

Correspondence

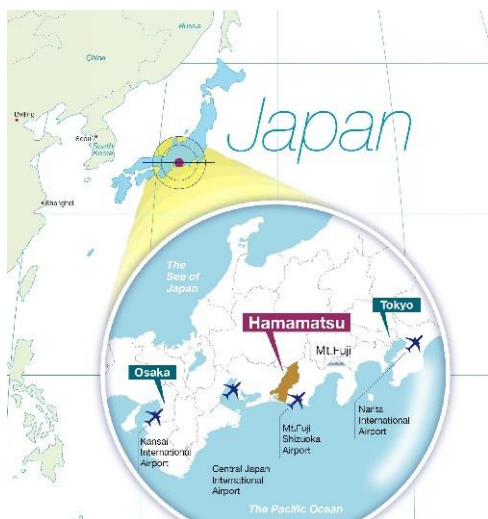
In This Issue:

- | | | | |
|------------|---|------------|----------------------|
| 1-2 | Welcome to Hamamatsu City | 4 | Sister City Exchange |
| 3 | Sister City honoured on Anniversary
- The relationship between Brisbane and Kobe - | 5-6 | Yamanouchi Town |
| | | 6-7 | JETAA WA Activities |
| | | 7 | From the Director |

Hamamatsu City

【City of Industry】

Hamamatsu is a city located roughly in the centre of Japan, with a population of over 810,000 people. It is Japan's second-largest city by land area, and is blessed with an abundance of natural beauty.



Hamamatsu has developed into a manufacturing hotbed, led by the city's three major industries: textiles, musical instruments and motorbike production. Leading global manufacturers such as Toyota and Honda originated in Hamamatsu; many others including Suzuki, Yamaha, Kawai, Roland and Hamamatsu Photonics are based there.

The city continues to provide the world with top-level motorcycles, pianos, electronic musical instruments and optical technology.



SUZUKI



YAMAHA



HAMAMATSU
PHOTON IS OUR BUSINESS



YAMAHA



KAWAI



Roland

【City of Music】

Making the most of Hamamatsu's musical instrument industry, we devote efforts to develop the city through the global language of music. Among these efforts, the Hamamatsu International Piano Competition has received high praise from musical circles both in Japan and abroad as a gateway for young pianists.

【City of Tourism】

Hamamatsu abounds with unique historic sites and cultural treasures such as Hamamatsu Castle and Takane Castle.

As well, Hamamatsu is home to a diverse array of cultural assets including festivals and events rooted in the local areas and residents' lives.

These cultural assets emerged from the everyday lives of the people, contributing to Hamamatsu's unique culture and the individuality of the region, passing from generation to generation.



【Conventions & Events】

Hamamatsu is located roughly midway between Tokyo and Osaka and is easily accessible by the transport networks that best represent Japan, the Tokaido Shinkansen (bullet train) and Tomei Expressway, both of which pass through the city. Hamamatsu is also home to ACT City, a large convention centre which hosts numerous events and international conventions held by a variety of organisations.



【Special Products】

Blessed with an abundance of nature, Hamamatsu boasts one of the highest agricultural production values of any Japanese city.

Many types of flowers are grown in the region, notably gerberas and chrysanthemums. Hamamatsu has a thriving fishing industry and Lake Hamana is renowned throughout Japan for the quality of its *unagi* (eels).

【Global City】

There are opportunities to come into contact with other cultures in Hamamatsu thanks to the many locals with overseas working experience and 20,000+ foreign residents who support economic activity in the city;

Hamamatsu also boasts the largest Brazilian community in Japan. The city actively makes use of the diversity of its residents in city development, aiming to become an intercultural city based on mutual understanding and respect. Indeed, it is a place where the world feels close at hand.

Sister City honoured on Anniversary

– The relationship between Brisbane and Kobe –

~ Article and photos by Brisbane City Council ~



Brisbane City Council has presented sister city, Kobe in Japan with a special memorial plaque on the 20th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake that occurred on 17 January 1995.

Lord Mayor Graham Quirk said the memorial plaque was a gift from Brisbane in recognition of Kobe's resilience in the face of the terrible tragedy.

"Brisbane's relationship with our sister city Kobe was established in July 1985, well before the devastation of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake," Cr Quirk said.

"Throughout this relationship, Brisbane and Kobe have supported each other during times of natural disaster, particularly through reciprocal fundraising in times of disaster recovery."

"It is with the upmost respect that the city of Brisbane recognises the 20th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake with the presentation of this memorial plaque."

The memorial plaque was presented by the Australian Consul-General in Osaka City, Ms Catherine Taylor, to the Mayor of Kobe, Mr Kizo Hisamoto on 13 January at Kobe City Hall. Cr Quirk said the plaque would be attached to a pavilion within Higashi-Yuenchi Park in Kobe City.

"Brisbane's memorial plaque to Kobe will be housed within Higashi-Yuenchi Park alongside the Earthquake Memorial Monument and the Great Hanshin Earthquake Memorial Flame," he said.

