



This issue includes:

| (page) | (page) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Local Cuisine Around Japan (Kofu City) | 3 Visitation to Auckland Council |
| 2 Nagaizumi-cho and Whanganui Sister City Relationship 30th Anniversary Celebration | 4 JETAA |
| 3 Visitation to Wellington City Council | 6 From the Director |

Local Cuisine around Japan: Vol.28

Written by Kofu City

It's Neither Ramen, Soba, nor Udon!

The One and Only Koushu's Local Cuisine: Hoto

When you think of noodle dishes in Japan, most people are quick to think of ramen, soba, or udon. But Japan's best kept secret might just be its fourth-and uniquely delicious- type of noodles, created and enjoyed by locals in Yamanashi Prefecture's Kofu City: Hoto noodles.

The soup base used for this noodle dish is made out of Japan's traditionally fermented miso. Toppings that consist of locally harvested vegetables and fish, and mushrooms used to make the dashi (stock) give the dish a wonderfully rich flavour. The wheat flour noodles are cut in a thick but flat style, making this dish one of a kind. Many events held in the area in autumn, during the season of stunning red and gold foliage, take their name from hoto, such as the Shousenkyou Hoto Festival and the Kurobera Hoto Festival.

Why not spend your next holiday to Japan in the company of beautiful autumn scenery and delicious traditional food?





Close to the area's famous Shosenkyo Gorge is the Houtou Kaikan, a restaurant facility where customers can make their very own hoto noodles, under the friendly guidance of experienced staff- making it a breeze for even an absolute beginner! With the area's natural beauty offering something different with each season (cherry blossoms, azaleas and Japanese wild parsley in spring, the verdant foliage in summer, red and gold hues in autumn, and stunning snow scenes in

winter), hoto-making is a great experience whatever the time of year.

Please note that advance reservations are required. For information about timing and availability, please contact Hoto Kaikan directly.

Nagaizumi-cho and Whanganui Sister City Relationship 30th Anniversary Celebration

On 27 Jan, Mr Hamish McDouall, the Mayor of Whanganui District Council and other related personnel, welcomed a delegation from Nagaizumi-cho in Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan, for the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the sister city relationship between the two government areas. The delegation included Nagaizumi-cho's Mayor Ikeda, and the Chairperson of the town's council, Mr Uematsu. Representatives from the Embassy of Japan in New Zealand, Sister Cities New Zealand, and CLAIR Sydney were in attendance at the event after receiving the kind invitation from Mayor McDouall.



Whanganui and Nagaizumi-cho have been conducting a wide variety of exchange activities between them, including student exchange programs and representatives from Nagaizumi-cho participating in the New Zealand Masters Games event held in Whanganui. Additionally, Mayor McDouall visited Nagaizumi-cho last August and participated in the local WakuWaku Festival. He even showed us the dance he learnt at the festival and told us that he danced for 2.5 hours at the festival last year in Nagaizumi-cho!

CLAIR Sydney would like to continue our support for the vigorous activities between Whanganui and Nagaizumi-cho.

Visitation to Wellington City Council

Staff members of CLAIR Sydney visited Wellington City Council to discuss sister cities relations with Sakai city, Japan. They met with Tom Yuan, International Relations Manager and Aiko Collins, International Relations Advisor.

Wellington and Sakai city will celebrate 25 years of the sister city relationship in 2019. They are expecting to collaborate on several milestone event projects including a proposed delegation from Sakai, youth, sports and arts exchanges. Building on the strong and trusting relationship, Wellington City Council has been working closely with local organisations and businesses to develop economic relations with Sakai.



Wellington City Council thanked CLAIR for their ongoing support of the Wellington Japan Festival. The newly established Wellington Japan Festival Trust, The Embassy of Japan and Wellington City Council look forward to cooperating with CLAIR for future festivals.

The annual Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar was discussed and Wellington City Council showed interest in sending senior officials to attend the seminar. The seminar provides an excellent opportunity to learn about policies and challenges of Japanese local governments.

CLAIR Sydney would like to continue to have more dialogue with local councils in New Zealand, as well as support Japanese local governments' activity in New Zealand.

Visitation to Auckland Council

On 29 January, CLAIR Sydney staff members visited Ms Kimberley Wu, the International Relations Manager at Auckland Council. Ms Wu was a participant of CLAIR's annual Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar in 2015, and she therefore has extensive first-hand experience and knowledge about Japanese local government administrations.

Currently, Auckland Council has 19 global partnerships with international cities around the world. During the visit, the CLAIR Sydney staff members also visited the Fukuoka Garden in Western Springs Lakeside Park, which was a redevelopment project that Auckland Council and Fukuoka City collaborated on and unveiled in 2017.

CLAIR Sydney would like to continue to expand on their dialogue with local councils in New Zealand such as Auckland Council, as well as provide support for Japanese local governments' activities in New Zealand.



JETAA



Photo by Mr Julius Pang from JETA AWA

JETAA International Written by Chair Ashlie O'Neill

As you may or may not know, the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme has hosted more than 70,000 participants since its establishment in the 1980s. These alumni are represented by local JETAA chapters who work hard to host events, train new JETs, give support and represent us in the community. JETAA International (JETAA-I) was re-established to represent the JET community on a worldwide scale, but also to bring together the vast amount of information that can be found throughout the globe. This year has again been a busy year for JETAA-I. As JETAA-I 2.0 has only been around since 2016, you may not have heard of us or what we do. Below is a list of some of our current projects. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time on chair@jetaainternational.org if you have additional questions.

