



Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR Sydney)

Level 12, Challis House, 4 Martin Place

Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

TEL: +61 2 9241 5033

Email: mailbox@jlgc.org.au



Issue No. 59 / January 2013

Correspondence

Japan Expo and Matsuri in Sydney 2012



The “Japan Expo and Matsuri in Sydney 2012” was held in Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour, on the 15th of December, which proved to be a beautiful summer day.

This festival’s aims were to showcase the various aspects of Japanese culture like the tradition of festivals and animation, and to distribute tourism information since 2013 has been designated as the Japanese tourism

exchange year in Australia. We operated a booth that promoted tourism with plenty of brochures and pamphlets on places to visit in Japan.

According to officials, the event attracted over 15,000 people. They visited our booth and took a lot of tourism brochures provided by Japanese local governments. Of course, visitors were able to enjoy delicious Japanese food at the neighbouring stalls (or “Yatai” in Japanese) as well.



Tohoku Tourism Promotion Organisation, Tokyo metropolitan government, and Okinawa prefecture ran their own separate booths at this festival to further encourage and promote tourism.

We look forward to promoting Japanese culture and tourism in the future, and we hope a lot of Australians will visit Japan and experience Japanese culture firsthand.

For more information, please see the links below!

If you want to know more about Tokyo: <http://www.gotokyo.org/en/index.html>



Let's Go Skiing in Tohoku

If you like skiing, please visit the Tohoku Tourism Promotion Organisation’s website:

<http://en.tohokukanko.jp/>

If you would enjoy the slow pace of life found in Okinawa slow life: <http://www.ocvb.or.jp/en/>



Welcome to Okinawa

Visitors from Otsu city

Mosman council and Otsu city have had a citizen’s friendship agreement since 2010. Two delegates from Otsu visited Mosman council and discussed exchange opportunities for students and citizens. They also did some sightseeing, and enjoyed an Aussie BBQ as well.

We are looking forward to working with both cities to promote and facilitate their exchanges.





Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR Sydney)

MAV ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN MELBOURNE

On 5th December 2012, CLAIR Sydney participated in the annual conferences of MAV as delegates and as a sponsor.

At the conference, we promoted CLAIR's activities, Japanese tourism, and sister city relationships among other things. We also met many people at our exhibition booth and made a lot of contacts.

We were so happy to talk to everyone who visited our booth.

Many thanks, and we hope we will continue to keep good relations.

We are always happy to offer information on the Japan Local Government system at Australian Local Government events, especially by way of presentations by our Director.



From the Director: Japanese local governments in January

Happy New Year! I wish you all the very best for the year 2013. I am very grateful to you for the kindness you showed us last year and look forward to your continued goodwill this year as well. This is my first time to welcome the New Year in the Southern hemisphere, and I enjoyed the NYE fireworks display in Sydney.

Today I am writing about what Japanese local governments are doing in January. In Japan, local governments' offices usually start from 4th January. We have New Year holidays from 29th December to 3rd January. In January, as it is the beginning of the year, we have a lot of occasions to celebrate the New Year. For example, local government executives attend parties hosted by the chambers of commerce and the New Year's parades of fire fighters.



Traditional ladder performance at the New Year's fire fighters parades

Staff of local governments have many busy days in January because they have to finish preparing the draft of next fiscal year's budget. Japanese fiscal year begins on April 1st. Usually from November to January, the finance division hears about the necessity of each project from the staff in charge. After the national budget draft is released at the end of December, they estimate next year's revenue and a governor or mayor finally makes decisions on important matters. In February, a governor or mayor finalizes the draft and submits it to an assembly to get approval before the new fiscal year starts on 1st April.

This year, staff of local governments may have a tougher time. A national election of lower house was held last December and a new government was established at the end of that month. The next fiscal year's national budget draft will be revealed in January together with the supplementary budget. Staff of local governments have to get the one month delay back on track as well as prepare for their supplementary budget in this fiscal year. With all that being said, I believe they will work hard to get past the difficulties in order to make effective and efficient budgets for their residents.