



Correspondence Correspondence



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Sydney Running Festival and Nagoya City Marathon become sister marathons



Prior to the 2012 Sydney Running Festival, on 21st August, a sister marathon affiliation signing ceremony was held between the Sydney Running Festival and the Nagoya City Marathon at Sydney City Town Hall. The Deputy Mayor of Nagoya and the Chairperson of Nagoya City Assembly travelled to Sydney to attend the ceremony, and were joined by the Vice Mayor and some Councillors from the City of Sydney, representatives from the Blackmores Sydney Running Festival, and the Sydney

Nagoya Sister City Committee. CLAIR Sydney worked closely with these parties to assist in coordinating and supporting Nagoya's visit.

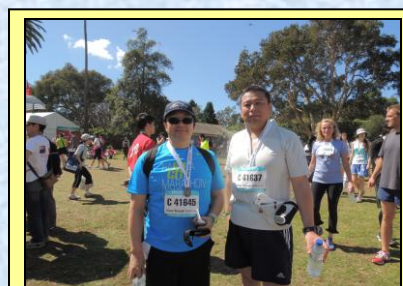


Sydney and Nagoya have had a highly valued sister city relationship since 1980 with cultivated exchange in various areas strengthening their bonds of friendship.

The 2012 Sydney Running Festival was held on Sunday 16 September. More than 34,000 people including some of our staff participated in the festival and enjoyed running or jogging under the bright blue sky. This festival started in 2001 to promote fitness and health for the NSW community and to promote Sydney as an international tourist destination for runners.

With the support of the two cities, the Sydney Running Festival and Nagoya City Marathon became engaged in this sister marathon affiliation.

This affiliation is expected to enhance the mutual development of both events, and contribute toward the further progression of the cities' friendship.



CLAIR staff at the festival

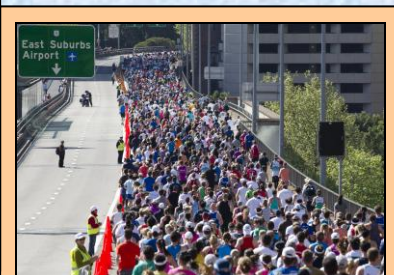


Photo: Craig Golding



Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR Sydney)

CLAIR supports visit from Hiroshima University professors

During August, three professors from Hiroshima University admissions centre visited Australia in order to research the education system and transition from high school to university in Australia and draw comparisons with Japan. CLAIR Sydney made the necessary appointments for the group.

In Japan, candidates for public universities sit two examinations. First is a nation wide examination. Candidates can then take a second examination at public universities based on their score. In the case of private universities, candidates sit separate private university examinations. During their stay, the Hiroshima university professors visited the NSW Department of Education & Communities (DEC) and Government Education and Training International (GETI) Tasmania for briefings on the systems in these states. In Hobart, the delegates were able to meet a high school career counsellor and former students and their parents to discuss their career path and choices. Overall it was a great opportunity for the professors who gained a lot of useful information from the visits.



We would like to thank DEC and GETI for their kind assistance.

Willoughby Spring Festival, Multicultural Costumes Show



A Multicultural Costume Show was held on 19th September at the Willoughby City Council Concourse Theatre.

The show was part of the 2012 Willoughby Spring Festival, and was an event to illustrate Willoughby's diversity. Our director, Yasuhiko Tanabe and staff members were invited to represent CLAIR at the event. During the show, local groups representing eleven countries including Japan introduced their culture, traditional dress and dances.

At the end of the show, all participants joined each other on the stage, in a colourful display of multiculturalism. The Mayor of Willoughby joined them to give a closing address.

Leaflets promoting the event were written in eight languages including English, further highlighting Willoughby's efforts in the area of multiculturalism.





Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR Sydney)

From the Director: the system of regional cooperation in Japan



On September 18th, I had a chance to talk about the system of regional cooperation used by the Japanese local government at the Centre for Local Government, University of Technology, Sydney. It was one of the sessions within a three day program for council executives especially focused on shared services.

Historically, Japanese municipalities have developed regional cooperatives to deal with a lot of responsibilities. In terms of the methods of implementing regional administration, there are eight kinds of systems. All of them are based on Local Autonomy Law.

Among these, the major systems which many municipalities have adopted are Partial Cooperatives and Wide-area Cooperatives. Partial Cooperatives are organizations established by two or more local governments to deal with issues more efficiently and effectively. Wide-area Cooperatives are the organizations established to develop plans for affairs covering a large area and to handle these affairs comprehensively and systematically. These two regional cooperatives may be similar to County Council or Regional Organization of Councils.

