ALGA National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra, ACT. We promoted CLAIR's activities including this year's local government exchange seminar, Japan 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 Australia and New Zealand local government events.

JET Programme Pre-departure Orientation

The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme began in 1987, aiming to promote grass-roots international exchange between Japan and other nations. Over 6,700 people have taken part in the programme from Australia and New Zealand so far.



This year, many young people from Australia and New Zealand will leave for Japan at the end of July and the end of August respectively, to work as Assistant Language Teachers (ALT) or Coordinators for International Relations (CIR) in Japanese prefectures, cities, towns and villages.

The Pre-departure Orientations were held in each JET recruitment city, and we attended to give the participants some advice. Members of the JET Alumni Association (JETAA) also gave new participants helpful tips based on their experience in Japan.

We expect them to do great work, and become bridges between Australia, New Zealand and Japan!

For more information regarding the JET programme, visit <http://www.jetprogramme.org/>



Japanese Diet Member Gaku Hashimoto Visits Christchurch

~ Article and photos from Christchurch City Council ~



Mayor Lianne Dalziel and Councillors welcomed Gaku Hashimoto in Council Chambers

Gaku Hashimoto, member of Japan's Diet representing Kurashiki, visited New Zealand in April as a Guest of Government.

One of the youngest of Japan's parliamentarians, he holds several vice-ministerial portfolios.

On a visit to Christchurch he met the Hon Nicky Wagner, MP Christchurch Central, and the Chief Executive of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) to be briefed on the Christchurch rebuild, and Mayor Lianne Dalziel and Councillors.

Members of the Kurashiki Sister City Committee arranged a tree-planting in the Kurashiki Sister City Garden in Halswell Quarry Park to mark his visit.

Mr. Hashimoto also visited the Transitional Cathedral, the CTV site and Bishopspark Retirement Home during his brief stay. Kurashiki Sister City Chairman Steve Wright, Deputy Chairman Keith Nicholson and Past Chairman David Bolam Smith hosted Mr Hashimoto on behalf of the Committee.



Members of the Kurashiki Sister City Committee and City Council Staff.



Tree planting in the Kurashiki Sister City Garden in Halswell Quarry Park, Christchurch

JETAA Canberra Activities ~ Article and photos from JETAA Canberra ~

Children's Day BBQ

The BBQ was held on 3 May to commemorate Children's Day, traditionally celebrated in Japan during Golden Week in the first week of May.

Canberra turned on a perfect day for the event at the Canberra Nara gardens on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. More than 80 people came along for the BBQ, bringing a range of delicious food to share.

There were sausages prepared by our terrific BBQ chefs and delicious green tea cakes, chocolate brownies, *onigiri*, *inarizushi* and a chocolate cake covered in Maltesers! This was all washed down with Japanese beer for the adults and *ramune* for the children.

The kids enjoyed *koinobori* craft and then challenged the adults to several soccer matches. Prizes were given out to the 'best costume' winners and people gave donations to the Nepal Earthquake appeal.



Trivia Night Fundraiser

This fabulous day enjoyed by all was followed by JETAA Canberra's annual trivia night on 30 May, where thanks to participants, sponsors and organisers, we raised \$1,600 for the Tohoku Youth Foundation, which is administered by the AJS.

Over 60 keen trivia players packed out St Peter's Church Hall in Weston, which was kindly donated by the Church for the night. JETAAC President Andrea Carroll welcomed all guests and friends of the Japanese community in Canberra, thanked sponsors and handed the night over to the incomparable compares, Keith and Ken Parker. Keith and Ken asked an eclectic mix of Japanese, Australian and general trivia questions which brought out the competitive and generous streak in players who bought raffle tickets, paid for answers to boost their score and threw gold coins for 'closest coin' to win a bottle of sake or *umeshu*.

Due to an early start, people brought their own dinner and JETAA Executive Committee members, Amanda Wanda, Matt French and Michael Anziliero sold drinks at the bar. Darryl Pearce offered an exclusive Ninja table service, selling drinks while participants concentrated on the game at hand.



Keith and Ken asked questions, provided answers, marked answer sheets, ran the games and encouraged a generous and competitive spirit from all. While many people walked away with prizes, first prize went to Team Ichiban with Second prize going to The Umbrellas.

We hope for increased participation from the general public, so go on www.jetaacanberra.org and join our events if you are in the area.