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Correspondence

CLAIR Forum 2013

- Japan-Australia Sister Cities 50th Anniversary Forum -



Monday, 5 August 2013

Time: 13:30 – 18:30 **Venue:** The Westin Sydney Heritage Ballroom (1 Martin Place, Sydney, NSW 2000)

Register by **Monday, 15 July 2013**

Registration forms can be found on the bottom of this page or click [here](#)

Seats are limited,
so please register ASAP!

Japan-Australia Sister Cities 50th Anniversary Forum (2013 CLAIR Forum)

The year 2013 marks 50 years since the signing of the sister city relationship between Yamatotakada in Nara prefecture and Lismore in NSW. Established in 1963, this is the very first sister city link between Japan and Australia.

Today, there are 108 sister city and state relationships between Japan and Australia. These sister cities and states are actively engaged in cultural exchange activities.

At this year's CLAIR Forum, we will be looking at the history of sister cities so far, as well as exchanging ideas on the development of sister cities in the future.

2013 has also been designated as 'The Year of Australia –Japan Partner for Tourism Exchange'. We will be working to publicise tourism for Japanese local governments together with JNTO Sydney with the hope of deepening the exchange of both countries and bringing more visitors from both sides.

If you would like to attend, we ask that you complete a [registration form](#) by **Monday, 15 July**. Seats are limited, so please contact us by email as soon as possible to register.

More details on next page →

Details of the 2013 CLAIR Forum

- **Date:** **Monday 5 August, 2013**
- **Time:** 13:30 – 18:30
- **Venue:** The Westin Sydney Heritage Ballroom (1 Martin Place, Sydney, NSW 2000)
- **Host:** Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR Sydney), Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO Sydney)
- **Sponsors:** Consulate-General of Japan, Sydney; University of Technology, Sydney; The Centre of Excellence for Local Government; Sister Cities Australia

【Program】

- 13:00 **Reception**
- 13:30 **Opening**
Opening address by *Ms. Yoko Kimura*, CLAIR's Chairperson of the Board of Directors
Greeting by *Father Paul Glynn*, Marist Fathers Australia
Congratulatory Greeting by the *Hon. Andrew Stoner*, MP, Deputy Premier of New South Wales
- 13:50 **Looking back 50 years in the development of Sister Cities**
From Japan: *Mr. Masakatsu Yoshida*, Mayor of Yamatotakada
From Australia: *Ms. Jenny Dowell*, Mayor of Lismore
Address by *Ald. William Wilson*, President of Sister Cities Australia
Address by *Mr. Yasuhiko Tanabe*, Director of CLAIR Sydney
- 14:45 **Lecture**
Dr. Masahiro Kohara, Consul-General of Japan in Sydney
- 15:00 **Afternoon tea**
- 15:30 **About further development of Japan-Australia Sister Cities**
Facilitator: *Ms. Roberta Ryan*, Director of the Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) at UTS
Clr. Robert Kok, City of Sydney
Clr. Alan Le Surf, Deputy Mayor, Manly Council
Ms. Chris Hughes, International Relations Coordinator, City of Perth
Opinions from the audiences and conclusion by the Facilitator
- 16:30 **The Year of Australia-Japan Partner for Tourism Exchange and publicizing tourism in Japan**
- 17:00 **Network Drinks & Tourism display**
- 18:30 **Close**



The Governor of *Wakayama Prefecture* Made the Top Sales in Sydney

On 7 May, Governor of Wakayama prefecture Yoshinobu Nisaka visited Sydney for a promotion seminar on Wakayama, making a presentation on his home prefecture's beautiful foods and tourist hotspots. Wakayama has many traditional rural products,



Umeshu (Japanese plum wine), soy sauce, vinegar, *Umeboshi* (pickled plum) among others.

In the field of tourism, the Governor promoted Wakayama's

world heritage sites *Koyasan* and *Kumanokodo*. A large audience attended this event and admired the places and foods on offer.

