

CLAIR Sydney Newsletter

Sep 2026 - Vol.204-



CONTENT

- ◆ Discover Japan (Fukushima Prefecture)
- ◆ CLAIR Sydney's Recent Activities
- ◆ Local Government Exchange & Cooperation Seminar
- ◆ Saiki-Gladstone Sister City Relationship Celebrates 30 Years of Friendship
- ◆ Message from the Executive Director

..and more!



Cover Photo

Tsurugajo Castle, Fukushima Prefecture

Photo courtesy of Fukushima Prefectural Government.

Located in Japan's Tohoku region, Fukushima Prefecture is known for its diverse natural landscapes, rich cultural heritage, local cuisine, sake, and winter attractions. The prefecture is also home to distinctive areas such as Aizu, where traditional culture and samurai history remain an important part of the region's identity.

In recent years, Fukushima Prefecture has been strengthening its engagement with Australia through tourism promotion and exchange. The following contribution from Fukushima Prefecture highlights these efforts, including the Governor's visit to Australia, participation in the Snow Travel Expo, and collaboration with the Australian Tourism Industry Association.



Fukushima Prefecture: Connecting with Australia through Tourism and Exchange

Through tourism and other ventures, Fukushima Prefecture is strengthening its ties with Australia, sharing details of the current situation in Fukushima and promoting the region's diverse attractions.

In May 2025, Governor Masao Uchibori visited Australia and met with Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia, government officials, representatives of foreign embassies, and Japanese community organisations. Through these meetings, Governor Uchibori directly shared the current state of Fukushima's recovery following the Great East Japan Earthquake and nuclear accident, as well as the prefecture's many attractions, including its food and tourism experiences.

Alongside promoting the renowned sake of Fukushima, to expand sales opportunities in the Australian market, the prefecture also participated in the Snow Travel Expo. As Australia's largest snow travel exhibition, it was the perfect venue to showcase the region's ski resorts and high-quality powder snow. Through these initiatives, Fukushima is working to raise awareness of the region as a travel destination and attract more international visitors.



In the tourism sector, Fukushima Prefecture signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote tourism with the Australian Tourism Industry Association (ATIA). Following the signing of the MOU, Fukushima and ATIA worked together in November 2025 to invite three Australian travel companies to Fukushima for a familiarisation (FAM) tour. This partnership is making a significant contribution to raising awareness of Fukushima among Australian travel professionals.

This year, with the full support of ATIA, Fukushima also hosted a webinar for Australian travel companies, with participants invited to join an upcoming FAM tour later in the year.

The tour will introduce Aizu, an area where Fukushima's history and traditional culture remain particularly strong, as well as Hope Tourism*.

Fukushima offers a rich variety of experiences: delicious local cuisine, world-class sake, traditional culture, samurai heritage, and excellent snow for skiing. With its unique combination of history, culture, food and nature, Fukushima offers something new to discover on every visit. We will continue to strengthen our exchanges and promote Fukushima in Australia, with the hope that more Australians will choose Fukushima as their next destination in Japan.



*Hope Tourism: A unique travel experience derived from Fukushima's status as the only place in the world to have experienced the complex triple-disaster of an earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident. This Fukushima-specific "learning journey" takes place in disaster-affected areas and explores the experiences and lessons learned from the earthquake and nuclear disaster.

Learn more about Fukushima Prefecture:

- Official Brochure "**Welcome to Fukushima Japan**"
<https://www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp/uploaded/attachment/726500.pdf>
- An introductory page by the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO)
<https://www.japan.travel/en/us/tohokufukushima/>



Support Activities for Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture (2-4 Aug)

In early August, 20 high school students from Nagoya City in Aichi Prefecture, a sister city of Sydney, visited Australia. During their visit, they experienced homestay and took part in activities with local high school students.

