

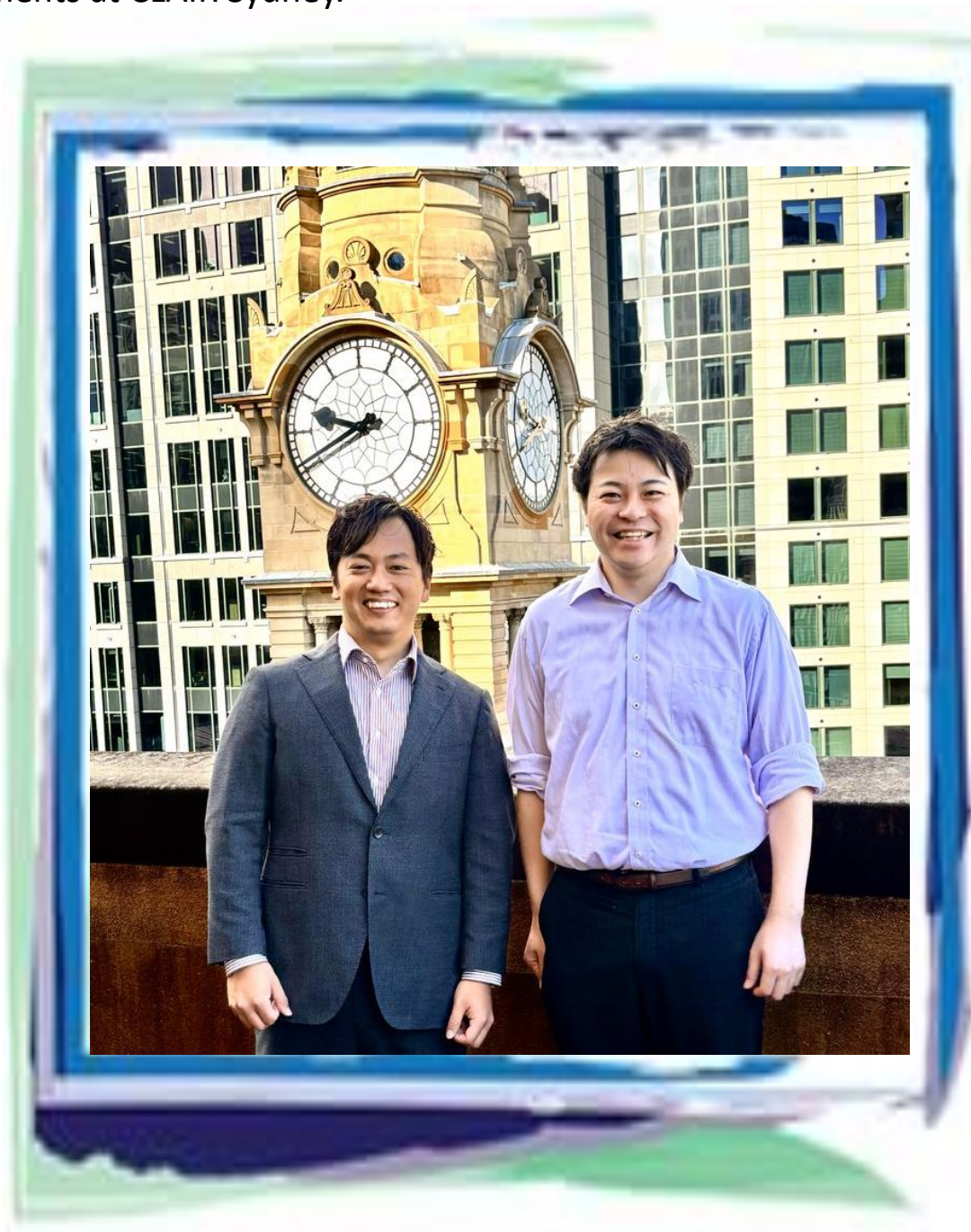
Newsletter

Special Issue
May 2024



Introducing our new Assistant Directors!

In early April, we welcomed two new staff members who have commenced their secondments at CLAIR Sydney.

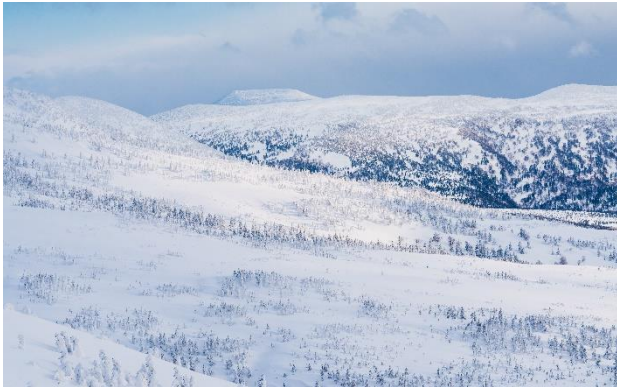


Morihito MUNAKATA

Assistant Director from Kuroishi City, Aomori Prefecture



Hello everyone, I'm Morihito Munakata, seconded to CLAIR from Kuroishi City Government in Aomori Prefecture. Kuroishi city is located in central part of Aomori prefecture and boasts a lot of attractions.



In the summer, the Nebuta festival, Japan's most famous festival, takes place. In the winter, you can enjoy skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing in the deep powder snow at Mt.Hakkoda.

If you are interested in visiting Kuroishi, please visit this site: <https://en.visitkuroishi.jp/>

On a personal note, one of my hobbies is visiting saunas. My top recommendation in Japan is Towada Sauna in Aomori Prefecture, where you can enjoy the sauna with a spectacular view. I'm eager to explore saunas in Australia as well!

I'm also into working out and would appreciate any recommendations you have for gyms and running trails.

This is my first experience living abroad, and I'm incredibly excited to start this new chapter. I am looking forward to immersing myself in the culture of Australia and New Zealand, and above all, meeting many people and forming meaningful friendships.

I look forward to meeting all of you!



Masahiro NISHIMURA

Assistant Director from Tokyo Metropolitan Government



Hello everyone,

I'm Masahiro Nishimura from the International Affairs Division of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and I have been seconded as an Assistant Director of the Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR Sydney) starting this April.

My career began in 2016 at the Tokyo Metropolitan Board of Education (BOE), where I contributed to initiatives aimed at developing globally competent human resources. I was in charge of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme, which invites young college graduates worldwide to participate in internationalisation initiatives and engage in foreign language education at various educational institutions and government offices in Japan. I oversaw administrative tasks related to personnel affairs for over 400 JET participants assigned to Tokyo metropolitan schools.

After working for three years at the Tokyo BOE, I transitioned to the International Affairs Division of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. Here, our focus is on promoting city diplomacy through exchanges with cities worldwide to establish Tokyo as a global metropolis. As this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Friendship State Relationship between the Metropolis of Tokyo and the State of New South Wales, I look forward to further strengthening our partnership through my role at CLAIR.

This is my first time back in Australia and New Zealand in about seven years, and I am excited about the opportunity to enhance collaboration with both countries, particularly in areas such as education, sports, culture, and sustainability.

Outside of work, I enjoy surfing, reading manga, and watching anime. These hobbies not only bring me joy but also serve as a means to deepen my understanding of Australia and New Zealand, allowing me to share aspects of Japanese culture with others.



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