



NEWSLETTER

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Susono City

Susono is a city in eastern Shizuoka Prefecture that stretches out along the foot of Mount Fuji. It is an industrial city surrounded by nature, with Mount Hakone Gairinzan (the Hakone Outer Rim Mountain) in the east and the Ashitaka Mountain Range in the west. Susono is blessed with a mild climate, has great public transport accessibility, and is a city that intricately balances nature in the city and its industries.

The city's greatest pride is the magnificent views of Mount Fuji from the city. Susono invites tourists from around the

world to admire the beautiful and grand ridgelines of Mount Fuji and enjoy the distinguished views on display in each season.



Spring



Summer



Autumn



Winter

In 1982, Susono City formalised a sister city relationship with Frankston, Victoria, and this year marks the 40th anniversary of their partnership.

Suyama Sengen Shrine

Suyama Sengen Shrine is one of the components of the Mount Fuji UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is the starting point of the Suyama mountain trail where giant cedar trees over 500 years old stand. The shrine is known as a "power spot", a location that is said to boost the luck and health of visitors.



There is a stone lantern with a heart-shaped small window in the shrine precincts. If you look through the heart-shaped window, you can see the hall of worship. In addition, the reflected upside-down image of the Shrine can be seen on the water in the Temizuya, the area where visitors cleanse their hands and mouths, making it another attraction in the Shrine.



Susono City Central Park

Susono City Central Park is a Japanese-style garden around the Goryu Waterfall. Inside the park, there are attractions such as the Goryu Waterfall, which is designated as a natural monument by the Shizuoka Prefectural Government and a suspension bridge. The loop around the park takes about 30 minutes by foot. There are also shops in the park where visitors can enjoy local specialties such as boiled dumplings.

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan's Birthday Reception in Sydney

On 2 Mar, a reception celebrating the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan was held at the Official Residence of the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney. Attendees included various representatives from the NSW Government and Japanese government organisations, businesses, and affiliates.



CLAIR Sydney ran a booth at the reception to provide general information and tourist destination information on Japanese local governments that have sister city relationships with local government areas in New South Wales. As the

Australian Government had significantly relaxed its border restrictions, many guests who visited our booth expressed their anticipation in seeing the exchange between Australia and Japan leap forward drastically in the coming months.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to actively support the sister city exchanges between Australia/New Zealand and Japan.

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan's Birthday Reception in Cairns

On 3 Mar, a reception celebrating the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan was held in Cairns. Many guests were invited to the reception, including various representatives from Cairns Regional Council, people engaged in sister city and sister school exchange with Japanese cities and schools, and Japanese language educators.

CLAIR Sydney ran a booth at the reception to promote regional tourist destinations in Japan, the JET Programme, and the 19th FIFA World Championships Fukuoka & 19th FINA World Masters Championships Kyushu which will be held in 2023.

As international travel restrictions and quarantine requirements have been eased in Australia and Japan, and direct flights between Cairns and Japan are slated to resume, many of the reception attendees expressed their desire of seeing the resumption of in-person sister city and sister school exchange between Cairns and Japan. In addition, attendees from the tourism industry voiced their eagerness to welcome many Japanese tourists again, as they did before the COVID-19 pandemic.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to actively support local government exchange between Australia/New Zealand and Japan.



Support Activities for the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation

On 21 Apr, Mr FUKUSHIMA Akihiko, Senior Executive Director; and Ms ARAKI Kyoko, Chief of the Planning and Exchange Section; from the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation visited the CLAIR Sydney office. It was the first time in two years that CLAIR Sydney welcomed guests from Japan to our office since the Australian Government imposed restrictions on overseas visitors' entry into Australia in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in March 2020.

The Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation is planning a new project to foster globally-minded leaders in Fukuoka. Under this project, the Foundation will send university students from Fukuoka to Sydney to gain insight into overseas organisations through visiting the overseas branches and offices of Japanese businesses and government organisations in Sydney.

For the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation's representatives' visit to Sydney, CLAIR Sydney assisted with scheduling meetings with Japanese businesses and government organisations in Sydney and accompanied the representatives to the meetings. At the CLAIR Sydney office, the representatives and CLAIR Sydney staff discussed the current situation in Australia and recent study abroad trends.

As the Australian Government has significantly relaxed its border restrictions, the number of visitors from Japanese local government organisations is expected to increase gradually.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support Japanese local government organisations' international activities in Australia and New Zealand.



From the Executive Director

– Resumption of In-Person Activities at CLAIR Sydney –

In the CLAIR Sydney Newsletter published in January 2022, I wrote that CLAIR Sydney has steadily restarted our in-person activities, such as taking part in events in a COVID safe manner. As mentioned in a report in this newsletter, last month, CLAIR Sydney even welcomed two representatives from a prefectural government-affiliated organisation in Japan. It was the first time in approximately two years that representatives from a Japanese local government or government-affiliated organisation visited the CLAIR Sydney office from Japan.

As many of our readers may know, Australia and New Zealand have extensively eased their international border restrictions and quarantine requirements for international travellers, and Japan has also been gradually lifting its restrictions and requirements. We anticipate seeing more visitors from Japan in Australia and New Zealand soon.

CLAIR Sydney will continue the gradual resumption of our in-person activities, which includes running booths at relevant events, participating in on-site conferences and business meetings, visiting partners, holding in-person learning and networking opportunities for local government officers, and accepting invites to make briefings and presentations at events. I hope that our staff, including the two new Assistant Directors whose introductions you can find in the special edition of the CLAIR Sydney Newsletter sent out earlier this month, can meet with the people of Australia and New Zealand at upcoming events and meetings very soon.

We sincerely hope that the COVID-19 pandemic will be contained promptly worldwide, and look forward to having more opportunities to meet with our partners in Australia and New Zealand. Until then, CLAIR Sydney will continue gradually expanding our in-person activities in a COVID safe manner.