

Newsletter

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DISCOVER
JAPAN

Welcome to
Sasebo City

Sasebo City is located in the northern part of Nagasaki Prefecture, blessed with abundant nature represented by the Saikai National Park's "Kujukushima."

The city has a rich history as a former naval port that prospered and has evolved into an internationally diverse port city housing a U.S. Navy base. Additionally, it is known as a tourist city with attractions like Japan's largest theme park, "Huis Ten Bosch."

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Welcome to Sasebo Town



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In June 1988, Sasebo City formed a sister city affiliation with Coffs Harbour City in New South Wales, Australia. Over the years, the two cities have deepened their exchange through activities such as the mutual student exchanges every year. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, interactions continued online. This year, Sasebo City and Coffs Harbour City will resume the exchange of young people between the two cities. They eagerly anticipate that the youth, who will play a crucial role in the future of both cities, will experience the local atmosphere and warmth of the people that cannot be fully felt through online interactions.



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Last year, from the 22nd to the 27th of August, in celebration of the 35th anniversary of the sister city affiliation, Sasebo City implemented a dispatch project for a delegation of 31 members led by the mayor to visit Coffs Harbour City.

As a result of accumulated exchanges in the past, the delegation received courteous hospitality from everyone involved, including Coffs Harbour City and local private exchange organisations. Through commemorative ceremonies and exchange events, a fulfilling and friendly atmosphere was fostered.

The delegation was able to contribute to further promoting their sister city exchange and reaffirmed the continuation of the wonderful friendship with Coffs Harbour City.

Moving forward, they will continue various exchanges, including student exchanges, to ensure the continued deepening and lasting nature of the relationship between the two cities.

Sasebo City will continue to foster a deeper, enduring relationship between the two cities by implementing various exchanges, including student exchanges

Notice from Local Government in Japan

Announcement from Fukushima Prefectural Government

Please see the information below about the updated "Fukushima Revitalisation Information Portal Site."

Check out the newly updated "Fukushima Revitalisation Information Portal Site" which is now available in 10 languages, including English.

The website was completely renewed in October 2023, 12 years after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster, in order to inform the current situation in Fukushima to both domestic and international audiences in an easy-to-understand manner.

<https://www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp/site/portal-english/>



【Recommended pages】

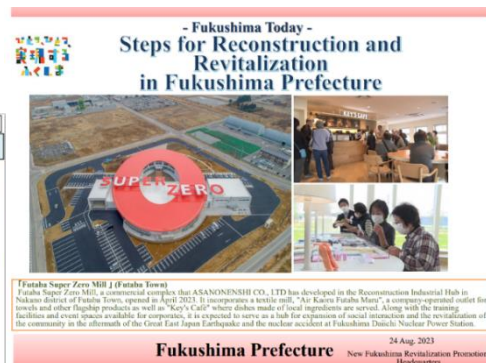
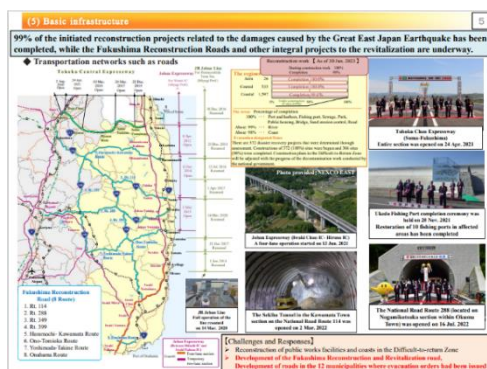
Please take a look at the booklet "Steps for Reconstruction and Revitalisation in Fukushima Prefecture", which explains "Fukushima Today" in simple terms.

[Please click here.](#)

Furthermore, the "Supporting Fukushima" page highlights the prefecture's tourism, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries websites.

[Please click here.](#)

Each language site can also be accessed via the language selection buttons in the top right-hand corner of the home page.



News from CLAIR Sydney

Introducing the Work of ALTs (Assistant Language Teachers)

There are 5,355 young college graduates currently working at schools in Japan as ALTs (Assistant Language Teachers) on the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme.

The Booklet of Selected Cases of Initiatives by JET-ALTs contains examples of how ALTs do their work in Japan, including innovative lesson planning and cross-cultural community building activities.

Check out the link below for more details!

https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_content/000905422.pdf

For more information about the JET Programme, see the website below:

<https://jetprogramme.org/en/>



School Exchange Opportunities

To support cultural exchange between schools in Japan and Australia/New Zealand, CLAIR Sydney has a dedicated page on our website that lists schools in Japan that are interested in initiating cultural exchange with schools in Australia/New Zealand.

Please click on the link or scan the QR code below for more information on the respective schools.

Should you be interested in a particular school, please get in touch with them!



