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## Local Cuisine around Japan: Vol.17 Miyakonojo City

Miyakonojo City is located in the far south of Japan. Coming by plane, it takes about 2.5h from Tokyo, or 2h from Osaka.

We are blessed with beautiful nature and fresh water. We produce the most chicken, pork and beef, as well as sell the most shochu (a tasty alcohol which is often made from sweet potato and stronger than sake!) in Japan.



Char-grilled local chicken

Currently, we highly recommend our “meat tourism.” Our authentically prepared menus focus on sukiyaki and steak, where you can satisfy your taste buds on top quality meat and shochu.

For delicious meat at a reasonable price, you should definitely try our “local char-grilled chicken.” Eating our tender chicken, before you know it the aroma will make

you want to try some shochu, beer, tea or water. If you want to sound like a real local, we call the soothing drink at the end of a hard day's work "dare yame."

Our year 7 to 9 students have had an exchange programme with Burpengary State Secondary College in Queensland since 2016. We send students to Australia every year, and they visit us every other year. They all experience a home stay programme and classes in the other country.

The students from Queensland thoroughly enjoyed the food when they came to Miyakonojo the year before last. We plan to host them once again in September this year, and we hope they enjoy the food just as much this time.



Meat tourism menus

You, too, are very welcome to come and enjoy our delicious food. You can even enjoy our food from the comfort of your own home: feel free to browse our "Miyakonojo PR Cooperative Store" (Japanese only): <http://cms.city.miyakonojo.miyazaki.jp/tempimg/161214093037201709201557580f.pdf>

We are also interested in implementing exchange programmes outside of the year 7-9 level. Please feel free to contact us in English or Japanese with any information you may have!

Email: [intl@city.miyakonojo.miyazaki.jp](mailto:intl@city.miyakonojo.miyazaki.jp)

You can find our city's official website here (English and Japanese): <http://www.city.miyakonojo.miyazaki.jp/>



A visit to Miyakonojo from BSSC students



An exchange visit to BSSC



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## 2018 CLAIR Forum

On Monday 5 February, CLAIR Sydney and the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Institute for Public Policy and Governance (UTS:IPPG) in cooperation with Coffs Harbour hosted the 2018 CLAIR Forum. Coffs Harbour is one of the NSW LGAs with an increasing population.

This year's theme was "local governments' policies on regional revitalisation", which is an important issue in both Australia and Japan.



UTS:IPPG Director, Professor Roberta Ryan, Mr Steve Gooley, General Manager of Bachrach Naumberger Group, Mr Chris Chapman, Director, Sustainable Communities at Coffs Harbour City Council and our staff members made presentations focusing on this theme. Workshops were also conducted with the attendees. Thank you to all attendees for supporting the CLAIR Forum.

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## Support activities for Okayama

On 10-11 February, a few officials from the Okayama Prefectural government visited CLAIR Sydney. This year is the 25th anniversary of the Sister-State relationship between Okayama Prefecture and South Australia. The Governor of Okayama and his delegation will be in Sydney at the beginning of May. They are planning to learn more about measures taken by Australia to increase inbound tourism.

CLAIR Sydney supported their activities and gave them an overview of Australia with information on travel marketing and by making the necessary appointments for them in Sydney. CLAIR also accompanied them on their scheduled visits. We will continue to support Okayama prefecture's efforts in Australia.



# Study tour at the Barossa Council in SA

Motohiro Suzuki, one of the Assistant Directors at the Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR, Sydney) completed his study tour at the Barossa Council in South Australia on February 19. The study tour was made possible by former Barossa Deputy Mayor Scotty Milne J.P. who kindly introduced Motohiro to Barossa CEO Martin McCarthy after he expressed his desire to learn more about the Barossa.



Mr. McCarthy, gave Motohiro a quick tour of the council and then proceeded to give him an overview of the council with Organisational Development Manager, Mr. Vincent Marsland. Motohiro also had the opportunity to visit the Barossa Information Centre where he met with Manager Ms. Jo Seabrook who provided him with some information on tourism in the Barossa and the Cycle Hub.