Members of Wakayama Prefectural Assembly also visited Sydney and attended this seminar.



During their trip, they had a chance to visit many places which related to some of Wakayama's policy goals. CLAIR also gave the Members a presentation on Australia and its political and economic system.

Wakayama's mission concluded on a successful note with concerted effort from many quarters, including CLAIR.

We hope Japanese local products, including Wakayama products, will be spread more in Australia in the near future.

-Tomohiko Okuno, Assistant Director

2013 Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) National Congress

From 20-21 May, we attended the LGMA National Congress & Business Expo in Hobart, Tasmania. We promoted CLAIR's activities, Japanese local governments, 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.

At the congress, our Director Mr. Tanabe made a presentation on the role of local government after a disaster, using 11 March 2011 as an example. He stressed the most important point is pre-preparedness.



We also went to Hobart City Council for a meeting with council staff. Hobart city and Yaizu city (Shizuoka prefecture, Japan) have a very good sister city relationship, often holding sister city events. We are always happy to cooperate with them.

Review and Enhance Local Government Service Delivery – UTS Professional Development Program

Over a three day period in May, the UTS Centre for Local Government hosted a program that focussed on reviewing and enhancing the delivery of services in Australian local governments. In attendance were a diverse group of officials

from a variety of rural councils who had participated in order to obtain skills that would better equip their local governments in delivering services. The program focussed in particular on alternative service delivery models, where our Director Mr. Tanabe made a presentation on the Japanese system of 'Regional Cooperation'. Here Mr. Tanabe exemplified the ways in which Japanese municipalities cooperate in order to more efficiently deliver services to communities. One such example is the way

Continued on next page →

that local municipalities collaborate on the delivery of fire services across governments to provide enhanced and more coordinated protection for residents. The delegates were highly interested in the Japanese use of 'Regional Cooperation', which was demonstrated through the questions that were posed on the different applications of the system. Mr. Tanabe's presentation provided insight into ways that Australian local councils can draw from relevant international systems to

improve the services provided in local communities. Overall the UTS Professional Development Program proffered new perspectives on service delivery for the regional councillors and also facilitated opportunities for further collaboration between local and international authorities.

Rick Seymour

Snow Travel Expo 2013 in Sydney

The Snow Travel Expo 2013 was held at the Sydney Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, on 26 May, with exhibitors from around the world, including of course Japan. This Expo aimed to promote ski tourism and brand-new ski goods to Australia. According to officials, the event attracted over 7,000 people.

Hokkaido Tourism Organization, Tohoku Tourism Promotion Organization, Nagano region and Niigata region ran their own booths at the Expo to further encourage and promote their ski resorts, with the support of CLAIR Sydney.

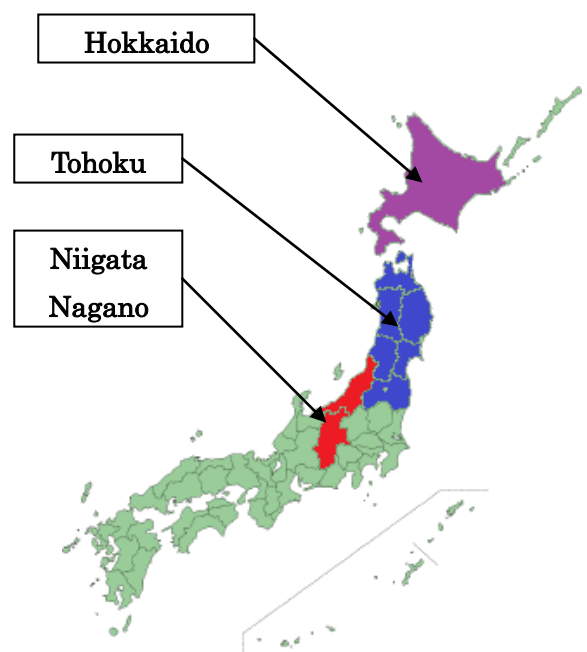
The day after the Expo, the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) organised the Snow and Adventure Seminar 2013, holding tourism presentations for travel agents in Australia.

