



Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR, Sydney)

Newsletter Issue

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Welcome to Saga Prefecture

Saga Sake (Rice wine)

Did you know Saga is the Japanese prefecture that has been ranked first in terms of sake consumption per household?

Kyushu is known as the land of shochu (distilled liquor), but blessed with good quality water, Saga Prefecture is home to sake of exquisite taste and fragrance. Nihonshu (rice wine) made of 100% Saga-grown ingredients and water, qualify for the 'SAGA certified sake' appellation of origin, and its popularity has grown in recent years.



If you are a sake fan, the pop-up SAGA BAR in JR Saga Station's Eki-Machi is a must. It serves a monthly selection of 12 sake labels. It offers sake tastings and appetisers served in traditional regional ceramics of Arita-Yaki and Karatsu-Yaki. The pop-up bar is open until March 2020, so don't forget to bookmark it for your upcoming trip to Kyushu!

Enjoy local saké in the local Imari-Arita ware.

Koimari Shuzo in Saga Prefecture is a brewery famous for producing the nationally recognised saké called One Cup, most often than not found in Japanese convenient store and other shops offering cheap alcohol. While a regular blue-labelled One Cup can be found anywhere, picking up a cup in Imari brings extra flavour and fun to



the mix. Imari is famous for the beautiful Imari-Arita ware. So in places like the brewery or Okawachiyama's pottery village, visitors can pick up a One Cup NOMANNE (pictured above), that comes in this pottery ware.

Pre-departure Orientations for new JET programme participants

Pre-departure Orientations for new JET programme participants were held around Australia and New Zealand in June. Staff from CLAIR Sydney participated in the Orientation events in Christchurch (Jun 7), Melbourne (Jun 15), Canberra (Jun 18), Adelaide (Jun 19), Perth (Jun 21) and Brisbane (Jun 28). At each event, staff from CLAIR Sydney gave information on the support services available to JETs while they are in Japan. Each event was also attended by members of the local JETAA chapter, who gave advices based on their ALT or CIR experiences. At the events, the new JET participants listened enthusiastically, and during the question and answer sessions, they asked questions about specific aspects of life in Japan, such as the dress code at their workplaces and how to attain a driver's license in Japan. We hope all new JET participants will enjoy living in Japan, and be ambassadors for the promotion of the Australia-Japan and New Zealand-Japan relation through their activities on the JET Programme. We wish they will all have fantastic experiences in Japan!



Perth

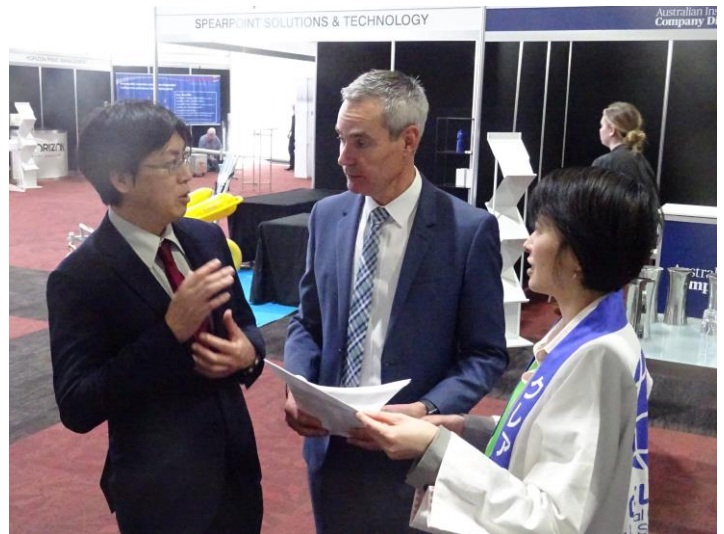


Sydney

Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly 2019

The Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly was held from 16 to 19 Jun in Canberra. Mayors, councillors and other related local government officials from all around Australia attended this conference.

The conference featured keynote addresses by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Michael McCormack MP as acting Prime Minister; and the Hon Mark Coulton MP, Minister for Regional Services, Decentralisation and Local Government; as well as sessions by various specialists about local government issues such as environment, housing, and disaster response and management.



The event also had a booth area for relevant institutions which provided opportunities for networking. 900 participants gathered from all over Australia to attend this invaluable event.



