

CLAIR Sydney

Newsletter

May 2016 - Special Edition

NEW FEAT

FEATURE

Introducing our new staff

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



Koki Akiyama

Assistant Director, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Hello everyone, my name is Koki Akiyama.

I was seconded from Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) to CLAIR Sydney this April. As this is my first time living overseas, I am very much looking forward to this valuable opportunity.

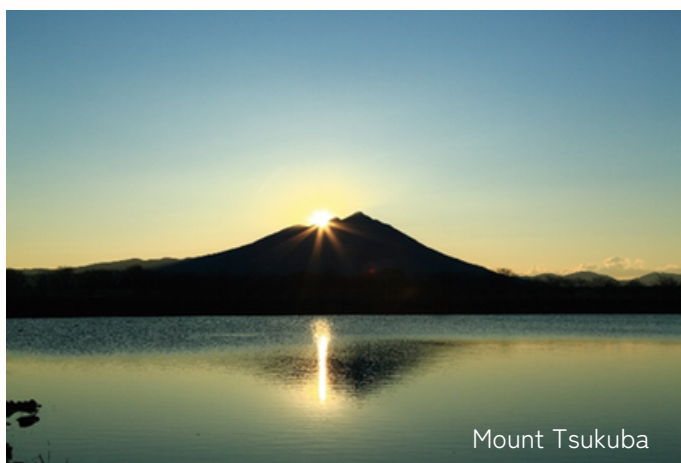
I was born and raised in Sapporo, Hokkaido.

The city gets an enormous amount of snowfall in winter and often piles up quite high. Even though about two million people live there, it is rare for a city of that size to experience such heavy snowfall. When I was a child, I used to go skiing a lot in winter.

At my primary school, they even built a snow hill in the playground every year, and we practiced skiing there!



Skiing in Sapporo



Mount Tsukuba

I began my career at MIC in 2019, where I have worked in departments related to civil servant training, international exchange between local governments, and local public finance. During my time in Australia, I look forward to learning about the differences in various systems between Japan and other countries.

This is my first time visiting Australia, and I am amazed every day by its beautiful oceans and mountains, as well as its unique wildlife. Over the next two years, I hope to visit various places in Australia and New Zealand, and to learn about and experience how the environment and culture differ from those in Japan.

I have also visited all 47 prefectures in Japan, so I hope to share the unique attractions of Japan's diverse regions with those who are interested in Japan or are planning to travel there. I look forward to meeting you all!

Mayuri Ito

Assistant Director, Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Hello everyone!

My name is Mayuri Ito, and I am currently seconded to CLAIR Sydney from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. Please call me Lily.

First, I would like to introduce my hometown, Tokyo.

When people think of Tokyo, they often think of the neon lights and skyscrapers of Shibuya and Shinjuku or the historic streets of Asakusa. The city's unique harmony between modernity and tradition is one of Tokyo's greatest appeals. But beyond these famous spots, the city has many hidden gems. One place I would especially like to highlight is Kozu Shima. Kozu Shima is one of Tokyo's remote islands and can be reached in about three and a half hours by high-speed ferry from central Tokyo. There, you can enjoy the beautiful blue ocean, magnificent mountains, star-filled skies, and fresh seafood. As you can see, Tokyo offers a wide variety of attractions, and whether you're visiting for the first time or returning, I hope you will discover your own favorite side of the city.



Kozu Shima

Before joining CLAIR Sydney, I worked at a Tokyo metropolitan high school and was also involved in planning training programs for participants in the JET Programme. Through these experiences, I developed an interest in deepening my understanding of education systems. I also hope to contribute to strengthening exchanges between local governments in Japan and those in Australia and New Zealand.

On a personal note, there are many things I am looking forward to as well. This is my first time visiting the Australia/New Zealand region, as well as my first time living abroad for an extended period. I hope to stay curious and enjoy the many new discoveries that everyday life will bring. I love the ocean, so I would like to visit as many beaches as possible and take in their beauty. I recently went to Manly Beach in Sydney, and would love to try surfing! I am a complete beginner, so if anyone has experience, I would greatly appreciate any advice.



Manly Beach in Sydney

I look forward to meeting you all!!



We have Moved!

Our New Location

Level 13, 115 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000



We have relocated our office to the address above.

Please feel free to visit us at our new location.

Thank you for your continued support.





Setouchi Shimanami Kaido International Cycling Event

CYCLING SHIMANAMI 2026

2026.10.25 SUN



Cycling Shimanami is a special event held once every two years where cyclists can ride along main roads that are usually closed to cyclists, all while taking in spectacular views available only on this day. More than just a ride, it's a true cycling journey, immersing participants in local hospitality and culture as they cross the stunning islands of the Seto Inland Sea. With eight course options ranging from 30 km to 140 km, the event caters to riders of all abilities and goals.

Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to cycle on one of the world's most renowned cycling sanctuaries!

Date [Check-in] Saturday 24 October 2026 [Main Event] Sunday 25 October 2026

Location Setouchi Shimanami Kaido and surrounding areas

Resistaration Period 13 April - 18 May (selection by lottery) JST





Japan Local Government Centre
Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR, Sydney)