



Correspondence

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Japan Local
Government Centre
(CLAIR, Sydney)

Level 12 Challis House
4 Martin Place Sydney
NSW 2000 Australia

P) 61-2-9241-5033

F) 61-2-9241-5014

E-mail: mailbox@jlgc.org.au

Website: www.jlgc.org.au

Australia – Japan Partner for Tourism Exchange 2013

Okinawa Prefecture

G'day! My name is Akimitsu Miyazato, and I was born and raised in Okinawa, the southernmost islands which are also known as Ryukyu Islands. The stereotype of Japan in Australia may be temples, sushi, Tokyo etc, but the image of Okinawa in Japan is great beaches, lots of islands to visit, Ryukyu Kingdom culture, longevity cuisine, a relaxing atmosphere, and friendly people.



Modern to traditional, city to country... there are a host of places to see and things to do in the beautiful island chain. It consists of 160 islands and 49 of them are inhabited. Since it is located in the sub-tropical region with an annual average temperature of 22.7 degrees, there are beautiful rainforests, white sandy beaches, and the warm current from the south makes our sea environment a great habitat

for tropical fish and coral reefs. Almost six million visitors come to Okinawa every year. They all enjoy beaches, world-class diving, unique culture and exquisite cuisine.

I believe Australians like to experience different cultures, enjoy outdoor activities, and relax on the beach, especially in a new place to visit. Okinawan people are



friendly, easy going, laid back, and they welcome travellers. I



hope more Australians travel to Okinawa and discover this new and unique aspect of Japan.

For more information, visit www.visitokinawa.jp

2013 CLAIR Forum – Registration for the Forum is closing 15 July! –

2013 CLAIR Forum is approaching. If you have not registered yet, please hurry as the closing date is coming soon! For Registration, please fill in the Registration Form from below and send it to us to: mailbox@jgc.org.au or fax it to us to 02-9241-5014.

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: click [here](#)

Seats are limited,
so please register ASAP!

Snow Monkey Town seeks Koala Sister City!

Yamanouchi Town in Nagano Prefecture, home of the famous snow monkeys, is looking for an Australian local government area able to engage in international exchange activities, based on the themes of “Koalas and Snow Monkeys” and/or “skiing”.

For more information, please refer to the links below:

<http://www.clair.or.jp/e/exchange/shimai/kibou-j.html#yamanouchi>

<http://www.town.yamanouchi.nagano.jp/>

If you are interested in Yamanouchi Town, please contact CLAIR. We will be the bridge for your first contact.



2013 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly of Local Government

From 16-19 June, we attended the ALGA National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra, ACT. At the conference, we promoted the Japanese local government system, tourism, CLAIR's activities and sister city relationships between Australia and Japan. We also met many people at our exhibition booth and made a lot of contacts.

We were happy to talk to all the people who visited our booth. Many thanks, and we hope to maintain good relations into the future.

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



The JET Programme Pre-departure Orientation

This year's 129 Australians and 90 New Zealanders in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme leave for Japan at the end of July and the end of August respectively. They will work as Assistant Language Teachers (ALT) or Coordinators for International Relations (CIR) in Japanese cities, towns and villages.



The JET programme started in 1987 to enhance foreign language education in Japan, and to promote international exchange at the local level through fostering ties between Japanese and overseas young people. Over 6,000 people have taken part in the programme from Australia and New Zealand so far.

Pre-departure Orientation was held in each JET recruitment city, and we attended to give the participants some advice. Members of the JET Alumni Association (JETAA) also gave new participants helpful tips based on their experience in Japan.

We expect them to do great work, and become bridges between Australia, New Zealand and Japan!

For more information regarding the JET programme, visit <http://www.jetprogramme.org/>

Suita city and Bankstown grass-roots sister city activities



The event, “Exhibition of Paintings and Calligraphic works in Bankstown in 2013” was held from 17-22 June.

The first day of this event, there were two programs at the Bankstown Central Library. One was music performance, playing the guitar and shamisen by members from Suita city; another was an orientation on sister cities, to deepen understanding about sister city relationships. This session was held by Matt Jessop, Sister City Coordinator of Bankstown City Council.