During his week-long study tour, Motohiro also visited Tourism Barossa to meet with Ms. Cathy Wills and The Barossa Grape and Wine Association to meet with Mr. James March, CEO and some wineries to learn more about wine tourism in the region. Motohiro learnt a lot about wine tourism and hopes to use the information obtained to further promote the Hokkaido prefecture and its venture into the wine industry. Motohiro notes the interesting approach taken by the Barossa in managing their wine tourism industry, that is not to strive for an over-expanded industry but to focus on stability and strengths.

Motohiro also interviewed directors and department managers at the Barossa Council to learn about the many roles of council.

He'd like to take this opportunity once again to thank Mr. Martin McCarthy, Mr. James March, Ms. Cathy Wills and all the lovely staff members from the Barossa city council who accommodated him on the day.

It's been a wonderful and informative experience for him. He greatly appreciates the hospitality shown to him by those he met during the study tour. The knowledge he has gained from this study tour will greatly benefit his home prefecture of Hokkaido.





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## The Flight Centre World Travel Expo 2018 in Melbourne

The Flight Centre World Travel Expo 2018 was held at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on 17-18 February. CLAIR Sydney supported Hokkaido (Hokkaido Tourism Organization) and Sapporo City who had a booth there to promote their region. The large venue was filled with visitors, a lot of them interested in learning more about the tourist attractions of Hokkaido. It was a great event to promote Hokkaido in Australia and we hope the feedback from participants will help them increase inbound tourism.



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## The Naha Port Authority came to Sydney

From 19 to 23 February, the Naha Port Authority came to Sydney for port sales activities and research on the development of the Sydney Harbour waterfront.

CLAIR Sydney gave an overview presentation on Australia, the Australian cruise market and the development of the Greater Sydney metropolitan area on 20 February. We accompanied them on their visit to the Barangaroo Delivery Authority to learn more about the development of Barangaroo. After the visit, the Barangaroo Delivery Authority representative showed us around the ongoing development site. It was a great opportunity for them to further understand the development plan.





# The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sister city relationship between Timaru and Eniwa

The 10th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Timaru in New Zealand and Eniwa in Hokkaido.

On 19 February, the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Timaru, New Zealand and Eniwa in Hokkaido was held at the Timaru District Council and CLAIR Sydney attended the ceremony.

In front of the council building, a Maori welcome ceremony was held and the memorial plaque to commemorate the anniversary was revealed.

At the assembly hall, the Japanese Ambassador to New Zealand, Mr. Toshihisa Takata, made a speech to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Eniwa-Timaru relationship. Mayor of Eniwa City, Mr. Yutaka Harada, talked about the attractions of Eniwa city together with students from the Hokkaido Bunkyo University whilst Mayor of Timaru, Mr. Damon Odey, talked about the attractions of Timaru. The ceremony was a conducive environment to understand the attractions of both cities and representatives from both Eniwa and Timaru exchanged gifts during the proceedings. Timaru and Eniwa have conducted student exchange programs since 2003 and have also exchanged ideas on economic growth, cultural exchange and many other topics. CLAIR Sydney believes the strong relationship between Eniwa and Timaru will continue to grow and prosper and we will strive to support it wherever we can.

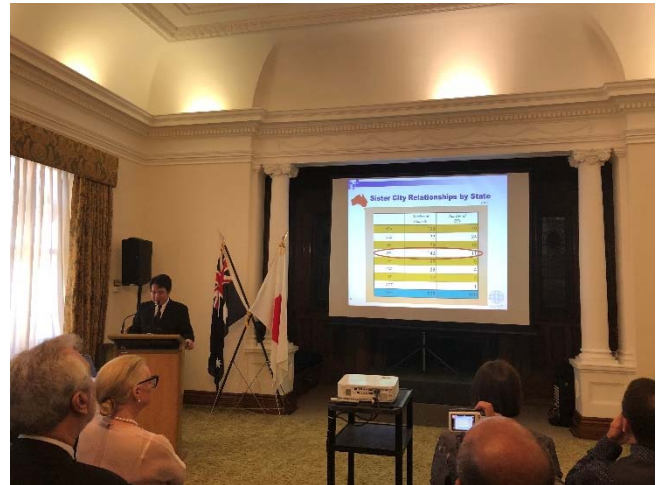




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## CLAIR Sydney attended the Reception for the Promotion of Exchange between Japan and WA at Local Levels

On 21st February, CLAIR Sydney attended the Reception for the Promotion of Exchange between Japan and WA at Local Levels, which was held by the Consulate-General of Japan in Perth. People involved in sister city relationships such as The Hon Bill Johnston MLA, Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Commerce and Industrial Relations: Electoral Affairs: Asian Engagement, and Ms Jan Teasdale, Vice President, Sister Cities Australia Inc., attended the reception. Our director made a presentation on the sister city relationships between Australia and Japan. After the presentation, we had opportunities to interact with other participants in order to further promote sister city relationships.