At the request of Nagoya City, CLAIR Sydney supported the visit by coordinating various programs and arranging appointments with local organisations. These included a visit to Taronga Zoo, the sister zoo of Higashiyama Zoo in Nagoya, as well as opportunities for the students to experience school life in Australia. At a welcome event hosted by the City of Sydney at Sydney Town Hall, the students met with a City Councillor and a member of the Sydney-Nagoya Sister City Committee. They talked about the long-standing friendship between the two cities, including the koalas gifted by Sydney to Higashiyama Zoo and the planting of trees in a Sydney park to commemorate the sister-city relationship. The Nagoya students also gave a short speech and performed a Japanese song, accompanied by a dance, creating a warm and friendly atmosphere at the event. We hope their experience will continue to inspire friendship and exchange between the people of Nagoya and Sydney!



Support Activities for Ube City, Yamaguchi Prefecture (3 Aug)

On Monday, 3 August, CLAIR Sydney held a briefing session for 10 lower secondary school students from Ube City, Yamaguchi Prefecture, and their chaperones ahead of their one week homestay in Ube City's sister city of Newcastle.

During the briefing, we provided key information about Australia, including its population and land area, as well as what it is like to work overseas. Our intern, a student from a local university, also drew on their own experiences to explain the differences in lifestyles and cultures between Japan and Australia.

We were particularly impressed by how attentively and enthusiastically the students listened throughout the briefing. We hope their visit to Australia was a rewarding and memorable experience that will continue to inspire them in the years to come.



Adelaide Japanese Cultural Day in Burnside (23 Aug)

On Sunday, 23 August, Adelaide Japanese Cultural Day was held in Burnside, a suburb of Adelaide, South Australia. This event was jointly organised by the Australia Japan Association of South Australia and the City of Burnside Council.

Attendees enjoyed Japanese culture through hands-on experiences such as calligraphy and origami, as well as koto and taiko performances and kendo and karate demonstrations.

CLAIR Sydney hosted a booth showcasing tourist destinations across Japan, including Himeji, Adelaide's sister city. Many visitors, from families with young children to older adults, asked about places to enjoy walking and trekking, highlighting a strong interest in Japan's natural beauty and outdoor activities.

We hope this event helped visitors learn more about Japanese culture and the country's diverse regions, inspiring them to visit Japan in the future.



EVENTS Where to Find CLAIR Sydney Next

CLAIR Sydney will be participating in the following upcoming events. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

05
SEP

Matsuri Brisbane 2026

Whites Hill State College
(138 Burn Street, Camp Hill QLD 4152)

CULTURAL FESTIVAL

10-11
SEP

Te Hui Taituarā 2026

TSB Showplace
(92-100 Devon Street West, New Plymouth, NZ)

CONFERENCE

05
SEP

Matsuri Brisbane 2026

Whites Hill State College
(138 Burn Street, Camp Hill QLD 4152)

CULTURAL FESTIVAL

20
SEP

South West Japan Festival

Queen's Gardens
(Cobblestone Drive, Bunbury WA 6230)

CULTURAL FESTIVAL

13
SEP

JCS Japan Festival in Chatswood

Chatswood Mall
(443 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood, 2067)

CULTURAL FESTIVAL

26
SEP

Sakura Matsuri 2026

Cowra Japanese Garden
(1 Ken Nakajima Place, Cowra NSW 2794)

CULTURAL FESTIVAL

03
OCT

Blue Mountains Japanese Sakura Festival

Lawson Public School
(2-12 Wilson Street, Lawson NSW 2783)

CULTURAL FESTIVAL

18
OCT

Bunkasai - Japanese Cultural Festival -

Dominion Museum
(15 Buckle Street, Mount Cook, Wellington 6011)

CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Hello from Marina

Hi, my name is Marina Kato, and I've recently joined CLAIR Sydney as a Research and Liaison Officer!