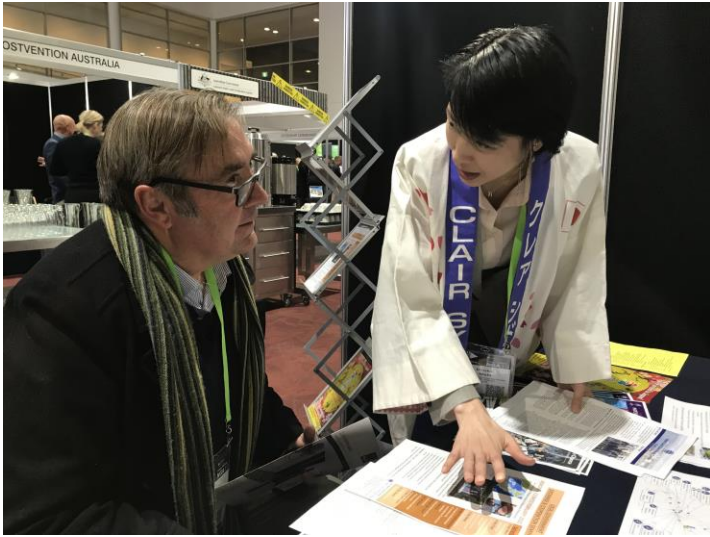
CLAIR Sydney ran a booth to provide information about our recent activities, opportunities such as the Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar, upcoming notable sporting events (in particular the Rugby World Cup 2019, 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and World Masters Games 2021 KANSAI) and Japanese tourism destinations.

We were honoured to meet many people who visited our booth to learn more about CLAIR Sydney and Japanese local governments. Alumni of the

CLAIR Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar, and mayors and councillors whose councils have sister city relationships with Japanese local governments also kindly visited our booth.

Thanks to this event, CLAIR Sydney was able to strengthen our relationship with many local governments in Australia.

We aim to continue to learn and research on the current challenges and best practices of Australian local governments, strengthen our relationships with local governments in Australia, and promote Japan.



Visit to LG Professionals Australia

On 7 May, CLAIR Sydney staff witnessed local government staff in action at the NSW Management Challenge 2019 in Liverpool, at the kind invitation of Local Government Professionals Australia (LG Professionals Australia). Further to this meeting, CLAIR Sydney staff visited the LG Professionals Australia office in Canberra on 19 Jun. LG Professionals Australia is an association where staff from local governments all around Australia can freely join, and gain valuable opportunities to improve their skills.



Discussions were held with CEO Clare Sullivan and Mr Matthew Lentini with regard to CLAIR's involvement in the upcoming annual national congress, which will be held in Darwin from 31 Jul to 2 Aug.

We were very pleased to hear that many LG Professionals Australia staff and members are interested in CLAIR's annual Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar. They are also interested in shared contemporary problems faced by local governments in Australia and Japan, such as waste management, infrastructure maintenance and population.

We thank LG Professionals Australia for their valuable time, and will strive to represent Japanese local governments at the annual national congress.

Shaping Sydney to 2050 – Our city, our future

On 19 Jun, the City of Sydney held a public engagement event, 'Shaping Sydney to 2050 – Our City, Our Future', at Sydney Town Hall. The event was held as a part of the development process for the City of Sydney's new long-term plan, and it was attended by residents from the local communities. A staff from CLAIR Sydney attended the event to learn about planning processes in an Australian local government.