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## The CLAIR staff visited Flinders Island

On February 23, our staff visited Flinders Island in Tasmania to conduct research regarding policies promoting local governments located on islands in Australia. Flinders Island is a small local government located in the north of Tasmania with a population of about 800. They are addressing the same issues that small local governments in Japan are facing such as aging society, depopulation and so on. Mr. Marc Cobham, the Deputy Mayor, Mr. Bill Boehm, the General Manager, and Ms. Jacci Viney, the Development Services Co-ordinator, kindly hosted us and explained that they value their local community, and have been promoting tourism and attracting new



residents by advertising the comfortable living standards on the island which is rich in nature. On the other hand, they are working on improving infrastructure on the island by upgrading telecommunication systems with a grant from the federal government. They carry out their initiatives by using limited resources, and we believe they will be very useful references for Japanese local governments. We will continue to conduct research to provide useful information for local governments in Japan.

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# Melbourne 2018 Japanese Summer Festival



On Sunday 25 February, the Melbourne 2018 Japanese Summer Festival was held at Federation Square in Melbourne. This festival features traditional acts such as Taiko drumming, Okinawan folk music, along with Japanese dance performances. The organizer announced that 35,000 visitors came to this event. CLAIR ran a booth at the event to promote Japanese regional destinations and assisted people who are involved in donation activities for Kumamoto Prefecture. Many visitors came to our booth and we

were very happy to meet all the visitors. In addition, KUMAMON, the famous character from Kumamoto, was also at the event and was treated like a Star by many visitors!

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# Professor Mika Nishimura from Seikei University came to Sydney

From 26 to 28 February, Professor Mika Nishimura, from the Political Science Division of the Faculty of Law at Seikei University in Tokyo came to Sydney to conduct research on job classification and job evaluation in Australia. CLAIR Sydney arranged visits to relevant organisations and accompanied her to support her research efforts. Professor Nishimura came to Sydney two years ago for research on the remuneration system of public sector employees and decided to conduct this research based on her previous one. It was also a great opportunity for us to learn about the process of job classification and job evaluation.





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# A delegation from the Yamato City came to Australia

From 28 February to 2 March, a delegation from the Yamato City Board of Education came to Australia to visit schools that engage in exchange programs with schools in Yamato. They explained to us the details of their exchange programs and we discussed school exchange programs between Australia and Japan.

CLAIR Sydney continues to promote school exchange programs between Australia / New Zealand and Japan.



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## JETAA NZSI

### Events - Returnee dinner, Bounenkai and J-Kaiwa

· We have had some great events to both end and start the new year. Our end of year party at Mori Mori, a new izakaya in Christchurch was a big success with JET alumni and their partners, as well as members of the Consular Office joining us.

· We had a get-together for our small but enthusiastic group of returnees at Host Karaoke Bar and Restaurant in October. It was really great to hear about both the experiences and plans of the newest members to JETAA!

· J-Kaiwa tends to quiet down a bit over the summer holidays as university/polytech students take time off from their studies. However, smaller groups at the last couple of J-Kaiwa's have been great for more intimate language practice.



### Otago-Southland Sub-chapter

· In early 2017, JETAA members living in Dunedin met for the first time. Since that first meeting we have organised monthly J-Kaiwa events. These have become very popular - especially among Japanese students studying in Dunedin. In September, we held a dinner to welcome back three JET returnees. In

October, two members attended the annual Oceania Conference which was hosted by the Auckland chapter. This was a great opportunity to meet members from across Australia and New Zealand and gather some inspiring and interesting ideas which we hope to apply in the near future. In December, we also hosted a very enjoyable Bounenkai for a passionate group of alumni in Dunedin. It's been a really successful 2017 - feedback has been extremely positive from alumni who are keen to be involved in any activities we organise. Most recently, we have applied to JETAA International to become an official sub-chapter of JETAA South Island. We look forward to more activities, promoting the JET programme, and increased membership of alumni in 2018.