As you may have guessed from my name, I am Japanese, with both of my parents having been born in Japan, but I was born and raised here in Australia. I have lived in Sydney all my life and grew up surrounded by both Japanese and Australian cultures. As a result, I have always enjoyed learning about different cultures and discovering how people and communities connect with one another.

Starting my first office job, there is certainly a lot for me to learn, but I am very excited about this opportunity and incredibly grateful for the warm and welcoming environment at CLAIR Sydney. I feel honoured to be working with everyone in the office and am particularly excited to be able to contribute through my experience as a native bilingual speaker.

Through my work at CLAIR, I am looking forward to learning more about local government and international exchange in Australia and New Zealand. I'm excited to meet new people, try new things, and make plenty of good memories along the way!

I have always loved Japan and its vibrant pop culture, and I have made countless visits to Japan over the years. While Tokyo remains my favourite destination, with its endless entertainment and things to do, I also have a soft spot for the Kansai region.



I find the atmosphere there to be a little more relaxed and familiar, in a way that reminds me of Australia. There are still so many places in Japan that I haven't had the chance to visit, so I'm looking forward to discovering more of Japan in the years to come.

I'd love to have a chat, so please feel free to come and say hi!

I'm looking forward to meeting everyone!

Marina Kato

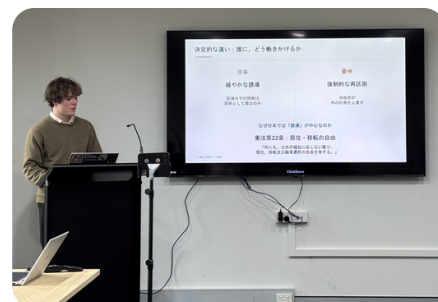
Dashiel's Internship Experience

My name is Dashiel Baker. I'm a second-year Arts student at UNSW studying Politics & International Relations and Japanese. I've been self-studying Japanese for about six years now, on and off, and that study led me to CLAIR. I recently completed an internship at CLAIR Sydney through my university's Work Integrated Learning (WIL) program, and so I thought it would be useful to briefly document my experience.



Over the last two months, two days a week, I primarily did bilingual policy research in English and Japanese on topics ranging from busking laws to the minimum wage to homelessness. But my main project was comparing the NSW Government's Transport Oriented Development (TOD) Program with Japan's compact-city planning framework (ricchi tekiseika keikaku). Far more interesting than it sounds; Japan is planning its cities inward because there will soon be too few people to keep the outskirts running, whereas NSW is rezoning around its stations because there are too many people and nowhere to put them. Opposite problems, and yet, both arrived at more or less the same answer.

Aside from that, a particular highlight was getting the opportunity to deliver an orientation briefing in Japanese to a group of visiting Japanese middle school students. Two months earlier, I'm almost certain, I would have been far too nervous to even attempt something of the sort.



What I'll carry with me most, though, is the office environment itself. I won't name anyone in particular because that would mean having to name everyone. But our weekly one-on-one discussions meant I got the chance to know everyone properly, and not just those I worked with directly.



On my last day I was thrown a farewell party, and at the end of it everyone stood up and made a tunnel with their arms for me to walk out through. I thought about it the entire way home.