Many Australians love to go skiing in Japan, attracted in particular by powder snow, *onsen* – hot springs, and Japanese food.

Come have a great snow experience in Japan this northern winter!

For more information about skiing in Japan, visit:

<http://jnto.org.au/ski-destinations/>



Networking dinner with Japan-related organisations in Perth

I had the pleasure of attending a networking dinner on 29 May at the official residence of Consul-General of Japan in Perth, Mr. Tatsuo Ishikawa. Together with committee members of the Australia-Japan Society of WA, the JET Alumni Association of WA, and the Japanese Language Teachers Association of WA, many people from the Perth area gathered, exchanging views and strengthening links with one another. Following the Consul-General's greeting, I had the honour of giving a short

address to attendees about this year's marking of 50 years since the first Australian-Japanese sister city relationship, with Lismore in New South Wales and Yamatotakada in Nara prefecture, and my hopes for the deepening of ties between Japan and Australia in the future.

-Tsuyoshi Ito, CLAIR Sydney Deputy Director



Opening of The Hyogo Friendship Garden in Perth



Accepting the invitation of WA Premier Colin Barnett, I attended the opening of the Hyogo Friendship Garden in Perth on 31 May, in place of our Director Mr. Tanabe.

Representing the presenter of the garden, Hyogo prefecture, was Vice Governor of Hyogo, Tomoyuki Yoshimoto. The Vice Governor remarked that the 'circular design of the rock garden taking images from whirling tides around Awaji Island, where the garden's tiles hail from, is a symbol of the circle of

friendship between Western Australia and Hyogo prefecture,' receiving huge applause from those gathered.

Premier Barnett and Vice Governor Yoshimoto also unveiled a memorial plaque, and after posing for a group photo with guests, the official part of the festivities finished.

With this garden as a new example of the friendly exchange between Western Australia and Hyogo prefecture, we look forward to even stronger relations in the years to come.

-Tsuyoshi Ito, CLAIR Sydney Deputy Director

Visiting City of Perth and WALGA

On 30 May, I visited the City of Perth offices and the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA). At the City's offices, I met with Executive Officer Dale Quinlivan, and International Relations Coordinator Chris Hughes. Ms. Hughes



will present at this year's CLAIR Forum to be held at Sydney's Westin Hotel on 5 August.

At WALGA, I had a fruitful discussion with WALGA's CEO

Ricky Burges, as well as with Troy Pickard, Mayor of the City of Joondalup; among other things, we talked about our organisations' upcoming events: the CLAIR Forum, and

WALGA's WA Local Government Convention and Trade Exhibition, scheduled for 7-9 August in Perth.

-Tsuyoshi Ito, CLAIR Sydney Deputy Director





Peace Arch Hiroshima

～Towards the Creation of "Hiroshima International Peace Hub"～

Hiroshima Prefectural Office is holding "World Peace Concert "HIROSHIMA" 2013", featuring several concerts by world-famous artists **from Saturday 27 July to Monday 5 August.**

Hiroshima is internationally known as a symbol of recovery and peace. To strongly convey the message of peace, and to establish a way to continuously contribute to world peace, Hiroshima Prefectural Office is driving forward with the Peace Arch Hiroshima Project. As a main event of the project, Hiroshima Prefectural Office hosts the concerts in various genres, such as classical, pop, etc.

During the events, famous artists including Grammy Award winners will join the concert.

Join Hiroshima! Let us work together for peace in the world!

