



Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR, Sydney)

Newsletter Issue
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W e l c o m e t o S u s a k i

Susaki Open Water Swimming

Have you heard of a sport called 'open water swimming (OWS)'?

Open water swimming is a long distance swimming discipline held in large bodies of water such as oceans, rivers or lakes. It has been certified as an official Olympic sport since the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, and competitions are held around the world every year.





In 2014, the City of Susaki collaborated with the Kochi Swimming Federation to hold an open water swimming competition for the very first time, as a celebration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Susaki as a municipality. The competition was held in Uranouchi Bay, an ideal swimming competition site located in a temperate inland area surrounded by mountains, which has calmer waters compared to other open water swimming sites.

This year's competition, the Susaki OWS 2019, was the sixth edition of the competition and was held on Sunday, 20 October. This year's competition was recognised as one of the national OWS competitions by the Japan Swimming Federation. The day of the competition had ideal weather, temperature, and water temperature, and the 1km, 3km, and 5km races were held successfully, with a combined total number of 322 domestic and international participants.

Since 2017, the Susaki OWS organising committee has been inviting athletes from around the world to compete in the competition as a part of the project to appeal to overseas athletes to set up pre-game training camps in the city ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This year, amongst the athletes from around the world, there were four athletes from Australia who participated in the competition.



Since the recent three editions of the competition had the participation of top Japanese and international athletes, the races were excellent opportunities for athletes, spectators, and members of the Susaki OWS organising committee to witness world-class swimming in their local area.

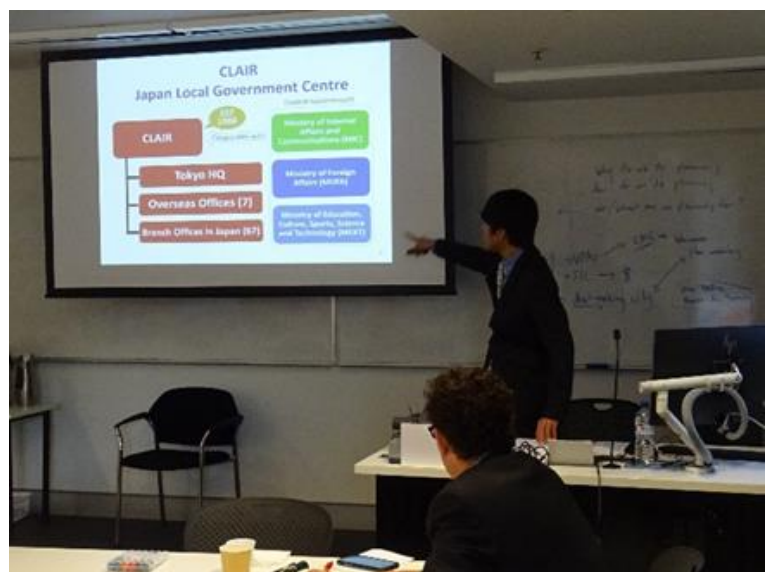
A food and game event named 'Wanpaku' has been held concurrently as the competition every year by locals of the Uranouchi area since the inauguration of the competition. The event attracts many visitors including people from the general public who are not spectators of the races.

Currently, many local groups are holding various events across Susaki to stimulate the city. The City of Susaki recognises Susaki OWS as the first-ever project that stimulates the community by harnessing what the water bodies in the city offer. The city endeavours to hold the sport annually by collaborating with relevant organisations and promoting the competition both domestically and internationally, in hope that eventually one day 'open water swimming' becomes synonymous with Susaki around the world.

<http://susaki-ows.com>

Japanese Local Governance Lecture at the University of Technology Sydney Graduate Program

On 1 Oct, a CLAIR Sydney staff member delivered a lecture on Japanese local governance as a part of a series of lectures on the subject of comparative local governance for the Master of Local Government program at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). This opportunity was extended to CLAIR Sydney by the Institute for Public Policy and Governance (IPPG) & Centre for Local Government.



CLAIR Sydney and IPPG at UTS have been very good partners in recent years. For example, the two organisations have co-hosted the annual CLAIR Forum where participants from CLAIR Sydney, IPPG at UTS, local governments, and relevant organisations give presentations and hold discussions over local government policy topics that are common to Oceania and Japan.

In the lecture, the CLAIR staff member provided background on a wide variety of common and different points between Australia and Japan to local government professionals who are undertaking the master degree program. The lecture covered topics including national institutional governance systems, the position and role of local governments, management of local governments, intergovernmental financial structures, and public financial conditions in Australia and Japan.

All of the attendees displayed a great depth of knowledge of Japanese local governance and raised insightful questions which lead to fruitful discussions.

CLAIR staff also held productive discussions regarding the next CLAIR Forum with Ms Carol Mills, Director of IPPG & Centre of Local Government at UTS.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to work closely and conduct research with distinguished experts of academic institutions such as UTS to provide Japanese local governments with relevant and quality information on topics such as the common and different points of institutional local governance system and recent local governments' policy topics, in Oceania and Japan.