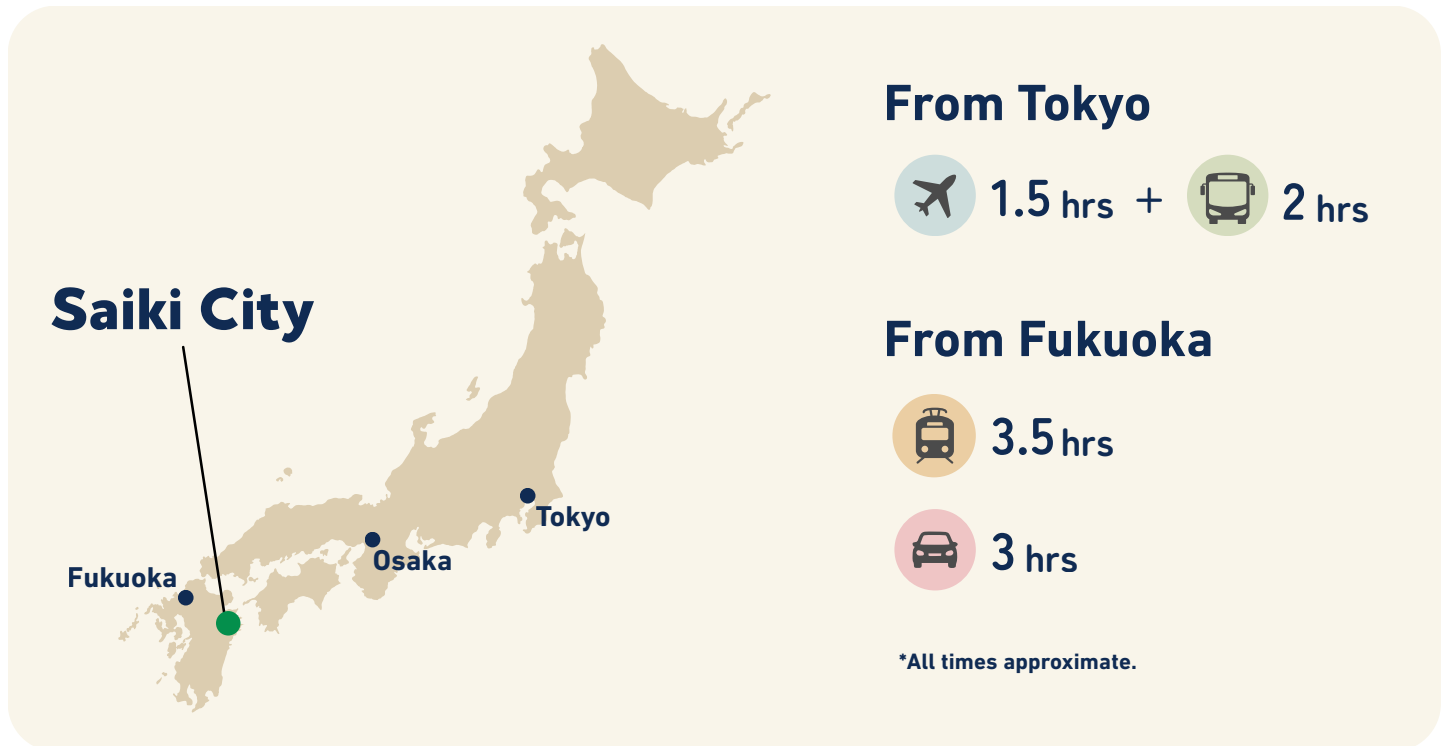
So thank you all for your patience with my Japanese, your feedback on my mountain of drafts, and your kindness throughout.

Dashiel Baker



Saiki-Gladstone Sister City Relationship Celebrates 30 Years of Friendship

The longstanding Sister City relationship between Gladstone Regional Council and Saiki City, Japan, reached a significant milestone in 2026, with the two communities celebrating 30 years of friendship, cultural exchange and shared connection.



To mark the 30th anniversary, Gladstone Mayor Matt Burnett, Gladstone Regional Council and the local community welcomed a delegation from Saiki City in July 2026.

The delegation was led by Saiki Mayor Kuniko Tomitaka and included Kyo Sugahara (Secretary to the Mayor, Mayor's Office and Public Relations Division); Takatoshi Fukuda (Assistant Director, Connecting Communities Division); Hiroaki Kamikawa (Assistant Chief General, Connecting Communities Division); and Kate Alessia Maccarone (Coordinator for International Relations, Connecting Communities Division).

The delegation was also joined by a group of Saiki students who travelled to the Gladstone region to experience local schools, community life, culture and industry, and to build connections with young people and the wider Gladstone community.