## Survey

One of the things that came out of the 2017 JETAA Oceania Conference was the need for JETAA SI to gain some more data about what our alumni really want from us, in particular as a step towards getting more alumni engaged in JETAA and its activities. So, in December we put two surveys - one to recent returnees, and the other to older alumni. As an incentive, we offered a \$100 voucher to Ballantynes Department store - congratulations to Stacey Kokaua for taking this away! The data showed us that maintaining a connection with JET and Japan is the most important thing JETs want from us. Alongside that, events and community were also important. To that end, we are working on some ideas for exciting new events this year!



**Win a \$100 voucher!**



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# Farewell Messages

Our Senior Research & Liaison Officer Jason Khoh has left CLAIR Sydney in February to take a new step. And our Assistant Directors Yu Kawamura, Motohiro Suzuki, Nanako Shimada, Rina Okamoto, Toshiya Komatsu are leaving Sydney at the end of March to take up their new roles back in Japan...

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**Jason Khoh**

Senior Research & Liaison Officer

Today is the last day of an amazing two-and-a-half years at CLAIR Sydney.

I'd like to first sincerely thank our Director, Mr Katsunori Kamibo, for this special opportunity to be a bridge between Australia/New Zealand and Japan.

It has been an honour to work with so many brilliant and hard-working people. There are too many people to list, but special thanks to Prof. Roberta Ryan (Director at UTS:IPPG), Mr Bill Wilson (President at SCA) and Mr Graham Tomkinson (Emergency Management Officer - Policy & Planning, NSW Police Force; Senior Deputy Controller,

NSW SES - Bankstown Unit).

Many thanks to all my colleagues at CLAIR Sydney, starting with Mr Masahisa Yoshimi and Mr Shigeki Yamada (former and current Deputy Directors) and especially to my fellow Senior Research & Liaison Officer, Mr Damian Spinks. I wish my successor, Ms Carol Cheng, all the best and welcome to the CLAIR Sydney family.

It has been a privilege to witness so many people at the local government level working hard to build and develop positive and lasting relationships and I enjoyed my time assisting the City of Nagoya as a member of the Sydney-Nagoya Sister City Committee.

Moving forward, I look forward to working as a Japanese language & Japanese translation teacher at Macquarie University and pursuing other opportunities in the Japan-Australia space.

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The time has finally come for me to leave Sydney.

As a staff member of CLAIR Sydney for two years from April 2016, I was mainly in charge of economic exchange relations between Japan and Australia/New Zealand and multiculturalism research activities in Australia. Thanks to your help and support, I have had wonderful and exciting days here in Sydney.



**Yu Kawamura (left)**

Assistant Director from Rokunohe Town  
(Aomori Prefecture)

I had great opportunities to work with so many excellent and hard-working people in Australia and New Zealand and was warmly welcomed everywhere I went. I would like to especially thank Ray Wallace (Mayor of Hutt City Council),

Linda Goss-Wallace (International Relations and Project Manager - Hutt City Council), James Lamb (City Promotion Manager - Hutt City Council), and Hiromi Morris (President at Sister City New Zealand) for accommodating me during my recent internship at the Hutt City Council.

I would also like to thank our Director, Mr Katsunori Kamibo, Mr Masahisa Yoshimi and Mr Shigeki Yamada (former and current Deputy Directors) and all my colleagues. During my two years at CLAIR Sydney, our activities expanded drastically whilst the presence of Australia and New Zealand in Japan's international engagements increased. It has been great being at the forefront of the Japan-Australia/New Zealand local government relationship with my CLAIR colleagues.

I will return to Rokunohe town in Aomori prefecture at the end of March to continue my work as a local government officer. I intend to make use of all the knowledge and experience I gained in these two years, not only in our international relations strategy but also in further developing my local community.





**Motohiro Suzuki (middle)**

Assistant Director from Hokkaido Government

I'm glad I could come to Sydney. This was my first time living overseas. I couldn't speak English (I still don't speak well), but these two years have been the most vivid period in my life. I have made a lot of wonderful memories working abroad for the first time here in Sydney, Australia and in New Zealand.

