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## Local Government Cuisine around Japan: Vol. 8 Ehime

### *Tai-meshi*

What's your favourite *tai-meshi* (a seasoned rice and snapper dish)?

Ehime boasts scenic islands in the Seto Inland Sea and an intricately indented coastline facing the Uwa Sea. The mineral-rich Kuroshio Current (a north-flowing ocean current on the west side of the North Pacific Ocean) flows into the Uwa Sea, making these waters particularly fertile feeding grounds for fish.

This makes Ehime an ideal location for farm-raised fish and in fact, is the number one producer of such fish in Japan. Ehime is responsible for more than 50 per cent of the total haul of snapper in Japan and many of our local dishes showcase the delicious and delicate flavours of this fish.

Today we'd like to tell you more about one such local delicacy, *tai-meshi*.

There are two types of *tai-meshi* in Ehime. The first one, *Hojo tai-meshi*, is a seasoned rice dish cooked with a whole snapper and the second one, *Uwajima tai-meshi*, is a dish where fresh strips of snapper sashimi marinated in a specially blended soy sauce and eggs are served on top of hot steaming rice.

#### *Hojo tai-meshi*

In the third century, fishermen would serve the Empress snapper with rice, and this is said to be how this dish originated. The whole snapper is cooked together with rice in clay pots and served in bowls. It is often eaten during celebrations and when welcoming guests. This simple dish is a great way to enjoy fresh snapper raised in Ehime.



#### *Uwajima tai-meshi*

It is said that this dish is a fisherman's favourite from the 14th century onwards. Fresh slices of snapper sashimi are marinated in a special sauce mixed with eggs and then placed on top of a bowl of steaming rice. It's so delicious you won't be able to stop asking for more!



Ehime is also well known for being Japan's number producer of citrus fruits. Besides that there's lots to do like bathing in Dogo onsen, Japan's oldest hot spring, and travelling along the 70-km-long Nishiseto Expressway with its nine bridges that allow cyclists to travel around the islands of the Seto Inland Sea (these bridges were the first to allow cyclists to cross straits in Japan.) We invite you to visit Ehime to enjoy cycling in our beautiful surrounds and to relax in our luxurious hot springs. Be sure to try both *tai-meshi* dishes and let us know which one is your favourite!

For more information check out our website: <http://iyokannet.jp/english/index.htm>

## 2017 Sister Cities New Zealand Conference in Invercargill



We attended the 2017 Sister Cities New Zealand (SCNZ) annual conference and forum discussion in Invercargill, New Zealand on 4-6 May. The attendees actively participated in discussions on how to further enhance sister city ties. Also we manned a booth at the event promoting attractive travel destinations in Japan to the attendees.

The conference and forum discussion provide opportunities for mayors, local government representatives and stakeholders to discuss sister city relationships, migrant issues, multicultural policies and mutual concerns.

The theme of encouraging immigrants to the provinces and keeping them is an issue of vital importance to sustain the economic and social fabric of provincial and rural communities throughout New Zealand.

Our Deputy Director, Mr Shigeki Yamada, made a speech on the role of CLAIR Sydney and the current condition of sister cities and sister-school exchanges between Japan and New Zealand, and then talked about Nagoya's multicultural policies. The attendees were pleased to hear that New Zealand has more sister-city relationships with Japan than with any other country and that youth exchange continues to be actively pursued.



During the conference, Mr Tomioka, Mayor of Kumagaya City gave a speech in appreciation of the sister-city relationship between Kumagaya and Invercargill. CLAIR Sydney was proud to sponsor the 2017 Sister Cities New Zealand Conference and hopes that all sister city exchanges between the two countries will continue to grow successfully, just like the relationship between Kumagaya and Invercargill.

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## The New Edogawa-Central Coast Sister City Relationship

On 8 May, CLAIR attended the reception event for the newly formed Edogawa–Central Coast sister city relationship at Wamberal, on the Central Coast of NSW.

Edogawa City (one of the 23 wards of Tokyo Metropolis) established a Sister City Agreement with Gosford City in 1988. The two cities maintained friendly ties until Gosford and Wyong amalgamated to form the new Central Coast Council in 2016. Mr Masami Tada (Mayor of Edogawa City) visited the newly formed city council and established a new agreement with Central Coast.