The visit provided an opportunity to reflect on three decades of connection between Saiki and Gladstone, while also strengthening the relationship for future generations.



Connecting through education and young people

A key focus of the visit was providing opportunities for the Saiki students to connect with young people in the Gladstone region.

The students participated in visits to Chanel College, Tannum Sands State School and Tannum Sands State High School, giving them the opportunity to experience Australian education and meet local students. The school visits encouraged cultural exchange, with students sharing their experiences of life and education in Japan and Australia.

The students also stayed with local host families in Tannum Sands, providing a valuable opportunity to experience everyday Australian family and community life.

For the young participants, the visit was about much more than sightseeing. It created friendships, encouraged cross-cultural understanding and demonstrated how international relationships can have a lasting impact at a personal level.

Showcasing the Gladstone region

The delegation also experienced some of the diverse opportunities and attractions that make the Gladstone region unique.

The program included visits to Awoonga Dam, CQUniversity, local schools, the Gladstone Region Art Gallery and Museum (GRAGM), the Gladstone Library and local industry.

A regional industry tour provided the Saiki delegation with an insight into Gladstone's economic strengths and industrial landscape, while visits to local cultural facilities showcased the region's creative and community assets.

The program also included opportunities to experience the local environment, including visits around Tannum Sands and the coastline.



Strengthening economic and civic connections

The anniversary visit also provided an opportunity to strengthen connections beyond cultural exchange.

A Trade and Investment Round Table brought together representatives to discuss opportunities for economic and business connections between Gladstone and Saiki.

The Saiki delegation also met with local representatives and experienced a range of Gladstone facilities and community initiatives, reinforcing the broader value of the Sister City relationship.

These activities highlighted how the relationship has the potential to support not only cultural and educational exchange, but also future collaboration across business, investment, tourism and community development.

Sharing culture and community

Cultural exchange was an important part of the visit, with the delegation experiencing local arts, community activities and Australian traditions.

A cultural burn, visits to the Gladstone Region Art Gallery and Museum and community activities provided opportunities for the delegation to learn more about the region's history, culture and identity.

The visit also included a farewell barbecue at Millennium Esplanade, bringing together the delegation, local students, host families, Council representatives and members of the community.

These informal moments were an important part of the program, allowing relationships to develop beyond the formal itinerary.



Looking to the next 30 years

The 30th anniversary visit was an opportunity to celebrate the history of the Saiki-Gladstone relationship while looking towards its future.

Since the Sister City relationship commenced in 1996, generations of residents, students, volunteers, community organisations and local government representatives have contributed to maintaining the connection between the two cities.

The 2026 delegation demonstrated that the relationship continues to provide meaningful opportunities for cultural understanding, education, friendship and collaboration.

Most importantly, the visit placed young people at the centre of the anniversary celebrations, helping to ensure that the friendship between Saiki and Gladstone continues to grow.

As the two communities look towards the next chapter, the 30th anniversary provides a strong foundation for renewed student exchanges, cultural programs, community partnerships and opportunities for people from Saiki and Gladstone to learn from one another.

Thirty years of friendship is a significant achievement – and the connections created through this visit will help shape the next 30 years of the Saiki-Gladstone Sister City relationship.



Join us for this 7-day seminar offering a unique opportunity to learn about the Japanese government system and visit a local government area in Japan to explore best practices and innovative initiatives!

The Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar aims to promote a deeper understanding of Japanese local governments and culture. The programme brings together participants from Australia, New Zealand and Japan working in local governments and related organisations to exchange knowledge on current local government challenges and practices.