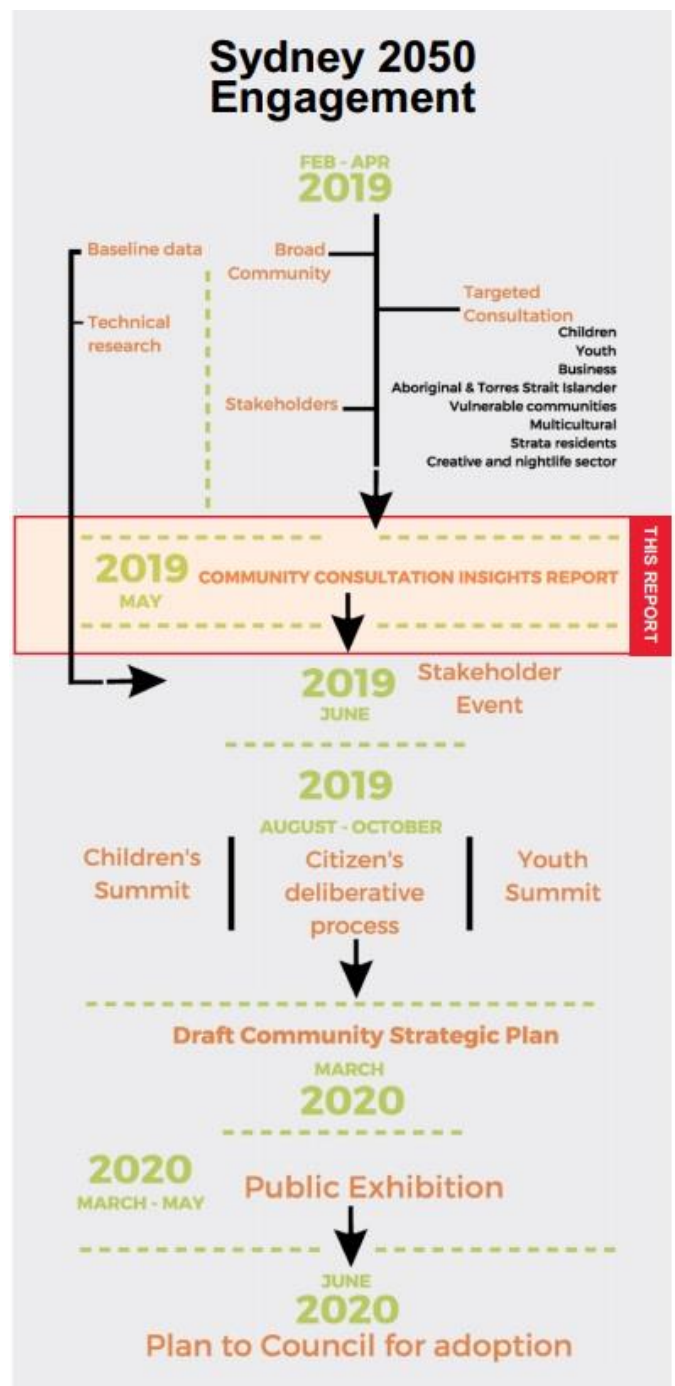


The City of Sydney has been promoting various measures in line with the City's 'Sustainable Sydney 2030' plan formulated in 2007. From the beginning of this year, the City has been engaging with developing a new long-term plan for the year 2050.

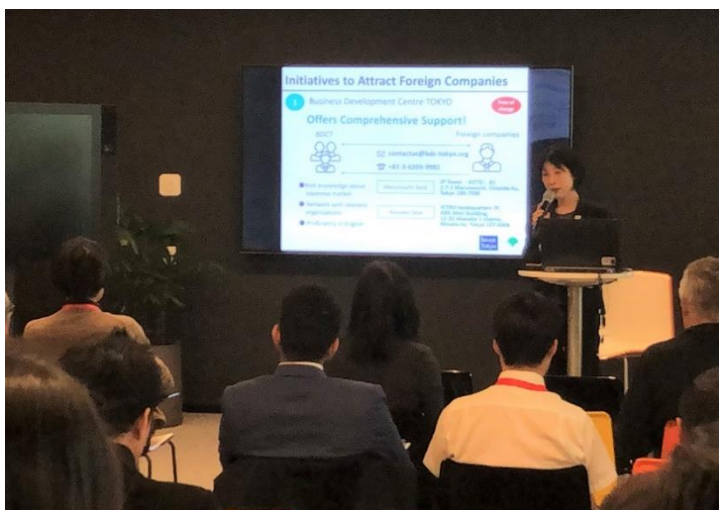
At the event, key players at the City of Sydney, including the Mayor, reported on the City's past efforts and achievements, as well as challenges for the future. There were also panel discussions held by experts and representatives from the community, including youths. In the panel discussions, there were discussions on the direction the City should focus on in relation to environmental measures such as climate change, urban growth, and multiculturalism as well as the City's future image.

In the second half of the event, residents held workshops on five different areas. These areas were: environment, diversity, growth, liveability and economy. Residents enthusiastically spoke about which issues the City should prioritise, and discussed ideas to solve the issues.