The Gosford Sister City Committee and Society of Asian Pacific (Central Coast) hosted a reception to welcome him and he gave a speech as part of the proceedings. He also presented t-shirts emblazoned with the slogan, “I love Gosford”, and a movie and commemorative photo album filled with many fond memories of the sister-city relationship.

We look forward to hearing more great stories about this fantastic new chapter of the relationship!



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## Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre visit to CLAIR



On 9 May, Mr Onishi, Director at Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre (Representative Office of Hyogo Prefecture) visited CLAIR Sydney to exchange information on activities and learn more about the economy and politics in WA and NSW.

Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre engages in a wide range of activities with relation to their sister state relationship with WA, Japanese language education and support for international students. We agreed to continue sharing information and ideas moving forward.

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## The National Association of Towns and Villages

On 15-17 May, a delegation from the National Association of Towns and Villages came to Australia on a fact-finding mission. They visited a number of NSW government agencies to learn more about local policies on agriculture and multiculturalism and inspected a number of farms to learn more about local management practices. CLAIR Sydney accompanied the group and provided support in the lead up to this mission.





On 15 May, we invited officials from the NSW Department of Primary Industries to a meeting at the JETRO Sydney office. They briefed the delegation on the state's agricultural industry, in particular the production, management and export of grain and livestock.

On 16 May the delegation went to Orange City to learn more about diversified farming at a family-run farm with sheep and grain crops. They also visited a large-sized enterprise specialising in beef cattle production.

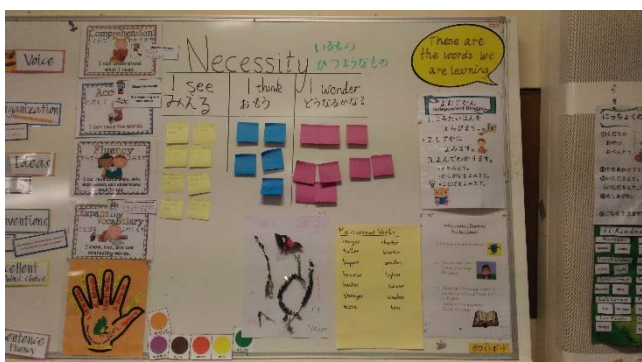


Finally, on 17 May, we invited officials from Multicultural NSW to our office in Martin Place to talk about multiculturalism and policies in this area.

The delegation was particularly interested in the future prospects of Australian agricultural exports and how they ensured that family-run businesses could find successors to continue operations. They were surprised to see Australia do so well with regards to multiculturalism compared with the rest of the world and keenly asked many questions on this important topic.

## Preparation for the Multicultural Seminar

CLAIR Sydney staff members went to Melbourne on 16-18 May to prepare for our annual Multicultural Seminar scheduled for October this year. This time we met with representatives from government and non-government organisations (Brimbank City Council, Monash Univ. Asia Institute, Victorian Interpreting and Translation Service, Huntingdale Primary School, Victoria Police, Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and AMES Australia). We discussed cooperation for the upcoming seminar and details of planned presentations for the participating delegates.



We will host this year's seminar in Melbourne for the first time in our history. So it was a great opportunity to strengthen ties with the contributing government departments and organisations prior to the seminar. We will keep going ahead with preparations for the seminar to help Japanese local government officers learn more about advanced multicultural policies in Australia.

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## Snow Travel Expo (Sydney and Melbourne)

The Snow Travel Expo was held in Sydney (21 May) and in Melbourne (28 May). Many exhibitors from all over the world (Australia included) took part. Also many officials and people promoting tourism to Japan, showcased their regions' winter playgrounds. CLAIR Sydney supported the Hokkaido Tourism Organization, Aomori prefecture, Iwate prefecture, Ishikawa prefecture.

Japan is a popular destination for skiers in this country, as readers of the Australian publication, The International Traveller, recently voted Japan as the best skiing destination. We hope even more Aussies choose Japan as their preferred ski destination.