Below are the details of the upcoming seminar and information about **Goka Town in Ibaraki Prefecture**, the host local government of the 2026/2027 Seminar.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE & COOPERATION SEMINAR 2026/2027

Learn from Japanese Local Governments

Building an Attractive and Sustainable City for the Next Generation



DATE

14 Feb (Sun) – 20 Feb (Sat) 2027



LOCATION

Tokyo & Goka Town, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan



DURATION

7 Day Programme



CLAIR
Japan Local Government Centre
(CLAIR, Sydney)



Information and Application

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

DAY 1	- Arrival in Tokyo, Japan - Programme Orientation
DAY 2	- Briefing on the Japanese local government system - Welcome Reception and Dinner (Tokyo)
DAY 3-5	Thematic discussions & site visits (Goka Town, Ibaraki)
DAY 6	- Return to Tokyo - Free time
DAY 7	Departure

*Participants may enter and depart from Japan at their own convenience before and after the official Seminar period. However, CLAIR will only cover expenses incurred during the Seminar period.

THEME

Building an Attractive and Sustainable City for the Next Generation
— Challenges of Small Local Governments and the Potential of Industry–Government–Academia Collaboration

ELIGIBILITY

- Local government executives
- Executives of organisations involved in regional promotion or international exchange
- Applicants from national organisations, research institutes, or other relevant organisations may be considered provided their background is relevant to the themes of the Seminar

Up to 4 participants from AU & NZ

COST

COVERED BY CLAIR

- Domestic transportation in Japan
- Accommodation (during the official Seminar period)
- Group attended meals
- Travel insurance in Japan

NOT COVERED

- Roundtrip airfare to Japan
- Personal expenses (e.g. telephone & internet expenses, meals)

FOCUS

- Japanese local government system
- Community-based initiatives for waste management
- Site visits and discussions to learn best practices

CONTACT

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

Level 13, 115 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000

TEL: +61 2 9241 5033

E-mail: mailbox@jlgc.org.au

For more information and application
Please scan the QR code or visit our website



Learn more about Goka Town:

- Goka Town Official Website: <https://www.town.goka.lg.jp/>





To celebrate, CLAIR Tokyo Headquarters is launching the “[JET Arigato Campaign](#),” inviting current and former JET participants, as well as everyone involved with the JET Programme, to share messages of appreciation for the people, communities, and experiences that have made their JET journey special.

Share your “ARIGATO” on social media using [#ArigatoJET](#)!

Want your message to be featured at the JET Programme 40th Anniversary Reception or on CLAIR’s website and social media? Submit it through the application form for a chance to receive a 40th anniversary commemorative gift!

Application Form Deadline

18 September 2026 17:00 (JST)

(Social media posts may be made at any time.)

Further details

<https://jetprogramme.org/en/voices/jetarigatocampaign40>



The 16th Iwate Manga Award is now open to artists of all ages and experience levels. Whether through manga, short stories or illustrations, entrants are invited to share their own creative take on Iwate, with just one work needed to enter.



Entry Details

- ◆ Eligible Works:
 - Original, unpublished works related to Iwate
 - Open to both amateur and professional artists
- ◆ Categories:
 - General Category
 - 1-4 Panel Manga Category
 - Illustration Category
- ◆ Entry Deadline: 24 September 2026

Awards

- Publication on Comic Iwate WEB
- Monetary prizes for selected General Category winners

How to Apply

Submit your work through the online submission form on the official website.
(<https://www.iwatemangapp.com/global/english.html>)



Special Exhibition Now Open:

Ukiyo-e is a traditional Japanese art form best known for colourful woodblock prints depicting everyday life, landscapes, kabuki actors, and popular culture. Each print was created through the collaboration of several skilled specialists, including publishers, artists, woodblock carvers, and printers.

From the late Edo period into the Meiji era, ukiyo-e developed beyond an art form to become an important means of sharing news, trends, and popular entertainment with a wide audience.

Discover a diverse selection of works by master artists who captured the dramatic social and cultural changes of this transformative period, while introducing fresh and innovative styles of expression.