The most frequent type of duties delegated to regional cooperatives are those of garbage disposal, sewage and fire services. I used fire services as a good example for illustrating the merits of regional cooperatives. They can be better

organized and enhanced by expanding the size of municipality fire services into regional cooperatives. Immediately after the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011, Emergency Fire and Rescue Teams from 44 other prefectures were instructed to mobilize to the main disaster areas of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures. Land based units and helicopter teams were engaged in search and rescue efforts, as well as fire extinguishing. Overall, Emergency Fire and Rescue Teams rescued more than 5,000 people. I think that is the great result of improved fire services throughout Japan.

Recently, as municipal amalgamations in Japan have occurred, this kind of nationwide, large-scale reorganization of municipalities has exerted an influence on the pattern of regional cooperation. Many regional cooperatives have been integrated into a larger municipality. In addition, Japan is becoming an aging society and the population of Japan has begun to decrease. People tend to live in big cities such as Tokyo. Under these conditions, rural areas in particular are slipping into a vicious cycle where facilities related to daily life such as schools and hospitals are becoming inconvenient to use, leading to further population decline.

The concept of Regional Alliances was promoted from the perspective of trying to stem the outflow of people from rural areas, and create a flow of people in the reverse direction, into rural areas. Regional Alliances are meant to be formed as the result of an accumulation of one-to-one agreements concluded by their own initiatives between a core city and the surrounding municipalities. They are not regulated by Local Autonomy Law, so they can select more flexible ways to implement their duties. Regional Alliances somewhat look like the system of Strategic Alliances here in terms of their flexibility.

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Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR Sydney)

Based on the concept of “intensity and networking”, core cities work to develop centralized urban capacities such as medical care, welfare, education, land use and industrial development which benefit everyone in the region.

At the same time, their surrounding municipalities contribute to revitalization by promoting agriculture and tourism, and maintaining a rich natural environment. In this way, both core and outlying elements of the region work together toward the goal of revitalization. The system of Regional Alliances is now expanding throughout Japan.

I believe the important recent key words concerning regional cooperation are the principle of subsidiarity, the principle of self-sustainability and the principle of symbiosis. I hope these key words are common in Australia as well. For more information, please see my presentation data;

<http://www.jlgc.org.au/JLGC%20from%2020101214/newsletter/Newsletter/rc.pdf>

The Cowra Breakout (by Tomohiko Okuno)



**The memorial service
at the Cowra War Cemetery**

Do you know the tragic history of the Cowra Breakout?

I recently had the opportunity to visit Cowra with JETAA Sydney members.

During the middle of the night, on August 5th, 1944, more than 1000 Japanese prisoners of war whom were being held at the Cowra prisoner of war camp launched a mass ‘suicide attack’. Australian treatment of the prisoners was in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, nevertheless, The POWs felt disgraced because of being captured. To the Japanese POWs, it was believed that their disgrace could finally be overcome by dying in armed battle.

A bugle was sounded to start their attack. Armed with crude weapons such as kitchen knives, they threw themselves on to barbed wire fences and into the firing line of Vickers machine guns. All 334 escapees were recaptured within 9 days of the breakout. Four Australian soldiers and 234 Japanese POWs died and 108 were wounded in the conflict.

The tragedy of war and the story of the Cowra Breakout have nowadays brought reconciliation and friendship, especially between the people of Australia and Japan.

The Cowra War Cemetery, where those Japanese and Australians who died on Australian soil lie peacefully, opened in 1963. The Cowra Japanese Gardens were established in 1979 and remain a place of peace and a symbol of reconciliation between Australia and Japan.

Sakura Avenue, lined with cherry trees or *Sakura* connects the Japanese Gardens, the site of the POW Camp, and the War Cemetery.

A memorial service is held at the War Cemetery every year in spring when the cherry trees are in blossom. This year, the service was held on the 23rd of September, the day after the annual Sakura Festival held at the Cowra Japanese Gardens. Next year, the memorial will be held on the 28th of September, 2013.

Cowra has been awarded a bronze Peace Bell, one of only seven worldwide.

If you have the opportunity, I highly recommend a visit to Cowra to learn more about the Cowra Breakout and effects for peace.



**JETAA members and friends
at the Sakura Festival**