



Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR, Sydney)

Newsletter
Special Issue
May 2022

Introducing Our New Assistant Directors

Two new Assistant Directors have arrived in early April to begin their secondments at the CLAIR, Sydney office. Please see below for their self-introductions.



Erika SHIMIZU

Assistant Director

from Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Shiro INOUE

Assistant Director

from Mihara City Government

- Shiro INOUE, Assistant Director from Mihara City Government -

Hello everyone, my name is Shiro Inoue. I have a family of five, which includes myself, my wife and our three primary school-aged daughters. The five of us will start our new lives in Australia soon once my family joins me in Sydney.

This is the first time for me and my family to live abroad. I am still trying to adjust and am still feeling anxious every day. At the same time, I am conscious of trying to find enjoyment in my day-to-day life.

I am not good at English, so I have not been able to talk to as many people as I have hoped since I came to Sydney. But everyone I have met since I arrived has been kind and has treated me kindly despite my poor English. I would like to improve my English and speak English with everyone I meet in the future.

I was born in a small city called Mihara. It is located about 60 km east of Hiroshima, which has World Heritage Sites such as the Atomic Bomb Dome and Miyajima Island, and is visited by many people from all over the world. Mihara is surrounded by the sea and mountains and is a small but wonderful city with many kind locals. I was born and raised there and now work for its city government. Mihara City has ties to New Zealand and is a sister city of Palmerston North City, New Zealand. For a long time the two cities have been interacting on a citizen level, and in 2019, that interaction led to a formal sister city relationship. I am yet to visit Palmerston North and I can't wait to do so. I would like to interact with the people of Palmerston North to make the exchange between Palmerston North and Mihara more dynamic.

I hope to enjoy my work and private life to the fullest while I am in Australia, so that in two years when I return to Japan, I will have fallen in love with Australia and New Zealand.

- Erika SHIMIZU, Assistant Director from Tokyo Metropolitan Government -

Hello everyone, my name is Erika Shimizu and I am on a secondment from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government from this April.

Through my experience of studying abroad, I felt that while Tokyo has its uniqueness and strengths, there are opportunities for Tokyo to learn from cities around the world in many ways. Based on this idea, I have long wanted to engage in establishing city-to-city interactions and diplomacy exchange so that both sides would be able to acquire the best knowledge and insight from each other.

Just as the world is now fighting against the pandemic, we will continue to face unprecedented challenges in the future. In order to overcome such issues, I believe that intercity interactions across borders are becoming even more important as a means of accumulating wisdom from different parts of the world. At a time like this, it is invaluable to be involved in CLAIR's activities for Australia/New Zealand and Japan.

Last but not least, let me share a bit of myself. I love travelling and playing sports (scuba diving, tennis and skiing/snowboarding.) I like to try out new things so whenever there is a long weekend, I would go visit as many places as I can! Australia was actually one of the destinations that I planned to visit before COVID hit, so I feel somewhat destined about this secondment. I cannot wait to see what kind of excitement lies ahead!