I have had the amazing opportunity of collaborating with incredibly hard working and friendly local government Mayors, Councilors and officials, cheerful and energetic JETAA members, intellectual and directive professors and scholars, affable residents and tourists and cooperative colleagues.

I will always cherish the time I spent and the memories I share with all here in Australia and New Zealand. I will always remember the red Australian soil and deep red wine and New Zealand's pure white snow. I wish I could stay here for one more year but it is unfortunately time to go home.

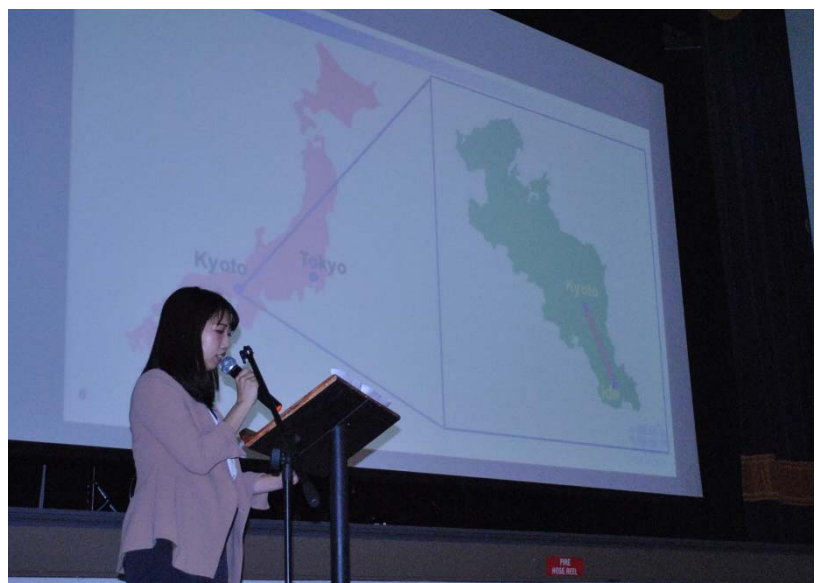
I will go back to Hokkaido as a prefectural official and do my best.

Farewell and good bye to all the very special friends I've made who will never be forgotten. Until we meet again!

It's so hard to say goodbye. I'd like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to everyone I have worked with in both Australia and New Zealand and of course my fellow colleagues at CLAIR Sydney.

It has been an unbelievable 2 years here and I will never forget the warm welcome I have received. I would also like to especially thank my home town government, the Ide Local Government, for giving me this opportunity to live and work overseas and to the City of Cockburn who accommodated me for my one-week internship.

I am forever grateful and deeply moved. I will work hard and hopefully one day return the favour to everyone who made these 2 years great!



**Rina Okamoto**

Assistant Director from Ide Town  
(Kyoto Prefecture)



**Nanako Shimada (left)**

Assistant Director from Kobe City  
(Hyogo Prefecture)

It is hard to believe two years ago that I started living and working in Sydney.

It has been an honour working with many supportive local government officials in Australia and New Zealand and wonderful JETAA Oceania members. I would like to especially thank Brisbane City Council, Sister City of Kobe, Mr Eden Law, JETAA Australia Country Representative and Ms Danna Mageanu, JETAA New Zealand County Representative. I also would like to express my appreciation to my Director, Mr Kamibo and Deputy Director, Mr Yamada and my colleagues.

I will return to Kobe City government this April, bringing back amazing memories and a lot of knowledge gained over these two years. I hope to make the most of them in developing Kobe City. I am looking forward to working with you as a Kobe City official next time!

*Osewa ni Narimashita. Korekaramo Yoroshiku Onegai Shimasu.*

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First of all, I would like to express my appreciation for everyone I met here in Australia and New Zealand during my secondment at CLAIR Sydney. It has been a really great opportunity for me to work in Australia. As the first person to be dispatched from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to CLAIR Sydney, I have been able to work with the New South Wales State Government, the sister-state of Tokyo on some sister-state related programmes.