The City of Sydney aims to submit the plan in June 2020 for City Council adoption, and will continue to hold events such as children's summits to engage the local communities in the planning process. CLAIR Sydney will continue to follow the City of Sydney's long-term planning efforts as a part of our research in Australian local governments.



Invest Tokyo Seminar in Sydney



On 19 Jun, the 'Invest Tokyo Seminar in Sydney' event was held by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in collaboration with JETRO. Over 30 participants from organisations such as fintech and IoT companies attended the seminar.

Ms Helen Oh, Senior Policy Officer at NSW Treasury opened the seminar by celebrating the 35th sister state relationship between Tokyo and New South Wales. There were presentations on a variety of initiatives which encourage overseas companies to

operate in Japan, such as the National Strategic Special Zone and the Special Zone for Asian Headquarters. JETRO also presented on their support schemes for overseas companies that are interested in the Japanese market.

Some participants said that it was a great opportunity to get to know the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's policies, as previously they did not have enough information for them to consider expanding their business in Japan.

In addition to hosting the seminar, the Tokyo delegation attended an international conference on foreign direct investment and ran a booth to promote their initiatives to attract companies from overseas. Also, they had several meetings with government organisations and companies during their stay in Sydney.



Assistant Director SASAKI Yusuke, who is seconded from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government accompanied them and provided support at the seminar. CLAIR Sydney will continue to work to assist Japanese local governments' activities for attracting companies from overseas and foreign direct investment.



CLAIR Sydney at the Lismore Lantern Parade

On 22 Jun, the Lismore Lantern Parade was held in Lismore, New South Wales. Staff from CLAIR Sydney participated in the Lismore Lantern Parade after receiving a request of assistance from Lismore's sister city in Japan, the City of Yamato Takada, and an invitation to the Lismore Lantern Parade from Lismore City Council.



Last year, to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Lismore and Yamato Takada, the City of Lismore especially created a lantern in the shape of

Yamato Takada's mascot character, Miku-chan. The Miku-chan lantern was paraded by the Mayor of Yamato Takada and other personnel during the Lismore Lantern Parade last year. This year, the Parade celebrated its 25th anniversary and the Miku-chan lantern was again displayed at the parade for the second year in a row. Staff from CLAIR Sydney were carrying the Miku-chan lantern with members of Lismore City Council and the Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney. It was estimated that more than 20,000 people came to see the parade, and Miku-chan was very popular amongst the visitors.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to actively support sister city exchange activities.

Visit from Dr Joseph Drew and Dr Masato Miyazaki



On 24 Jun, Dr Joseph Drew of the University of Technology Sydney and Dr Masato Miyazaki of Saitama University visited the CLAIR Sydney office.

Dr Drew is one of two co-authors of the recent publication, 'Local Government in Australia: History, Theory and Public Policy'. While Dr Drew is an expert on the Australian local government system and its current state, he is very interested in the Japanese local government system as an adjunct professor at the Tokyo Metropolitan

University.

Dr Miyazaki recently published a work titled 'Political Economy of Local Governments Behaviors – Dynamism of Local Public Finance System and Intergovernmental Relationships'. Similarly, Dr Miyazaki has a wealth of knowledge relating to Japanese local government system and its current state, and he is likewise very interested in the Australian local government system.

We had a productive discussion regarding the common and different points of institutional local governance system and its implementation in Australia and Japan, and the potential ways to improve local public services in rural areas.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to work closely with academics with distinguished expertise to provide Japanese local governments with relevant and informative content, such as the common and different points of institutional local governance system and recent local governments' policy topics in Oceania and Japan.

Staff from Gifu Prefectural Government visited our office

On 27 Jun, Assistant Director and Section Manager, Mr SAKAI Hiroki; Manager, Ms ITO Maki; and Officer, Ms OZEKI Yukiko from the International Affairs Division of Gifu Prefectural Government visited the CLAIR Sydney office to discuss the promotional events the Prefectural Government are holding in Australia in September.

The Gifu Prefectural Government has been promoting Gifu specialties and local products, such as Hida beef and ceramic ware, as well as Gifu



Prefecture's tourist destinations, to markets overseas. They have also been preparing for a promotional event to be held in Sydney and Melbourne in September, which aims to lift the brand strength of Gifu Prefecture in Australia.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support these promotional activities of Gifu Prefectural Government.

