



This issue includes:

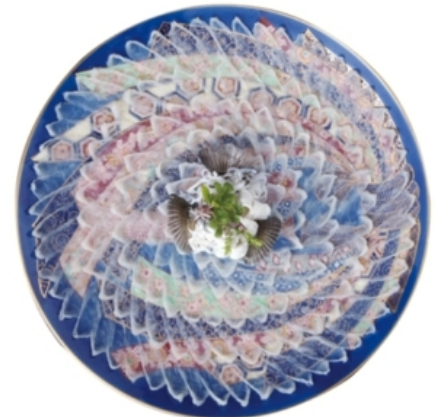
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Local Cuisine around Japan | 5 Supporting Ibaraki Prefecture |
| 2 CLAIR Executive Director visits Mr John Coates AC | 6 Supporting Akita Prefecture |
| 2 Multicultural Seminar 2016 | 6 Supporting Tokyo Metropolitan Government |
| 3 Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2016 | 6 Supporting Fukushima Food Products and Tourism |
| 3 Careers in Language Fair with UNSW | 7 Supporting Otsu City |
| 4 Queensland-Japan Networking Reception | 7 JET Programme's 30 th Anniversary |
| 4 Canberra-Nara Candle Festival | 8 JET 30 th Anniversary Ceremony |
| 5 Saitama Products Fair in Sydney | 8 From the Director |
| 5 Ibaraki Students visit to Australia | |

Local Cuisine around Japan: Vol. 1 Yamaguchi

Enticing Food from Yamaguchi Prefecture

Surrounded by sea on three sides, Yamaguchi Prefecture lies in the western part of the mainland Honshu, Japan, and is blessed with delicious food from the mountains and sea.

The winter season in Yamaguchi Prefecture brings to mind the blowfish. Since this fish is poisonous, during the Edo period, eating it was prohibited for a long time; however, in the Meiji period, the first prime minister of Japan, Hirobumi Ito, who was born in Yamaguchi, was impressed by its deliciousness and lifted the ban. In Shimonoseki City, number one for the amount of blowfish caught in Japan, blowfish or fugu is called fuku meaning good fortune.



Popular blowfish dishes range from blowfish sashimi presented beautifully with the skillful use of the chef's blade, blowfish hotpot, deep-fried blowfish, congealed blowfish, and grilled blowfish roe. Fans of the blowfish also appreciate the fish when it is dried, marinated, used as a topping for rice, or grilled. Using their dried fins to flavor sake is also popular.



Another product of interest is Japanese sake.

Yamaguchi Prefecture is surrounded by a rich natural environment and blessed with clear water and high quality rice, both of which are necessary ingredients for the production of Japanese sake, which is made in various parts of the prefecture. A type of sake has been produced using sake rice called "Saito no Shizuku," which was developed in Yamaguchi Prefecture. The sake is popular due to its high quality and clear flavor.

In recent years, the sake from Yamaguchi Prefecture has attracted the spotlight nationwide, and Yamaguchi Prefecture is the only one in the country to have a continuing increase in the amount of Japanese sake shipments for nine years straight.

Yamaguchi Prefecture has a wide variety of other food cultivated from its rich natural environment. Come and visit the “Country of Taste, Yamaguchi”.

For more information, please visit the [YAMAGUCHI TRAVEL GUIDE](#) website.

CLAIR Executive Director visits Mr John Coates AC

On 17th of October, Mr Saegusa, Executive Director of CLAIR visited Mr John Coates AC, Vice President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and President of the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC). Mr Saegusa thanked the IOC and AOC for providing a lot of information regarding the Olympic and Paralympic games to Tokyo and other local governments. He explained CLAIR’s role as a representative organisation for Japanese local governments and a hub for research and information exchanges.



This visit was CLAIR Sydney’s first contact with the IOC and AOC and we believe this will contribute to further cooperation in the future.

Multicultural Seminar 2016



Between 17th and 22nd October, CLAIR Sydney held the 2016 Multicultural Seminar. This seminar is held annually for a delegation consisting of officials from a variety of Japanese local governments to educate them about multicultural policies in Australia and help form future programs in their respective local governments. This year, the delegation visited and exchanged information and ideas with 10 organisations, including Multicultural NSW, Fairfield City Council and the Victorian Interpreting & Translating Service. It was a great opportunity for the delegates to understand

multiculturalism in Australia (specifically in NSW). CLAIR Sydney hopes that the delegates will make the most of their learning in their future activities. CLAIR Sydney would like to express our gratitude to all the organisations that collaborated with us during this successful seminar.

Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2016

From the 16th to the 18th October, CLAIR Sydney staff members attended the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2016 and ran a booth at the event.

