



Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR Sydney)

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Issue No. 58 / December 2012

*Season's Greetings from all of us at
Japan Local Government Centre
(CLAIR Sydney)*

*Thinking of you with Warm Wishes for a Very
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

Farewell message from Benjamin Trumbull

After three years working at CLAIR Sydney unfortunately it has become time to say goodbye.

I have greatly enjoyed the diversity of work I have been involved with during my time here and have learned a lot about various government related issues, international relations, and Japanese working culture.

I feel lucky to have met many wonderful individuals across local and state government, and NPOs around Australia and New Zealand, especially those working tirelessly to support Australia-Japan, and NZ-Japan relations, particularly after the events of March 2011.

I look forward to continuing my relationship with Japan through my role as a committee member of Sydney JETAA.

Arigatou gozaimashita!





Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR Sydney)

Supporting Himeji City

On 15 November, a delegation from Himeji City in Hyogo prefecture visited CLAIR Sydney. The delegation was on its way back to Japan after attending the 30th anniversary celebrations of Himeji's Sister City relationship with the City of Adelaide.

CLAIR Sydney introduced the Australia local government system to the delegation, as well as the many heritage sites located in The Rocks near Sydney's CDB. Japanese local authorities in Himeji and other places may use the example of Australia's modern effective use of heritage buildings in their own tourism strategies.

Himeji is famous for the beautiful Himeji Castle, added to UNESCO's World Heritage list in 1993. If you have an interest in castles, Himeji is definitely worth visiting!

Himeji city--> <http://www.himeji-kanko.jp/en/>

Supporting the activities of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly

On 2 November, a delegation from the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly visited CLAIR Sydney to research Australian market conditions, particularly the feasibility of exporting Okinawa's unique food and beverages.

Okinawa is famous for its majestic seas and warm climate all year round. Make your next holiday one to an Okinawan resort!

Okinawa--><http://www.okinawastory.jp/en/>

JETAA Regional Conference 2012

This year, we had the pleasure of attending the JETAA Regional Conference in Wellington, New Zealand, from 9 November to 11. The theme of this year's conference was "Celebrate, Connect, and Engage". The conference began with a fantastic reception at the Embassy of Japan in Wellington. The delegates were warmly welcomed by Minister Fujiwara and JETAA Wellington's executive committee members. The conference was filled with many interesting workshops. Delegates from the different JETAA chapters around Australia and New Zealand presented on their respective chapter's unique history and past activities. Many JETAA chapters have been established for over 10 years and accomplished a lot during that time.

The delegates also participated in an "Amazing Race" style workshop around Wellington, which was a chance for everyone to get to know each other better. Also, in collaboration with Jun Arita, a Japanese graphic designer based in Auckland, the delegates discussed the future of the JETAA chapters and spent time trying to develop a new brand for JETAA Oceania.

JETAA chapters are a great way to not only promote the JET program but to also promote Japan and the idea of international exchange in general. We hope that JETAA chapters remain active and dedicated to this cause.





Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR Sydney)

Multiculturalism Study Tour



Every year, we organize a multiculturalism study tour in Sydney for Japanese local government officers and staff. This year, we had eight representatives from various government organizations participate in the study tour from 19-24 November. The purpose of the delegation's visit was to research multiculturalism, and to view first-hand, services for migrants of different backgrounds in Australia.

Over the study tour, the delegation had the opportunity to visit two NSW government departments: the Community Relations Commission (CRC) and the Department of Education and Communities (DEC International). Both CRC and DEC play an instrumental role in the advocacy of a multicultural society. The programs and initiatives that they offer are extremely advanced and the delegates were inspired by their presentations. It was great to see that both organizations are very supportive and proud of the multiculturalism here in Australia.

One of the highlights of the study tour was visiting Croydon Park Public School. The delegates were able to see how multiculturalism policies are incorporated into the education system. Special thanks to Jenni Shipp for providing the delegation with this opportunity.

Also, the delegation was able to visit the State Emergency Operations Centre in Lidcombe, thanks to Mr. Tony Jarrett. Since Japan is prone to natural disasters, this was a very valuable experience for the delegation.

The delegation also visited Hurstville City Council and Fairfield City Council. It was very helpful to hear about some of the issues that the councils have faced in the past, and how they addressed these issues.