JETAA South Island (Christchurch, New Zealand)

JETAASI is involved in a number of events that play a role in strengthening the ties between New Zealand and Japan. The most recent and most exciting event has been setting up the opportunity to bring an English teacher from Japan to Christchurch. Another is the long-standing event we run called J Kaiwa. In this issue, we would like to introduce these events in more detail.

Sister City Teacher Exchange

Two years ago, we were contacted to ask if we would be interested in collaborating on a project to bring a teacher from our sister city, Kurashiki, to Christchurch. We thought this was an excellent opportunity to build ties with the Sister Cities Committee. Together with the Kurashiki Board of Education we brought over our first teacher, Yoshimi Akatsuka, last year. Yoshimi had the opportunity to stay in a homestay and be a student again by going to English language classes at Ara Institute of Canterbury. She also got to spend some time at Papanui High School and help out in their Japanese Classes.

This was a great success and that has been reinforced by the fact that the Kurashiki Board of Education reached out earlier this year to see if we would be interested in doing it again. We now have our next teacher, Ryoka Tamon, arriving on the 29th of July and we are really looking forward to meeting her and creating another champion of the Christchurch-Kurashiki sister city relationship.



J Kaiwa

J Kaiwa is an event JETAASI runs every two months to provide an opportunity to network and practise Japanese and English. In the past this was a casual meet up for people to get together but we now run this as a structured event at Space Academy bar.

We kick the event off with welcomes and an opportunity to provide information on any other upcoming events. We often have members from the Consular Office of Japan attend and promote activities they have coming up as well. We then break into groups of five or six and have 30 minutes of English speaking time. 15 minutes in we rotate a few members at each table to give people an opportunity to meet someone new. As an interlude we run a quick bilingual multiple choice quiz with prizes.

After the interlude is Japanese speaking time. For this we break into groups of five or six again. One of the changes we have made recently which has been really successful is to create groups based on Japanese level. We leave it for people to self-grade based on their confidence in Japanese and then some small reshuffling to balance numbers. 15 minutes in we rotate members again. We then wrap up the night and give everyone the opportunity to stick around and talk to all of the new people they have met in the language of their choice.



From the Executive Director

- Local Internationalisation in Japan and the JET Programme -

Local internationalisation in Japan has been rapidly occurring in recent years. An example of this, as explained in the CLAIR Sydney Newsletter published in May this year, is the number of non-Japanese residents in Japan which has increased from 2.07 million to 2.73 million between 2013 and 2018. Within this number, the number of non-Japanese labourers in Japan has doubled from 0.72 million in October 2013 to 1.46 million in October 2018. Another example is the number of annual international tourists, which has tripled from 10.4 million to 31.2 million between 2013 and 2018. Additionally, since 2014, the Japanese central government has been taking the lead in enhancing foreign language education in elementary, junior high and senior high schools in Japan.

In accordance with these changes, the number of new Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme participants has increased from 4,372 in 2013 to 5,528 in 2018. As a direct result of the rapid internationalisation of local areas across Japan, it is expected that the demand for new JET Programme participants will continue to grow as Japanese local governments address the need for foreign language teachers and Coordinators for International Relations in their local communities.

For CLAIR Sydney, it is important for us to support new JET Programme participants and JETAA chapters* so that the JET Programme continues to attract motivated and talented participants from Australia and New Zealand to meet the needs from Japanese local governments. To further accelerate the JET Programme, CLAIR Sydney staff has been engaging in activities such as delivering presentations for Japanese classes at universities where potential JET Programme participants study, manning booths at careers fairs to promote the JET Programme, giving presentations at pre-departure orientations held in several cities in Australia and New Zealand for new JET Programme participants, and supporting the activities of JETAA chapters.

Without the significant cooperation between individuals and relevant organisations including Japanese diplomatic missions, JETAA chapters, and universities, the JET Programme is unable to continue to attract motivated and talented new participants. It would be highly appreciated if you or your organisation could kindly assist us in reaching out to potential JET Programme candidates, or support the activities of JETAA chapters to further accelerate the JET Programme.

* JETAA is short for JET Alumni Association where former JET Programme Participants reunite, promote the program and become advocates for cultural exchange between Japan and their country of residence.

For detail of the JET Programme, please see the link below.

<http://jetprogramme.org/en/>