· KenJETAkai (KJK) – KJK are groups that have been established on Facebook to bring together not only JET participants and alumni, but also local government officials and the wider Japanese community. We are happy to report that almost all Japanese prefectures now have a group, but we are still seeking admins for seven groups which are Akita, Iwate, Kanagawa, Kyoto, Nara, Tokyo and Wakayama. If you think you may be

interested please reach out to me and I will let you know more about the very simple process. We have also been contacted by a variety of Contracting Organisations and Local Government Officials about tapping into the potential of the KJK groups. This coming year we are hoping to continue to build the membership in groups and get more people involved from the community. To find your prefecture KJK simply just type your prefectures name and KenJETKai into the search bar on Facebook.

- Connecting prospective JETs with Country Representatives and local chapters – this year we have been contacted by a variety of prospective JETs from all over the globe. We work to put them into contact with their CRs and closest JETAA members. JETAA-I is pleased to report we have even been contacted by those in new countries not on the JET programme proving that our online presence is being felt.

- Working with National AJET – JETAA-I is lucky to have the support of National AJET who represent those currently working on the JET programme. We work closely with the current Director of Alumni Relations, Megan Buhagiar who is also a special member that sits on our Board of Advisors representing the needs and wants of current JETs. It is important to have that representation as all current JETs are prospective members of JETAA and a crucial part of our community both now and in the future.

- Attendance and promotion of JETAA International at national conferences around the globe – This year we were fortunate enough to have a member of JETAA International at all the large national and international conferences including the Oceania, the US and Canada. Our presence was for promotion but also connection as it is important for JETAA-I to keep its finger on the pulse of what is important to those who rely on us.



Photo by Mr Julius Pang from JETAAWA

- Supporting JETAA Chapters – We also play an important role in supporting newly established chapters such as the Philippines and Indonesia as well as smaller chapters such as Trinidad and Tobago. We pride ourselves on information transfer and promotion of best practice around the world.

- Supporting country representatives – As our Country Representatives roles vary from country to country we strive to support their projects and ideas.

- JETstreams – JETAA-I works alongside CLAIR Tokyo to seek alumni content from members of the JET community for their seasonal publication, 'JETstreams'. We aim to showcase a variety of alumni from not only different countries, but also professional backgrounds and personal experiences. If you are interested in writing about in the next JETstreams issue, please let us know.

This is just a small overview of the projects that we have been working on at JETAA International. We have an amazing team who are across a huge number of projects worldwide. If you have a project or idea that you

would like JETAA-I to help you with, or would like some advice on or would like further information on JETAA International and our work then check out our website or reach out to me on chair@jetaainternational.org.

From the Director

- The World Masters Games 2021 Kansai -

The World Masters Games (WMG) is an international multi-sport competition held every four years for all amateur athletes aged 30 or over. In May 2021, the WMG 2021 Kansai will be held in Japan's Kansai region. As the 10th edition of the Games, the WMG 2021 Kansai will be the first time ever the Games is held in Asia, making the Kansai Games a commemorative milestone for the WMG.

The Kansai region is located in the center of the Japanese archipelago. Being the heartland of Japan for over a millennium, the area has an abundance of historical and cultural sites. As of August 2018, the Organizing Committee of the WMG 2021 Kansai has confirmed that 59 events in 35 sports will take place at the games. Please click on the following link to find information on the WMG 2021 Kansai, and updates on the sports and events: (<https://www.wmg2021.jp/en/>).

Large-scale international sporting events will be held over three consecutive years in Japan:

- Rugby World Cup 2019;
- Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and
- WMG 2021 Kansai.

The Japanese people are proud to be hosting these special events and are looking forward to welcoming athletes and visitors from all over the world.

Different to the Rugby World Cup and the Olympic and Paralympic Games, in which only a limited number of athletes can participate, the WMG is the special sporting event where anyone aged 30 or over can participate in and enjoy the sports while interacting with other participants and locals of the host cities.

A total of 170,000 amateur athletes have participated in the past nine editions of the WMG so far. The Organizing Committee of the WMG 2021 Kansai expects 50,000 amateur athletes, including 20,000 from overseas, to participate in the competitions. These numbers are the largest in the history of the WMG. The committee hopes that many amateur athletes from Australia and New Zealand will participate in the games, as the WMG is a popular international sporting event in both countries and the two countries have hosted the WMG four times in the past:

- 3rd edition in Brisbane in 1994;
- 5th edition in Melbourne in 2002;
- 7th edition in Sydney in 2009; and
- 9th edition in Auckland in 2017.

The Japanese people welcome all Australians and New Zealanders to participate in the WMG 2021 Kansai, and hope they will enjoy the interactions with other participants and the people of Japan.

I believe that the strong emotions shared among the athletes and locals through sporting activities can easily transcend cultural and linguistic barriers. The people interactions through the WMG 2021 Kansai may have positive impacts on your sister city or friendship city relationships with your Japanese partners.

If your city has connections with any city in the Kansai region, the WMG 2021 Kansai may be an excellent opportunity to further develop these existing connections. For example, you may want to visit your partner city in Kansai with locals from your city who are participating in the WMG 2021 Kansai.

Even if your city does not have connections with any city in the Kansai region, the WMG 2021 Kansai may be a good opportunity to further develop any existing relationships your city has with Japan. For example, you can visit Japan with locals from your city to participate in the WMG 2021 Kansai, and after the games, visit your partner city to create an opportunity for the locals of your city and the locals of your partner city to interact.

If your city is considering initiating a new sister city or friendship city relationship, it might be a good idea to explore this possibility with the cities hosting the WMG 2021 Kansai. The locals of your city may find common characteristics shared between your city and one of the hosting cities of the WMG 2021 Kansai, or they may have excellent interactions with the locals of the hosting cities. The strong emotions shared through sporting activities and people interactions during the WMG 2021 Kansai may become the springboard for new sister city or friendship city relationships between Australia/New Zealand and Japan.