In addition to all this, the delegation was fortunate enough to learn in great detail about the various services offered to migrants by the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW (ECC) and the Adult Migrant English Services (AMES).

This year's study tour was a great success. The delegates will be able to apply the knowledge they gained from this experience to improve life for migrants in Japan.

We are very grateful to the organizations and councils who warmly welcomed the delegation. Thank you again for your support.





Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR Sydney)

Sister Cities Australia 2012

From 11 November to 13, we attended the Sister Cities Australia Annual Conference in Devonport, Tasmania. We were able to hear from a number of Australian Councils and learn about their domestic exchange and international exchange programs. In addition, other international guests in attendance from New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Korea, and China shared their experiences in relation to sister cities. The conference gave us the opportunity to think about sister city programs from numerous perspectives, with particular focus on the challenges facing sister city relationships.

Over the course of the conference, we enjoyed listening to many wonderful presentations. Dr Colin Jones, a Senior Lecturer at the University of Tasmania, explored the idea of how sister cities can become more entrepreneurial and fair better in an increasingly competitive world. Mr Stephen Duxfield, Director of Sister Cities New Zealand, talked about New Zealand's diplomatic relationship with Japan which began in 1952. As Mr Duxfield pointed out, 60% of New Zealand's sister city relationships are with Japan. Also, we were happy to learn that corporations like Mazda have begun to support the activities of the New Zealand Japan Society (NZJS).

Mr Rob Soward, Alderman, Launceston City Council, emphasized that sister cities can develop personal, cultural, educational, and trade ties. In particular, he highlighted Launceston's sister city relationship with Ikeda in Japan, which has been very successful. We hope that Australia, New Zealand, and Japan will continue to strengthen their current sister city relationships and develop new ones in the future.



20th Anniversary of the Lake Macquarie – Hakodate Sister City Relationship



Lake Macquarie council has a sister city relationship with Hakodate in Hokkaido prefecture, and this year marks the 20th anniversary.

Delegates from Hakodate, including the Vice Mayor and Chairperson of the City Assembly, visited Lake Macquarie from 14th to 16th of November. In commemoration of the 20th anniversary, a mayoral welcome reception was held and a lot of participants including Mayor Jodie Harrison and the Chairperson of the Hakodate City Assembly made speeches.

In their speeches, both sides talked about cultural exchange opportunities they have had over the last 20 years, involving student exchanges, sports, and so on. They were thankful that the sister city relationship has resulted in their respective citizens developing a deeper understanding of another culture. They also expressed a desire to continue such exchange opportunities and further expand or improve certain aspects of the sister city relationship.

The strong sister city relationship between Lake Macquarie and Hakodate will continue to contribute to the advancement of friendly relations between Australia and Japan for years to come.

Hakodatate---> <http://www.city.hakodate.jp/kikaku/english>

From the Director:

50th Anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Australia and Japan



Last month I attended the Sister Cities Australia 2012 Annual Conference and had the opportunity to make a presentation about CLAIR Sydney's role in Sister City relationships between Australia and Japan.

In my presentation, I emphasized the year 1963 which was when the first sister city relationship was established between Australia and Japan. This means next year,

2013 is the 50th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Lismore City Council in NSW and Yamatotakada City in Nara prefecture.

To mark 50 years, 2013 will be designated as the "Japan-Australia Exchange Promotion Year" by the Japan National Tourism Organization and Tourism Australia.

Also, CLAIR will be promoting sister city relationships throughout the next year. We will hold the annual CLAIR forum on this 50 year-old history of sister city relationships and further development between Australia and Japan.

The Lismore-Yamatotakada 50th anniversary will be on August 7th next year in Lismore. The CLAIR forum will take place on August 5th in Sydney.

We now have 103 sister city relationships with Australian local governments. Australia and Japan's sister cities have engaged in cultural exchange, sports exchange, student exchange, and thus developed a successful grass roots relationship over time.

Through this forum, we would like to look back on the history between Japan and Australia, and further strengthen the relationship between the two nations.

I would like to ask all of the councils which have sister city relationships with Japan to participate in this forum.



With Cr. Jenny Dowell, the Mayor of Lismore City Council