

Newsletter

Feb 2024

176



©KOBETOURISM BUREAU

DISCOVER
JAPAN

Welcome to
Kobe City

Relaxing waterfronts, signature mountains, and lovely night views – They can be both enjoyed on the Brisbane River and Mount Coot-tha in Brisbane, as well as on Suma Beach and Mt. Rokko in Kobe.

Ever since Kobe City signed a sister-city agreement with Brisbane City in 1985, they have cultivated a lasting friendship.

C O N T E N T S

- ★ Discover Japan
- ★ News from CLAIR Sydney

- ★ CLAIR January Activity Report
- ★ From Executive Director

Welcome to Kobe City

For the people of Kobe, one memorable example of their interaction has been the koalas. The Kobe Oji Zoo is currently caring for six lovable koalas that are extremely popular among zoo visitors. Their exhibit began in 1991, when Brisbane City donated three koalas to Kobe.



In recent years, the two cities have continued to interact on cultural and economic levels, including a gift from Kobe City to Brisbane's Bonsai House, and promoting the plan for Kobe Airport to become an international airport at the Asia Pacific Cities Summit held in Brisbane.



Both cities will soon be welcoming athletic competitions on the international level. In May 2024, Kobe will be the first city in eastern Asia to host the World Para Athletics Championships, and Brisbane will host the Olympics in 2032. Kobe City hopes people will use these events as opportunities to visit Brisbane and Kobe.



When visiting Kobe, be sure to try its delicious *sake*, fresh vegetables, seafood harvested from the Seto Inland Sea, and Kobe Beef.



©KOBE TOURISM BUREAU

DISCOVER
JAPAN



©KOBE TOURISM BUREAU

The city has many fantastic local restaurants that use regional ingredients, and the owner is often a familiar face.

Additionally, the city recommends leisure activities such as taking the ropeway or cable car for an easy jaunt in the mountains, appreciating the beautiful night views of the port area to one's heart's content, and enjoying scrumptious western confections and coffee at a relaxing café. The city hopes visitors will find a meaningful connection with Kobe.



**DISCOVER
JAPAN**

News from CLAIR Sydney

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)



2024 CLAIR Forum (Currently accepting registrations)

Theme: Disaster Management and Resilience

Disaster Management is essential for local governments as it helps save lives, protect properties, build resilience, and ensure the overall well-being and stability of communities in the face of disasters such as natural disasters and epidemic outbreaks. And it has become more important than ever in recent years. In the 2024 CLAIR Forum, presented by CLAIR Sydney and UTS, we will explore the practices of prevention, response, and recovery to disasters in local governments in Australia and Japan. We will also reflect on new ways of thinking about and building resilient communities, built and natural environments, economies and governments.

Participants will have the opportunity to engage in collaborative learning through discussions on these initiatives and the potential applications in Australia and Japan.

Date: Monday 11 March

Time: 1:00pm to 5:00pm (AEST)

Venue: The Japan Foundation, Sydney - Seminar Room (Hybrid)

Address: Level 4, Central Park, 28 Broadway, Chippendale NSW 2008

2024 CLAIR Forum will be held in person and also live streamed through the online platform 'Zoom'. The Zoom link will be sent to your email after your registration. (The link will be sent automatically, regardless of whether you choose to attend online or in person.)

Speakers

- Hideaki Ota (Assistant Director, CLAIR Sydney / Odawara city council)
- Tomoyuki Takemura (Assistant Director, CLAIR Sydney / Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)
- Shinnosuke Matsumoto (Assistant Director, CLAIR Sydney / Ichihara city council)
- Reiko Kunisaki (Assistant Director, CLAIR Sydney / Fukuoka Prefectural Government)
- Kana Tsujiwaki (Assistant Director, CLAIR Sydney / Wakayama Prefectural Government)
- Nicole Parsons (Manager Regional Resilience Programs, Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation)
- Tomasso Briscese (General Manager, Burwood Council) & Miriam Wassef (Executive Manager, Place Management and Communications, Burwood Council)

Light refreshments will be provided and entry is free of charge.

To register, follow the link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8E1sXNMSxW54wL6k3pT_w

Registrations close on **Thursday 7 March**.