"The cast bronze plaque is a symbol of our commitment as sister cities to support each other in good times and in times of need."

"This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Brisbane and Kobe and I look forward to strengthening our relationship over the coming years."

The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake measured 7.3 magnitude and at that time was the most destructive to hit Japan since 1923, resulting in infrastructure damage, injury and fatality in the southern part of Hyogo Prefecture.



Seeking School Exchange Partners!

Three Schools and two cities in Japan are looking for international exchange partners!

They would like to engage in language and cultural exchange with schools in Australia and New Zealand through visits, Skype and letter writing. If you are interested in exchanging with the following schools or cities, you can contact them directly in English (e-mail preferred).

① [*Yokote City \(Junior High Schools, Akita Prefecture\)*](#)

Preference: Junior high school (Year 7-9)

② [*Hitorizawa High School \(Public, Kanagawa Prefecture\)*](#)

Preference: Junior high school, High school (Year 7-12)

③ [*Hadano High School \(Public, Kanagawa Prefecture\)*](#)

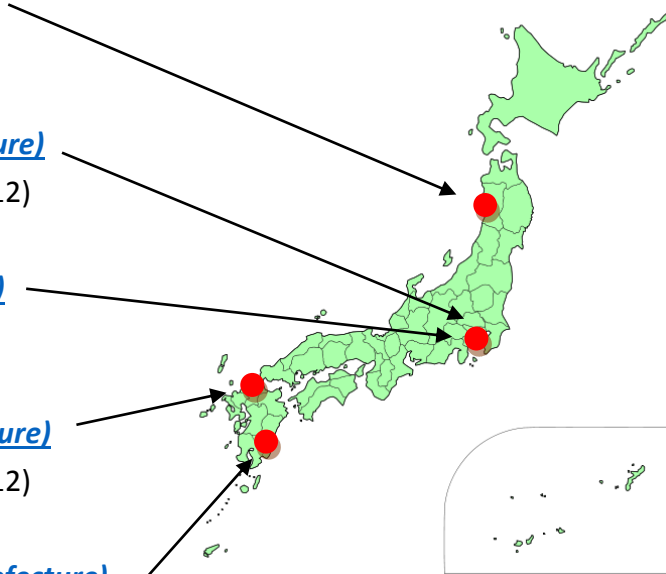
Preference: High school (Year 10-12)

④ [*Okawa Junior High School \(Public, Fukuoka Prefecture\)*](#)

Preference: Junior high school, High school (Year 7-12)

⑤ [*Miyakonojo City \(Junior High Schools, Miyazaki Prefecture\)*](#)

Preference: Junior high school (Year 7-9)



For more information, Please visit our website!

<http://www.jlgc.org.au/international-exchange-2/sister-school-exchange/australia-%E3%83%BBnew-zealand/>



Skype Exchange between Australia and



Annual School Sports Festival in Japan

Snow Monkey Town Seeks Koala Sister City!

- **Yamanouchi Town (Nagano Prefecture)**

Population: 14,000

Area: 26,000ha

(of which 24,000ha is covered by forests)



- **Local Government outline:**

Located in the northeast part of Nagano Prefecture,

Yamanouchi Town is a small locality known for a number of attractions, including the historical **Yudanaka Shibu onsen (hot spring) village** and the famous **Jigokudani onsen**, where snow monkeys can be seen enjoying a hot bath.

The **Shiga Highlands**, site of the 1998 Winter Olympics, is a national park as well as a designated UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Yomanouchi Town has also acquired a reputation for the high quality of its locally-produced fruits, especially apples and grapes.