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## Japan Festival



On 21 May, the Japan Festival 2017, organised by the Japan Club of Victoria, was held at Box Hill Town Hall in Melbourne. Around 4,000 people came to the festival and CLAIR ran a booth with the local JET-Alumni Association to promote regional Japan and the JET Programme. It was a great event celebrating Japanese culture with ikebana and tea ceremony demonstrations. It was encouraging to see many visitors showing an interest in the JET Programme and travel to Japan.

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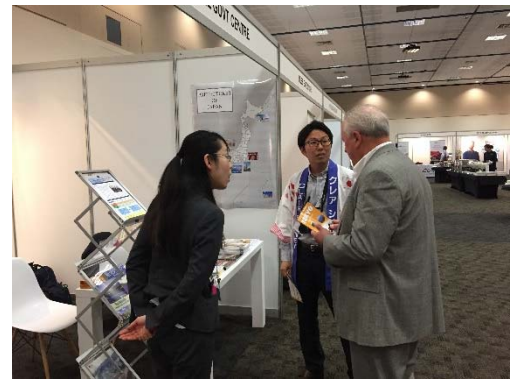
## Local Government Professionals Australia National Congress & Business Expo 2017

On 22-24 May, CLAIR Sydney participated in the Local Government Professionals Australia (LGPA) National Congress & Business Expo 2017 in Hobart, Tasmania. This year's theme was "a fresh perspective on leadership for the local government of today and tomorrow."



In addition to attending some workshops, CLAIR also manned a booth to promote Japanese local government areas we thought would be of interest to the attendees.

We hope the information we shared was useful and we appreciate all the people who stopped by our booth during the congress. We hope to be able to collaborate with them in the future.



## JETAA Auckland ~Article and photos from JETAA Auckland~

JETAA Auckland has had an eventful year to date, starting with a number of changes to the Executive Committee following the biennial election at the Annual General Meeting in February, including President, Vice-President and Treasurer. Even the election process itself is slated to change to an annual one, bringing our chapter in line with the standard for many others across the Oceania region.



In addition to regularly occurring events in the JETAA calendar, such as volunteering at the Consulate General's desk for Japan Day, publicising the JET Programme and answering questions from prospective participants, committee bonding activities, and our annual autumn outdoor adventure, Auckland's committee members and other alumni were invited to attend a very special event on board the MS Nippon Maru for the

Auckland leg of a multi-stop tour of the Ship for World Youth Leaders on 13 February.

The buffet reception and convivial company of accomplished young people from such diverse places as Japan, New Zealand, Fiji, Canada, Egypt and Ukraine were hugely enjoyed, and it is a night that will remain in our memories for quite some time.



At the less glamorous, but no less memorable end of the scale, an energetic group of alumni and friends set out for a day hike in the picturesque Waitakere Ranges to the west of the city on 6 May. The pictures they brought back of the bush, rock formations, and the ever-dramatic surf pounding the sand on Piha Beach prove they were not disappointed.



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# From the Director

## 20 – National Association of Towns and Villages

### - A Year of Local Governments in Japan

Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) holds the National General Assembly in Canberra every June and this year it will be held from 18 to 21 June. CLAIR will again participate in this year's event.

All Australian local governments have similar functions although their names—city, town, shire, district—differ according to their location. But in Japan, municipalities are different not only in terms of their names but also their functions. Relatively larger municipalities (roughly with populations over 50,000 people) are classified as cities (*shi* in Japanese) and they have more functions such as social security and city planning. On the other hand, relatively smaller ones are towns (*machi* or *cho*) and villages (*mura* or *son*). As such, there are two Japanese municipality associations: the Japan Association of City Mayors and the National Association of Towns and Villages.

As you have read, the delegation from the National Association of Towns and Villages came to Australia and New Zealand in May and they learned about a number of administrative and industrial issues in both countries. The delegation was particularly interested in the local agricultural industries as many of their municipalities are located in farming areas. They were surprised by the scale of farms in Australian and New Zealand. I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the farmers and government officials who helped make this visit a resounding success.

*Katsunori Kamibo*  
*Director*