幕末明治の天才絵師たち

新浮世絵展

愛媛新聞創刊150周年記念

2026.7.25 (土) → 9.13 (日)

愛媛県美術館 本館2階 常設展示室1・2
9:40 - 18:00 (入場は17:30まで)
休館日: 月曜日 (ただし8/3、9/7は開館)、8/4火、9/8火

主催: 新!浮世絵展愛媛実行委員会 (愛媛県・愛媛新聞社)
共催: 愛媛CATV 企画協力: TOPPAN
協賛: 伊予銀行、大王製紙
後援: 愛媛県、松山市、松山大学教育委員会、愛媛県文化振興財団、愛媛県文化協会
協賛: 愛媛県新聞協同組合、NHK松山放送局、南海放送、テレビ愛媛
あいしじ、愛媛朝日テレビ、愛媛CATV協議会、FM愛媛

「新!浮世絵展」
公式サイト

愛媛県美術館

〈問い合わせ〉
新!浮世絵展愛媛実行委員会事務局 (愛媛新聞社企画事業部内)
TEL 089-935-2355 (平日9:00~17:00)

Website: <https://www.toppan-vr.jp/shin-ukiyo-e/>

* Please note that the website is available in Japanese only.





Deep Tech Tokyo Launchpad

Deep Tech Tokyo Launchpad is a support program led by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government for overseas deep tech companies planning to establish and expand their presence in Tokyo. This program aims to drive innovation by fostering collaboration and creating business opportunities between these companies and local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Tokyo. It also aims to support the growth of Tokyo's industries and strengthen their international competitiveness.

✓ Who can apply?

Companies that meet all of the following criteria:

- Companies planning to complete corporate registration in Tokyo between early December 2026 and March 2028
- Companies with concrete plans to drive innovation in Tokyo, such as conducting a proof of concept (PoC), engaging in joint research or co-development with Tokyo-based companies, or establishing a joint venture (JV).
- Companies with a strong commitment to expanding their business presence to Tokyo

✨ Benefits

- Access to a wide range of support services, including market research and consulting, office setup, legal services, accounting and tax advisory, recruitment and staffing support, translation services, and financial assistance
- Subsidies of up to ¥ 100 million (approximately AUD\$900K) are provided over the three-year support period

📍 Applications

Application Deadline: September 30, 2026

Program Start: Early December, 2026

👉 For more information

<https://www.deeptech-tokyo.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/>





The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme is one of the world's largest international exchange programmes, established by the Japanese government in 1987. Its purpose is to promote grassroots internationalisation in local communities across Japan, foster mutual understanding between Japan and other countries, enhance foreign language education, and develop globally-minded individuals. Through the programme, participants from around the world come to Japan to work in local governments and schools, where they contribute to international exchange activities and foreign language education.

Each year, from late July to early August, most new participants from Australia and New Zealand depart for Japan to begin their JET experience. Having just seen off this year's new participants, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the JET Programme once again.



Participating Countries and Number of Participants

When the programme first began in 1987, there were 848 participants from just four countries: Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. As the programme marks its 40th anniversary in 2026, it has grown to include 5,734 participants from 53 countries around the world.

The programme's growth over the past 4 decades has been remarkable. To date, more than 82,000 participants from 82 countries have taken part in the JET Programme. Among them, 5,138 participants have come from Australia, while 3,713 participants have come from New Zealand. The contribution of both countries to the success and development of the programme has been invaluable.

Australia and New Zealand have been involved in the JET Programme since its inception. Today, many JET alumni continue to play active roles across a wide range of fields, serving as bridges between Japan and their home countries while contributing to deeper mutual understanding and stronger friendships between Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.



Three Positions within the JET Programme

There are 3 types of positions on the JET Programme. While appointments are initially for one year, participants may, with the agreement of both the participant and their contracting organisation, renew their appointment for up to a maximum of 5 years.

ALT (Assistant Language Teacher): 5,238 Participants*

ALTs are primarily assigned to elementary, junior high, and senior high schools. They assist Japanese teachers in foreign language classes and often support extracurricular activities such as English clubs. More than 90 percent of all JET participants serve as ALTs.