At this year's conference, the key issue was the NSW council amalgamations which occurred on May 12th. At the Local Government Expo which was held on the first floor of the venue, we promoted tourism to Japan, CLAIR's activities and the JET Programme. Also, we interacted with Mayors, Councillors and General Managers of various councils in NSW. We will continue to strive to improve our service delivery by cooperating with local councils.



Careers in Language Fair with UNSW

On 9th November, CLAIR Sydney's Research and Liaison Officer, Jason Khoh, was invited to take part in a panel discussion at the Careers in Language Fair – Japanese (Bryan Brown Theatre, Bankstown) with UNSW Innovations' Joshua Flannery and ABC Radio's Eleni Psaltis to discuss the types of opportunities that exist for students and recent graduates who have Japanese language skills. It was a great to be able to share ideas with these two outstanding professionals and to also hear the other sessions and speak with the students afterwards. It was a good opportunity to spread the word about the JET Program and internship opportunities that exist here at CLAIR Sydney.



Queensland-Japan Networking Reception



On 31st October, CLAIR attended the Queensland-Japan Networking Reception held by the state government at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in Brisbane. Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier of Queensland, Hon Cameron Dick MP, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Hon Yvette D’Ath MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Training and Skills and other state ministers took part in the reception and Mr Hidehiro Hosaka, the Consul-General of Japan in Brisbane and Japanese business people also attended. We were very impressed with the hospitality of the Queensland government in hosting the event as more than one-third of Queensland’s councils have sister city relationships with Japanese cities. It was an excellent opportunity to reaffirm the deepening relationship between Queensland and Japan through local government, politics and business.

Canberra-Nara Candle Festival

On 29th October, CLAIR Sydney participated in the Canberra-Nara Candle Festival held in Canberra. The festival has been held annually since 2004 in Canberra’s Nara Peace Park and Lennox Gardens to further promote the Sister City relationship between Canberra and Nara. We promoted Nara City’s tourist spots and Takaoka City (Toyama prefecture) along with other areas of Japan.



Many people visited our booth, taking home brochures and other promotional materials. This year, visitors enjoyed Japanese cuisine and culture such as Kendo, Judo, calligraphy, Origami, Ikebana, and so on. After the sunset, approximately 2000 candles lit up the park with a beautiful gentle glow!

Saitama Products Fair in Sydney

On 24th October, the second Saitama Products Fair in Sydney was held. 12 local business representatives from Saitama participated in the fair to introduce various goodies such as rice crackers, Saitama wheat-based udon, seaweed, soy sauce and Japanese sake. The visiting business representatives were able to strike up conversation with many local business operators. We hope many fruitful deals will result from this event.



Ibaraki Students visit to Australia



On 11th October, seven students from Meikei High School in Ibaraki prefecture visited our office. Staff at CLAIR Sydney talked about how they got the opportunity to work/live abroad and the role of CLAIR Sydney. We had a very lively discussion with the students about life abroad and interesting aspects of Aussie culture.

Meikei High School organises annual school trips to Australia. The visits promote cultural understanding and help develop global-minded young adults for the workforce.

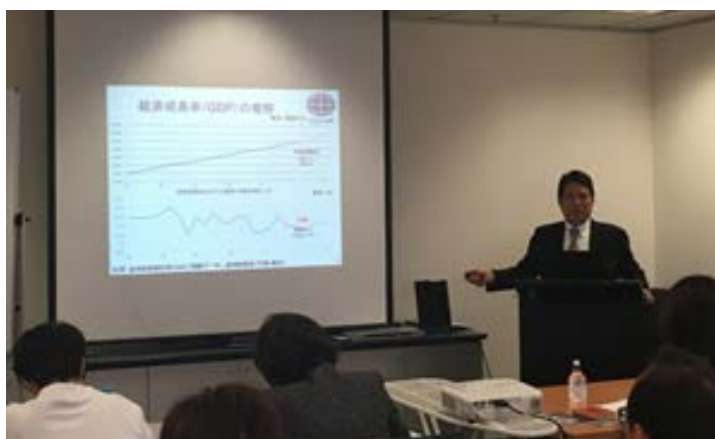
This year, they visited regional NSW for a farm stay. They also visited our office for the first time to gain insights into working abroad.

We hope the students found the session informative and interesting.

We wish them all the best in their future endeavours and hope to see them working abroad in the near future.

Supporting Ibaraki prefecture

On 26th October, trainees from Ibaraki prefecture participating in the 2016 Harmony Flight program visited our office. We gave a presentation on Australia and discussed differences between Australia and Japan, work-life balance, how to promote volunteer activities, working environment and resident welfare services from the point of view of women.



