

# NEWSLETTER

Special Issue May 2023



Japan Local Government Centre

Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR Sydney)

## INTRODUCING *New Staff 2023*

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

**Sayoko Koizumi**

Deputy Executive Director from Nagoya  
City

Hello everyone. My name is Sayoko Koizumi, and I am from Nagoya City Government.

It is my first time living abroad. So I am very excited about it.

When I was in university (about 25 years ago), I did a homestay in the Sunshine Coast. I had a great time in

nature, like holding koalas, feeding kangaroos, and riding horses. So my image for Australia was “a lot of nature and beautiful scenery”.

This time, when I came to Sydney, I was surprised that despite being a large city, we could see greenery everywhere and it was very comfortable. I think Sydney has a great balance with the convenience for people with the preservation of the environment.

Another impressive thing is that sports are very popular here.

On weekends, I run along the coast in the morning. And I can see a lot of people also running. They look really healthy and seem to be enjoying themselves.

I plan to participate in “C2S” in August, so I will practice with them while enjoying the scenery.

Thank you for reading this far. I appreciate it and look forward to your continued support.





**Tomoyuki Takemura**  
Assistant Director from The Ministry of  
Internal Affairs and Communications

Hello everyone, my name is Tomoyuki Takemura. I was seconded to CLAIR from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) of the Japanese national government from this April. This is my first time living abroad, and I already feel honored to live here.

The people in Australia are always quick to help whenever they see that I am in need and have been tolerant to my lack of English skills.

In addition, when I tell them that I am from Japan, they are happy to share places they have visited in Japan and tell me how much they enjoyed their stay there.

Thanks to them, even though I have just arrived in Australia, I have already come to like Japan more than before, and I am eager to introduce Japan to those who have not yet experienced it or those who are interested in going there! In CLAIR Sydney, I have the opportunity to connect with not only Australia but also New Zealand, and I would like to make an effort to promote the charm of Japan's regions to as many people as possible from both countries. I have visited every prefecture in Japan, so if anyone is interested in Japan, please feel free to talk to me!

Last but not least, let me share a bit of myself. I am into scuba diving and met with my wife through it. I came here with my wife, and we have heard that both Australia and New Zealand are places where scuba diving can be enjoyed.

So, I hope that during our stays here, I will fall more and more in love with both countries, not only because of the people, but also through the sea!

Hope to see you soon!



A scene from a certain trip in Hitachi Seaside Park



A scene from a certain trip in Ashikaga Flower Park

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**Hideaki Ota**  
Assistant Director from Odawara City

Hello! I am Hideaki Ota, and I was seconded here from the Odawara City Government. Odawara City is located in the western part of Kanagawa Prefecture. It is a 35 minutes train ride from Tokyo by Shinkansen. Odawara is known for Odawara Castle, and is next to one of the most famous Japanese onsen town Hakone.

You can find the name “Odawara” in Northern Beaches NSW, Odawara is a sister city of the Northern Beaches. As a token of our friendship, there is “Odawara Close” in the Northern Beaches.

Let me share some information about myself. I have four people in my family, my wife, son and daughter.

10 years ago, I stayed in the Sunshine Coast, QLD for a year, on a working holiday visa. At that time, I was impressed by the beach culture in Australia. The beaches were always clean and free of trash and bottles. And the beaches are loved by the locals as a place to relax.

After that I returned to Japan, and worked and lived for a city which has beaches. I named my own children after the beaches in the Sunshine Coast, so I am very glad that my kids can finally visit that beach.

I hope to enjoy this opportunity, this is a big challenge for my family.



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## Shinnosuke Matsumoto Assistant Director from Ichihara City

Hi, my name is Shinnosuke Matsumoto!

I am seconded to CLAIR from Ichihara City Government in Chiba Prefecture. Ichihara City is located almost in the centre of Chiba Prefecture, within 50 km of central Tokyo, and about 60 minutes by car from Tokyo Station and Haneda and Narita airports.

In the northern part of the city, since many major companies' factories have been formed, tourists can enjoy the "night view of the factory". While the southern part of the city is filled with nature. Water streams, mountains and valleys, represented by the "Yōrō Valley", and the pretty local railway, "Kominato Railway" running through nature attracts many people. And if you like animals, I recommend you to visit "Ichihara Elephant Country Zoo", which has the largest number of elephants in Japan.

Let me share with you a little bit about myself. 7 years ago, I used to be a wedding videographer in Thailand. So this is not my first time living abroad, in Sydney I really like the warm and welcoming atmosphere in this country.

However, because of the rental crisis in Sydney, I had a really hard time finding a place to live in. I went to 11 inspections and submitted 4 applications, it took nearly a month. Finally and fortunately, I settled down in a comfortable apartment.

I am ready to meet everyone now, hope to see you soon!



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**Reiko Kunisaki**  
Assistant Director from Fukuoka  
Prefecture



G'day everyone! My name is Reiko Kunisaki. I have been appointed by Fukuoka Prefectural Government to come to Sydney for next two years.

I love traveling, eating and exercising such as working-out, yoga, hiking and scuba diving. I was born and raised in Fukuoka, Kyushu. I started working in the local government because I love my hometown.



Mt.Tateishi ©Fukuoka Prefecture Tourism Association

Fukuoka has beautiful nature, friendly people, rich culture and delicious dishes like Tonkotsu Ramen, Motsunabe Hot pot and fresh seafood! Which is why I was sure I was going to miss my hometown. However, I have already fallen in love with Sydney and its very kind and friendly people. I'm sure that I will love all of Australia and New Zealand once I see it.

As part of my mission here, I would like to build a good relationship between my hometown of Fukuoka and NSW.

I'm very excited and looking forward to learning many things here and exploring the beautiful nature and cultural diversity of this country. See ya later on!



Food Stall (Yatai)

©Fukuoka Prefecture Tourism Association



Maizuru Park ©Fukuoka Prefecture Tourism Association

Please visit our website for more information about Fukuoka

<https://visit-fukuoka-japan.com/>



Fukuoka is listed on "Lonely Planet's Best in Travel List for 2023" in the food category!

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/best-in-travel>



**INTRODUCING**  
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**Kana Tsujiwaki**  
Assistant Director from Wakayama  
Prefecture

Hello everyone! My name is Kana Tsujiwaki.  
I am seconded to CLAIR from Wakayama  
Prefectural Government.

I was born and raised in Wakayama which has an  
abundance of nature.

Wakayama is one of Japan's most sacred destinations, there is a belief that in the nature, such as the mountains and forests, gods and buddhas dwell there.

In Wakayama, you can visit the world heritage sites and experience sacred things such as temple lodging on Koyasan and hiking on the Kumano Kodo pilgrimage trail.

I love nature and I am interested in outdoor activities such as trekking, cycling and water activities.  
Australia also has beautiful nature and I am so thrilled to enjoy such things here.

Let me share a bit more about myself. I am a master of Japanese Calligraphy and I want to share the beauty of it to people outside of Japan. I want to hold some workshops and I would be so grateful if many people could come and join. I look forward to seeing you soon!