Skiing in Shiga Highlands

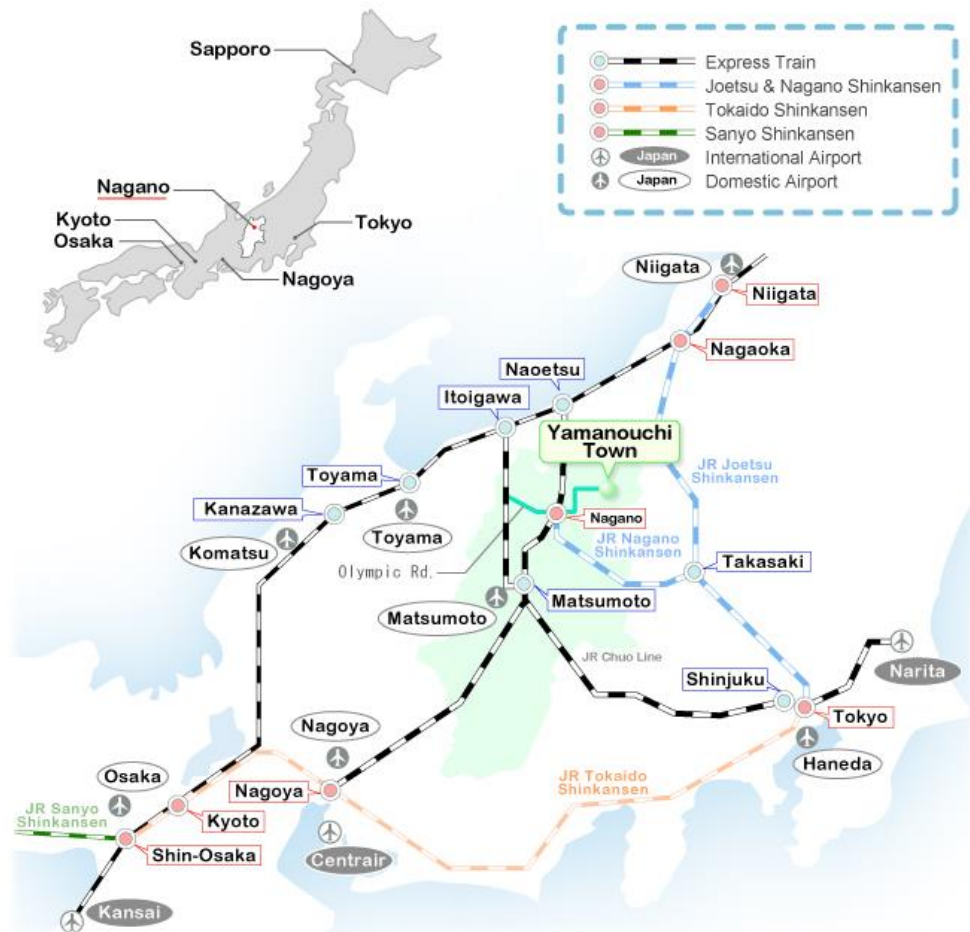


UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

- **Proposed activities with potential Sister City Partner:**

- (a) **Koala** and **Snow monkey** learning exchange carried out by school students.
- (b) Sports exchange based on bilateral **surfing** and **skiing** lessons.
- (c) Exchange of **students** and adult residents of each LGA.
- (d) Exchange of **foreign language teachers** to improve their language and teaching skills and to gain a better knowledge of each other's culture.
- (e) Joint research and information exchange regarding **environmental conservation** and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve related activities.

- Location



- For more information; <http://www.info-yamanouchi.net/english/>

- If you are interested in starting exchange programs with Yamanouchi Town, Please don't hesitate to contact us! (CLAIR, Sydney)

JETAA WA Activities



JET Returnees 2015 – Having Your Ramen and Eating It

~ Article by JETAA WA ~

This January, JETAAWA welcomed seven of the ten new JET returnees to Western Australia.

This is something we do every year in some form, but this time we made a special effort to put on a good show.

In previous years, the Consulate General in Perth has hosted an event at the residence of the Consul General; this is always a grand affair, and a great chance for the returnees to speak about their experience and meet members of the Japanese and Japan-related community in Perth.

JETAAWA's event is, in contrast, usually a more casual affair – a chance to share memories of the JET Programme and introduce the returnees to all the ways in which they can continue their JET experience, with us, back here in Australia.

This year, due to workload, the Consulate General was unable to host their event, so we instead partnered with them in the delivery of a blend of the two – fancy but friendly, formal yet casual, giving both the returnees and our invited guests from the Consulate General and local business community the chance to network in a more personal atmosphere.

Special recognition goes to JETAAWA's Emma Nicoletti (Social rep) and Matt Stott (Treasurer), who worked hard to ensure this night was a great success for us, as well as for the Consulate General and the returnees. I'd also like to thank Zen restaurant in Subiaco for giving us their entire venue for the night and serving great food, including the ramen.

We are now planning our AGM at the end of March, and I'm hopeful that some of the returnees will join the JETAAWA committee and get more involved in our activities over the next year.

From the Director

Local bonds

In general, Japanese local governments must have normal revenue resources other than local bonds to cover their annual expenditures. However, they can issue local bonds to cover expenses for infrastructure such as roads and ports, public facilities such as museums and recycle centres, and for disaster recovery projects.

Compared to Australian local governments, Japanese local governments tend to issue bonds to build infrastructure whose cost should be shouldered long-term, based on the concept of equity of financial burden through generations. For example, once a new road has been constructed, your future grandchildren will also use that road.

In principle, when issuing local bonds, prefectures must consult with the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications and municipalities must consult with the governors of their prefectures. This kind of consultation scheme makes it possible for local governments to take out long-term and low interest loans from public and private funds.

Because of expanding pressure on expenditure from an ageing society and shortage of tax revenue because of long term economic difficulties, Japanese local governments have relied on their local bonds too much to meet their expenditures.

That is why the total amount of local bonds all Japanese local governments have to repay in the future exceeds 200 trillion yen (about A\$ 2 trillion)!!

One of the biggest challenges Japanese local governments face is to reduce the total amount of borrowings and get their financial capacities back to normal.