Artists (as an example)

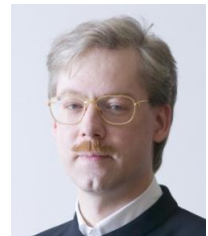
Peter Cetera

(U.S. , singer)



Stanislav Stanislavovich Bunin

(Germany, Pianist)



Quincy Jones

(Record producer,
Conductor, Arranger,
Composer)



Ryuichi Sakamoto

(Japan, Musician, Composer,
Arranger, Record Producer,
Pianist)



For more information, visit: <http://www.peace-arch-hiroshima.net/wpc/> (Japanese only)

Farewell and best wishes!
*- From **Atra Ardekani***



Hi everyone,

This will be my last month working at CLAIR Sydney as a Research and Liaison Officer. I have greatly enjoyed working at CLAIR Sydney and I will cherish the memories I have made here. I was able to

further my appreciation for Japan and various aspects of Japanese culture. I was also able to meet many wonderful people in Australia and New Zealand through events like the Multiculturalism Study Tour, CLAIR Forum, Nagoya-Sydney Sister City Committee, Sister Cities Australia Conference, Sister Cities

New Zealand Conference, and so on.

Thank you for the support and assistance you have provided me during my tenure. It has been an invaluable experience. I hope the cultural, economic, and educational ties between Japan and Australia/New Zealand will continue to stay strong well into the future.

All the best,

Atra Ardekani

Email: atra.cir@gmail.com

*Greeting from **Ria Kim**,*
Currently on an internship at CLAIR



Hello, my name is Ria Kim and I began my internship at CLAIR Sydney from the end of

May 2013. I was born in Korea and graduated high school in Japan. Now, I'm studying at The University of Sydney, majoring in Japanese studies and Philosophy. This is my last semester of University so I'm very looking forward to graduating in a month and working in international relations.

As my mother is a Japanese professor and having frequent visits to Japan with my parents for their research, there is always a lot of Japanese cultural atmosphere at home. Therefore, I was very familiar to Japan and Japanese culture from earlier years.

Life in Japan gave me a lot of valuable experiences – I learnt Japanese culture and perspectives as a member of Japanese

society. The interest towards Japan has been getting bigger thanks to that background, and now I aim to work in international relations at a Japanese company or in the public sector. I'm also interested in China and Chinese language, so I'll be going to China, Peking University in July for The University of Sydney's exchange programme.

I've lived in Sydney for 6 years and have been working in international and multicultural fields as well as at the Korean Cultural Office Australia, Korean Consulate-General in Sydney and the NSW Ministry of Health. This is my first time to work at a Japanese government agency, so I look forward to learning and experience a lot of things regarding Japanese government's operation, Japanese local government duties and systems and its relations to other countries.

I feel very lucky to be working at CLAIR Sydney with great and kind people and am always excited to come to work. I thank them for warmly welcoming me as a member.

From The Director

Rebuilding a great society

Last month, I attended the Local Government Managers Australia National Congress and had the opportunity to make a presentation about how to reconstruct a community after a disaster, using the Earthquake and Tsunami of 11 March 2011 as a case study.



Japanese municipalities have a primary responsibility for disaster management. Mayors have the right and duty to issue evacuation orders, help and support the victims and operate the shelters.

In my presentation, I discussed some tips about disaster management for local government executives.

The most important point I stressed is pre-preparedness. Ask if you are ready, know what to do immediately following a disaster, and have reliable people in charge.

My presentation slides are at the link below:

http://www.jlgc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/21.May_13-Rebuilding-a-great-society-by-CLAIR-LGMA.pdf and

[http://www.lgma.org.au/downloads/Files/Mr%20Tanabe%2021_May_13%20Rebuilding%20a%20great%20society%20by%20CLAIR%20\(LGMA\).pdf](http://www.lgma.org.au/downloads/Files/Mr%20Tanabe%2021_May_13%20Rebuilding%20a%20great%20society%20by%20CLAIR%20(LGMA).pdf)

If you are interested in my presentation, I am happy to talk about Japanese disaster management and recovery with your council staff.

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