CIR (Coordinator for International Relations): 481 Participants*

CIRs are primarily assigned to the international affairs divisions of local governments. Their duties include translation and interpretation, assisting with official visits from overseas guests, and organising activities that promote intercultural understanding within local communities. CIRs possess advanced Japanese language proficiency that enables them to carry out these responsibilities effectively.



SEA (Sports Exchange Advisor): 15 Participants*

SEAs are primarily assigned to sports-related departments of local governments, where they promote international exchange through sports and engage in activities such as sports coaching and instruction.



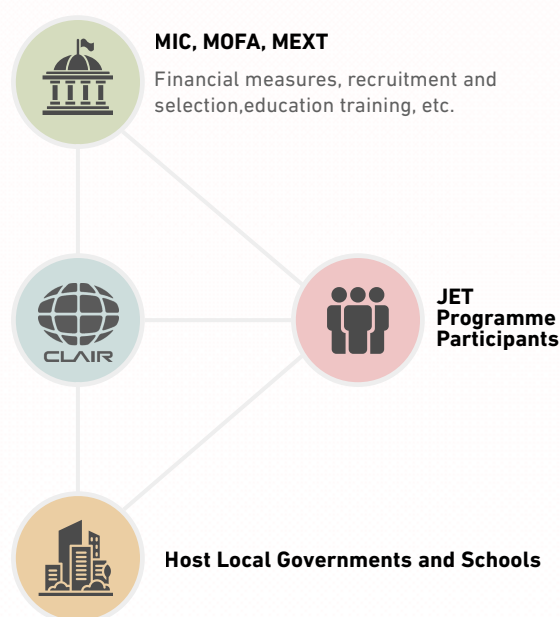
*All participant numbers are as of June 2026.

The Role of CLAIR in Supporting the JET Programme

The JET Programme is administered through the close cooperation of Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), and host local governments and schools across Japan.

At CLAIR, we are responsible for coordinating participant placements and delivering training programmes for participants. In addition, we support participants' career development after completing the programme through initiatives such as career fairs and internship programmes for those interested in pursuing careers in Japan.

We also continue to support JET alumni after they return to their home countries by providing support, including financial assistance, for the activities of the JET Programme Alumni Association (JETAA), which currently maintains 57 chapters across 21 countries and regions worldwide.



The Ongoing Contributions of JET Alumni from Australia and New Zealand

Each JETAA chapter is managed by a committee of dedicated volunteers who previously participated in the JET programme. Currently, there are a total of 8 chapters in the Oceania region: 5 chapters in Australia and 3 chapters in New Zealand.

These chapters undertake a wide range of activities, including supporting prospective JET participants, organising networking events to assist JET alumni with their career development, and facilitating exchanges with local Japanese communities.

In addition, the Oceania Conference is held annually, bringing together all 8 chapters from the Oceania region, along with the Singapore chapter, for a total of 9 participating chapters. During the conference, participants share recent initiatives and engage in lively discussions on ways to further develop the JET Programme.



The Oceania Conference 2025 was held in Canberra

Our office also produces the [“JET Programme Alumni Testimonials”](#), a publication showcasing the achievements of JET alumni from Australia and New Zealand following their completion of the programme. The testimonials were first published in March 2021, and we are currently preparing a new edition, which we look forward to introducing in this newsletter once completed.

Forty Years of Achievement and Looking to the Future

Celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2026, the JET Programme has built a global network of people-to-people connections through more than 82,000 participants over the course of its history.

We would like to once again express our deepest appreciation to the many JET alumni from Australia and New Zealand. We also hope that the JET Programme will continue to inspire future generations and serve as a bridge, strengthening the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding between Japan, Australia and New Zealand, as well as countries around the world, for many years to come.

* For more information, please visit the official JET Programme website: <https://jetprogramme.org/en/>



Yuko Mitsunaga
Executive Director