The second day, the opening reception was held at the art centre. The paintings and calligraphic art, made by the children of Suita city, was exhibited at the hall. At this reception, the delegation from Suita City brought and handed over a letter from the Mayor of Suita city to Bankstown. From CLAIR Sydney, Mr. Okuno, born in Suita, said a few words to celebrate the opening of this event. He also had a chance to meet and speak with many people related to exchange activities between the two cities.

During this week, these exhibitions were displayed at the Art Centre, or you can also view those works [here](#) (please click).

Next March will mark 25 years since the start of the Suita City – Bankstown sister city relationship. This has been spreading goodwill between both cities, not only exchanging each culture but also promoting people to people exchange, like this event.

We are happy to assist these important milestones. Please contact us if you have such opportunities.



Discover Tomorrow

Tokyo 2020 will deliver dynamic celebration and global inspiration. It will unite the power of the Olympic and Paralympic Games with the unique values of the Japanese people and the excitement of a city that sets global trends. And will guarantee superb Games that help to promote the Olympic Values for new generations in this challenging and fast-changing era for sport.



Delivery

Tokyo is the safe pair of hands that can be trusted in uncertain times. Tokyo 2020 offers unmatched personal safety and financial security; political stability and support; and world-class infrastructure, including accommodation, technology and transport. All in one of the world's most welcoming cities.



Celebration

Tokyo will host an incredible city centre party, based on staging the first ever 'downtown' Games. The heart of the Games will be in the very heart of a truly dynamic global capital, and fully-integrated in the life of its 35 million people.

* Photo: Welcome home parade in Tokyo for London 2012 athletes - 20 Aug. 2012



Innovation

Tokyo will use all the creativity and knowledge of the world's most forward-thinking city to benefit sport worldwide. The city that continually sets global trends in everything from fashion to digital technology guarantees state-of-the-art delivery, in fast-changing times.

** Exterior design for Olympic Stadium The first prize of the New National Stadium International Concept Design Competition

TOKYO ● 2020

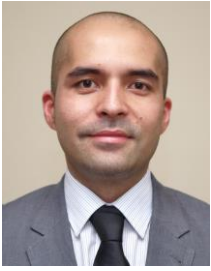


tokyo2020.jp

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tokyo2020.jp

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Greeting from our new staff – Julien Ansart



Hello,

My name is Julien Ansart and as of 1 July I am the new Research and Liaison Officer here at CLAIR Sydney. I was born in Paris but spent my childhood in Japan before immigrating into Australia. It is hence no wonder that when pondering on what to study at university I opted for International Studies!

Although in love with Australia and grateful for the opportunities and support this nation has given me I have always longed for Japan, its culture and its people. I have always found that Japan was a nation that was misunderstood and I believe that this position will not only give me the opportunity to relive my cherished childhood memories but also help Australia better understand Japanese culture and values.

The CLAIR team has welcomed me with open arms and I am very happy to be part of this fun team. I hope to work hard and help deepen the relations between the two places I call home!

Julien

From The Director

The difference in Constitutional amendment process between Australia and Japan

As I reported before, there are discussions about the referendum for Constitutional recognition of local government, altering section 96 of the Australian Constitution.

As it happens, there are also discussions whether section 96 of the Constitution of Japan should be altered or not. Section 96 of the Japanese Constitution states that amendments shall be initiated by the Diet (Parliament), through a concurring vote of two-thirds or more of all the members of each House and shall thereupon be submitted to the people for ratification, which shall require a yes vote of a majority of all votes cast.

The Japanese Constitution is categorised as relatively solid compared with those of other countries. We have never experienced attempts to alter the Constitution. On the other hand, in Australia, there have been 44 attempts to amend the Constitution, of which eight have been successful.

From a Japanese perspective, it is interesting that a double majority (a majority of states and a majority of voters) is required in Australia for electors to approve altering of the Constitution.

The difference in Constitutional amendment processes shows the basic difference in national structure between a unitary and federal system.