Supporting Akita prefecture



On 20th October, a delegation from the Akita Municipal Development Corporation which included Mr Mitsuyoshi Saito, the Mayor of Yuzawa-city and Mr Fumiaki Sasaki, the Mayor of Fujisato-town visited our office during their business trip to Australia and New Zealand. We presented them with the outline of the Australian public administration system. After the presentation, the delegates asked some questions regarding the OECD better life index and the financial situation of Australian local councils. Many of the questions

were to be expected from foreign public officials looking to understand more about the Australian government system.

Supporting Tokyo Metropolitan Government

On 6th October, CLAIR Sydney visited the Department of Premier and Cabinet of NSW with Mr Furumura who is visiting CLAIR Sydney from the Bureau of Environment, Tokyo Metropolitan Government. After Mr Furumura made a presentation regarding the outline of Tokyo and its environmental policies, we exchanged opinions with staff members from the NSW government. They asked questions about environmental problems and transportation in Tokyo.

Both parties voiced their hopes of continued cooperation between NSW and Tokyo. This visit also allowed CLAIR to further strengthen its ties with the NSW government.



Supporting Fukushima Food Products and Tourism



On 21st October, CLAIR Sydney supported the Fukushima Food Products and Tourism Promotion Event which was held at JETRO Sydney. At the event, Mr Miyakawa, Acting Consul-General of Japan, made a speech and representatives from Fukushima Prefectural Government and Fukushima Prefecture Tourism & Local Products Association gave presentations regarding tourism destination and foods in Fukushima. There were booths promoting sake, sauces and Kitakata ramen. Two staff members and an intern from CLAIR Sydney helped man these booths.

Supporting Otsu city



On 12th October, the members of Otsu City Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Shiga Prefecture, which holds a friendship agreement with Mosman visited our office. We presented them with the outline of the Australian political and economic environment.

They visited Mosman City Council and met with Dr Abelson, the Mayor of Mosman and executive members the following day. Both cities engage in a Friendship Agreement which promotes the exchange of culture and art at the local level. After meeting the Mayor, the delegation was given a tour of the Mosman Art Gallery which has displayed art pieces submitted by Otsu, including many drawings by Otsu youth, in the past.

JET Programme's 30th Anniversary

On 14th October, the JET Programme's 30th Anniversary event was held in Wellington. JETAA Wellington organised the event and invited Japanese ambassador to New Zealand, former JETs, SCNZ, Wellington-Sakai sister city association and other related organisations. We congratulated them on the 30th anniversary of the JET Programme. We will continuously strive to work together to ensure the ongoing success of JET programme in New Zealand.



On the following day, CLAIR staff members attended the SCNZ Youth Subcommittee meeting. Ms Morris, President of SCNZ made a presentation about their activities and future direction. We expect increased sister city activities with the new appointment of Mr Sanders as the youth Ambassador for Dunedin. CLAIR will continue to assist in sister city activities between Japan and New Zealand with SCNZ.

JET 30th Anniversary Ceremony



On 20th October, JETAA NSW and CLAIR Sydney held the JET 30th Anniversary Ceremony. This year's Returnee Reception was also held at the same time with the cooperation of the Consulate-General of Japan, Sydney. Mr Saegusa, Executive Director of CLAIR, and Mr Miyakawa, Acting Consul-General, made a speech and the JET returnees introduced themselves to everyone. After that there was a cake-cutting ceremony.

A few first-batch JET alumni members, Japanese government organisations and Japanese private companies attended the event as well. As such, it was a great opportunity to network and talk about individual JET experiences.



From the Director

13 –Shichi-Go-San Celebration - A Year of Local Governments in Japan

We, Japanese, participate in *Shichi-Go-San* (literally, seven-five-three) celebrations in November. Parents go to shrines with their children to pray they grow up strong and healthy, and the children often wear traditional kimonos. This celebration is for boys who are three or five and girls who are three or seven years of age.

The result of the Japanese census in 2015 was revealed this October. This census was remarkable as the total population decreased for the first time since the first Japanese census in 1920. In particular, the declining population of younger generations was particularly pronounced due to the low overall birthrate. The percentage of the Japanese population under 15 years of age is only 12.6 per cent, which is the lowest in the world and less than half the population aged 65 years and over (26.6 per cent).

The census also revealed that 82.5 per cent of Japanese local governments have declining populations and they are now looking for ways to increase the birthrate in their respective administrative regions. Firstly, they support child birth through the creation of more childcare centres and financial assistance for mothers. Next, they often hold *Konkatsu* parties where young unmarried men and women gather in the hope of finding their future partner. *Konkatsu* means “activities for marriage” and they have increased in popularity as people don’t have time to arrange their own meetings due to long working hours, shyness towards potential partners, and in rural areas, where there are fewer young adults, these activities have become especially popular.

This means that children in Japan are not only treasured by their families, but also by the nation as a whole and many regions in Japan.

Katsunori Kamibo
Director