**Toshiya Komatsu**

Assistant Director from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government

One of the best experiences during my secondment was my internship at Nelson City Council. During the internship, staff from the planning team and strategic policy team at the council taught me about urban planning, policy planning and establishing a long term plan. I have learnt a bunch of things regarding local governance in Nelson and discovered many distinctions in public administration between New Zealand and Japan.



I also had the opportunity to conduct research on Australian and New Zealand policies such as council amalgamations in NSW, urban planning in Sydney and Melbourne, volunteering in Australia, management of the World Masters Games in Auckland and isolated island promotion strategies in Australia. These research projects have improved my understanding of local governance.

I believe these unforgettable experiences will be incredibly useful for my career in local government. I am deeply appreciative and grateful for all the people whom I worked with. I hope I will see you again in the future.

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## Introducing our new staff



**Carol Cheng**  
Research & Liaison Officer

Hello everyone! My name is Carol and I am your new Research & Liaison Officer at CLAIR Sydney. As a JET alumni, I am excited to be continuing my journey with CLAIR.

I am Chinese-Australian and spent my early years in three different regions. I was born in Taipei, Taiwan and spent part of my childhood in the bustling city of Hong Kong before immigrating to Sydney with my family. My interest in Japan began at a young age when I was living in Hong Kong, where I was exposed to various cultures of Japan.

I have spent a total of 4.5 years in Japan, a year as an exchange student in Hyogo prefecture, and 3.5 years as a Coordinator for International Relations under the JET Programme in the city of Hamamatsu, located on the west side of Shizuoka Prefecture. While in Japan, besides continuing to learn the interesting language, I had many wonderful opportunities to immerse myself in the fascinating culture and traditions of Japan, as well as travelling around the country.

While working as a Coordinator for International Relations in Hamamatsu City, I was given many opportunities to learn about the behind-the-scenes operations of a Japanese local government, and even had opportunities to represent the city in international local government conferences outside of Japan.

After my time working as a Coordinator for International Relations, I was working in the technology and travel industry back here in Sydney, where I was able to develop many personal skills, as well as learn about regional differences in the Asia Pacific region.

I am really looking forward to working with everyone! I understand that I have huge shoes to fill from my predecessor, Mr. Jason Khoh, but I hope that I will be able to contribute to the strong ties between Japan and Australia/New Zealand, and continue to develop my knowledge and understandings in local governance.

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## Our new intern



Hello, my name is Noora Salo and I am an international student (from Finland) at Macquarie University. I am in my final year of completing a Bachelor of International Studies with Japanese language as my minor. This degree has given me the opportunity to enhance my knowledge of different cultures and allowed me to learn a new language, Japanese, at the same time.

I am fortunate to have been exposed to various cultures as a child by spending more time overseas than in Finland. For this reason, I have been able to gain an understanding of cross-cultural communication and an interest in languages. Both my studies and my upbringing have instilled in me an interest into multiculturalism and especially how immigrants are accepted into their new societies.

As I have not yet had the opportunity to visit Japan, I am looking forward to learning more about Japan and multiculturalism in the country through this internship. I am also interested in

improving my Japanese communication skills!

I am very grateful for CLAIR, Sydney for giving me this opportunity to learn more about Japan in a professional environment.

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## From the Director

### 29 –Road Administration - A Year of Local Governments in Japan

This Japanese winter season was colder and had more snowfall than usual with experts saying that ‘La Niña’ was what triggered such extreme weather. Northern Japan was hit particularly hard and there were instances where the Japanese Self- Defense Force was deployed to free more than 1500 vehicles stranded on major roads buried in heavy snow.

All roads in Japan, depending on their size and location, is managed by a specific tier of government, be it the central or prefectural/municipal government. The deployment of the Self-Defense Force to deal with road blockages such as what happened recently is very rare.

The Japanese central government is responsible for all major roads and highways that connect major cities and the overall nationwide road framework. On the other hand, prefectural and municipal governments are in charge of their respective regional road networks. Although the central government is responsible for ‘national roads’, about 60% of these roads are administered by prefectures or designated cities. This exemplifies an aspect of Japan’s fused public administration system.

Road administration is one of the biggest responsibilities for Japanese governments and also one of the most expensive. Roads were formerly funded by special duties placed on petroleum and diesel oil but due to a change in policy in 2009, these special duties have been channeled into general purpose revenue as Japan grapples with tough financial circumstances and an aging population.