[Schools interested in exchange opportunities - CLAIR Sydney \(ilgc.org.au\)](https://ilgc.org.au)



CLAIR Sydney December Activity Report

The Australian Multicultural Study Tour in Sydney (27 Nov – 2 Dec 2023)

On 27 November to 2 December, CLAIR Sydney held our annual Australian Multicultural Study Tour in Sydney. This study tour is held for staff of Japanese local governments and other relevant organisations to learn about the best multicultural policies and practices in Australia. CLAIR Sydney was pleased to welcome 13 delegates from all over Japan.

The delegates visited nine organisations to learn about their progressive policies, practices and services. The organisations the delegates visited included governmental bodies such as the NSW Department of Education, Cumberland City Council, schools and non-profit organisations in Sydney.

The delegates had opportunities to hear directly from staff through a presentation and Q&A session held at each organisation. They attained invaluable first-hand information and were amazed by Australia's advanced multicultural services and policies. CLAIR Sydney would like to once again thank all the organisations we visited and assisted us in this Study Tour. CLAIR Sydney will like to continue to introduce Australia's diverse and inclusive multicultural policies to Japanese local governments.

If any organisations will like to participate and assist the tour in the future, we will be more than happy and welcome.

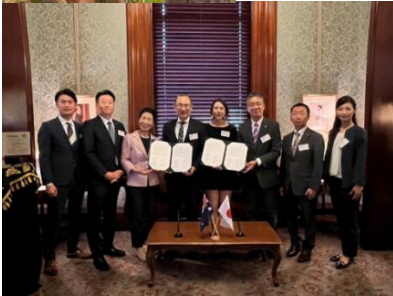


Support Activities for Nagoya City (11-14 Dec 2023)



On Monday, 11 December, the official delegation from the Nagoya City Government, represented by the Deputy Mayor, Mr Toshinori Matsuo, and the Nagoya City Assembly's Nagoya-Sydney Sister City Exchange Official Delegation led by the Nagoya City Assembly's Deputy Chairperson, Ms Yumiko Hasegawa, visited the CLAIR Sydney office. The two delegations visited Australia to enhance the sister city relationship between Nagoya and Sydney, which will celebrate its 45th anniversary in 2025.

The CLAIR Sydney office gave the delegations an introductory presentation about Australia and discussed the governing structure and local government system of Australia. While the two delegations were in Sydney, a CLAIR



Sydney staff who is seconded from the City of Nagoya scheduled meetings with the Australian Museum and Japanese governmental organisations.

The staff accompanied them to a number of events, including the courtesy call with the City of Sydney's Deputy Mayor, Mr Robert Kok, a visit to Taronga Zoo, the sister zoo of Higashiyama Zoo in Nagoya, the signing of a memorandum of understanding on book exchange between the libraries of the two cities, and a meeting between the Nagoya Science Museum and the Australian Museum regarding curator dispatch and exhibition exchange.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support Japanese local government activities in Australia.

Support Activities for Fukuoka Prefecture (20-23 dec 2023)

From the 20th to the 23rd of December, Orio Aishin High School's girls' baseball team from Fukuoka Prefecture practiced and played matches against the NSW team at the Blacktown International Sports Park.

The visit is based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed in August between the Fukuoka Prefecture, the Fukuoka Prefecture High School Baseball Federation, and Baseball NSW. Baseball NSW CEO Mark Marino welcomed the team, stating, "It is great to have a local high school from Fukuoka coming to Australia as part of the reciprocating agreement we have with the prefecture."

CLAIR Sydney received a request from Fukuoka Prefecture to support the activities and provided accompanying support on the 20th and 21st of December. We will continue to support and deepen exchanges in the field of sports between Fukuoka Prefecture and NSW.



From the Executive Director

New Year Greetings from CLAIR Sydney

On behalf of all the staff at CLAIR Sydney, I would like to wish all our readers a Happy New Year.

Looking back on last year, we believe that face-to-face exchanges between Japan and Australia/New Zealand have resumed in earnest. Specifically, the number of delegations from Japan increased significantly compared to 2023. We had many opportunities to participate in various events, where we reconnected with our partners, confirmed our collaborations, and built new networks. We hope that the flow of exchanges will become even more active this year. We will make all efforts to accomplish our mission.

Bushfires and floods have caused great damage in various places in Australia and New Zealand. In Japan, natural disasters occur almost every year, and a large earthquake hit the Noto Peninsula on New Year's Day this year. We believe that not only the national government but also local governments have an important role to play in daily preparation for disasters, prevention, and recovery/reconstruction measures. We believe it is meaningful for local government officials from Japan and Australia/New Zealand to exchange information and opinions regarding disaster measures. This aligns with the theme of this year's CLAIR Forum, scheduled for early March. We will send out another newsletter once the details are finalised. Your attendance will be highly appreciated.

We hope that you will take care of yourself and that you, your family, and the wider communities around you will stay well and healthy in 2024.



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