CLAIR Sydney January Activity Report

Support Activities for Miyazaki Prefecture Municipalities Development Association (16 Jan 2024)



On 16 January, officials from municipalities in Miyazaki Prefecture, who are participating in the Miyazaki Prefecture Municipalities Development Association's overseas training programme, visited the CLAIR Sydney office.

CLAIR Sydney provided them with a briefing and Q&A session on Australia's administration, political and economic overview, and multiculturalism policies.

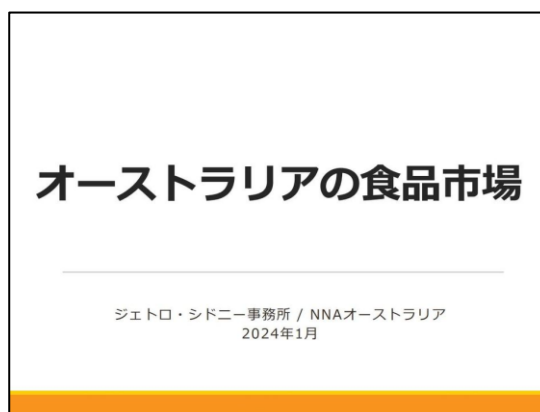
The officials were particularly enthusiastic about the explanation of differences from Japan, such as the lack of a certificate of residence and the absence of the municipality's name in address notation. During the Q&A session, CLAIR Sydney staff shared knowledge gained through their work, such as the new sister city relationship in Australia.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support Japanese local governments involved in developing human resources and conducting research on advanced practices through overseas training.



Webinar to promote exports of Japanese regional products to Australia (22 Jan 2024)

On 22 January, CLAIR Sydney hosted a webinar with the goal of encouraging local government representatives in Japan to export regional goods to Australia. Ms. Matsumoto, from NNA Australia, talked about the latest trends in the Australian food market. Participants expressed opinions such as, "The seminar provided valuable insights into the latest trend, and it was a great learning experience.", "Until now, we had not explored the Australian and Oceania regions as potential markets, so it was very informative!"



Support Activities for the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Election Administration Commission (22 Jan 2024)



On 22 January, the delegation from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Election Administration Commission visited the CLAIR Sydney office.

The delegation visited Australia to research the challenges and possibilities of internet voting and to strengthen relations with New South Wales, the sister state of Tokyo.

Prior to their on-site research, CLAIR Sydney provided the delegation with a briefing, an overview of administration, politics, and economics in Australia. This included highlighting the differences

from Japan, as well as information on multicultural policies.

The delegation had numerous questions about public opinion regarding the referendum held in October, as well as the approach to economic and educational exchanges between Japan and Australia.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support the overseas activities of Japanese local governments, researching the policies and best practices in Australia.



From the Executive Director

Disaster Management—2024 CLAIR Forum applications are now open!

In Japan, natural disasters such as typhoons, heavy rain, and floods occur in some areas every year. Local governments affected by disasters have not only made further efforts to strengthen disaster prevention but also mitigation measures to prepare for future disasters and enhance the safety and relief of citizens.

When I worked for the Kagoshima Prefecture government, I often heard the term “8.6 flood”. This refers to the heavy rain disaster occurred in early August 1993, causing extensive damage, including landslides and river flooding, mainly in Kagoshima Prefecture. This event left a deep impression on people. After the disaster, the Kagoshima Prefecture government modified river channels and built dams to prevent river overflowing, as well as debris-slide barriers to prevent landslides that isolated areas. In 2018, the Kagoshima Meteorological Office recorded more rainfall than the 8.6 floods; however, there were no flood damage to houses caused by river overflowing and fewer houses affected by landslides, thanks to the implemented countermeasures.

The 2024 CLAIR Forum will be held on March 11th both online and in person. The theme is “Disaster Management and Resilience”. We would like to thank UTS Institute for Public Policy and Governance for their support and co-hosting of the event, as well as Japan Foundation, Sydney, which kindly provided the excellent venue. Our five staff members, originally seconded from the central government, prefectural government, and municipalities, will introduce the efforts of their respective dispatch agencies.

If you are interested in the forum, please access the link below:

<https://www.jlgc.org.au/ja/our-activities/clair-forum/>



Level 12, Challis House, 4 Martin Place, Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

Tel: 61-2-9241-5033