JETAA Oceania Conference in Sydney: 30th Anniversary of JETAA

On 5 to 6 Oct, representatives from all JETAA chapters in the Oceania region assembled in Sydney to attend the Oceania Conference, hosted by JETAANSW this year. The conference is held annually for all JETAA chapters in Oceania to update one another on their chapter's recent activities, and to share ideas and discuss issues they may have.



This year, in addition to JETAA chapters in Australia and New Zealand, the Country Representative for Singapore was also in attendance for the first time. Mr ISOBE Hiroaki, the Executive Consultant of CLAIR's Tokyo Headquarters also attended the conference, making this year's conference more internationalised than before.



Being the 30th anniversary of the founding of JETAA, the theme of this year's conference was '2020 Vision – Looking Clearly to the Future', and representatives from each chapter made a presentation on their recent activities and plans for the future, while reflecting on their past. Mr Isobe also made a presentation, in which he spoke about the history and prospects of the JET Programme. The presentation was informative and got participants involved in lively discussions.

Through the discussions that took place during the conference, the Oceania JETAA chapters strengthened their ties, and each chapter was able to gain new insight and ideas to enrich their future activities. We believe JETAA will play an increasingly important role as bridges between Japan and the rest of the world on a grassroots level.



Supporting Activity for Aomori Prefectural Government

On 6 Oct, the JFC Food & Sake Expo 2019 held by JFC Australia took place in Chatswood, New South Wales. The expo is a showcase of Japanese food products for the restaurant and food service industry in Australia. CLAIR Sydney received a request from the Aomori Prefectural Government and provided support at the booth they ran at the Expo.

At the Aomori booth, Aomori Prefectural Government staff promoted 23 products from six food and beverage companies from Aomori, and offered tastings of local products such as crab meat mixed with rice, Japanese local sake, processed seafood products, and apple juice, as apple is the most famous agricultural product of Aomori. A staff from CLAIR Sydney attended to assist with running the booth, preparing the samples for tastings, and giving explanations on the



apple juice served to the expo attendees.

The Expo was opened to the public in the afternoon, and people who visited the booth were handed apple juice samples. People who tried the apple juice were surprised by the taste, as there is no sugar added to the juice yet it is sweeter than the apple juice in Australia.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support the activities of Japanese local governments in their promotion of local products in Australia and New Zealand.

Supporting Activity for Students of Meikei High School

On 8 Oct, six students from Meikei High School in Ibaraki Prefecture visited our office.

A staff of CLAIR Sydney gave the six students a presentation which included an outline of Australia and CLAIR Sydney's activities. The students asked many questions, such as how the staff member's secondment to CLAIR Sydney was decided, and what the staff finds the most fulfilling in his work at CLAIR Sydney. We were able to feel the students' keen interests in learning about what it is like to work overseas.



Approximately 200 students from the high school came to Australia, during their time here, they experienced a farm stay in Bowral, and met with Japanese people living and working in Sydney. CLAIR Sydney will continue to support Japanese schools in their activities to nurture international awareness in their students.



Otsu City Delegation Visited Their Friendship City Mosman



On 9 Oct, a delegation from Otsu City, including Vice-President KAWAMOTO Eisuke of the Otsu Chamber of Commerce, paid a visit to Mosman Council and met with Mayor Carolyn Corrigan. The two cities have a friendly relationship, and Mr Kawamoto personally delivered a letter to Mayor Corrigan that was written by the Mayor of Otsu City. The delegation was warmly welcomed by Mayor Corrigan, and was given a tour of the Mosman Council Chambers at the Mosman Civic

Centre, as well as a tour of the Mosman Art Gallery.

Staff from CLAIR Sydney accompanied the delegation to Mosman Council, and the day before the delegation's visit to Mosman Council, we gave the delegation a presentation on Australian politics, economy and society, and discussed other topics with the delegation at the CLAIR Sydney office.

Next year will be the 10th anniversary of the friendly exchanges between Mosman and Otsu. CLAIR Sydney will continue to support the friendly exchanges between the two cities.



The Organising Committee of the World Masters Games 2021 Kansai Visited CLAIR Sydney Office

On 9 Oct, Mr TAKAHASHI Toru, Deputy Director of the Tourism Promotion Department at the Organising Committee of the World Masters Games 2021 Kansai*, and a supporting staff from a Japanese travel agency visited CLAIR Sydney. Representatives from the Organising Committee were in Australia to run a booth at the Australian Masters Games held in Adelaide between 3-6 Oct, and meet with different Australian sports organisations to promote the WMG 2021 Kansai.

Last October, members of the Organising Committee also visited our office and requested for CLAIR Sydney to assist with recruiting participants for the WMG 2021 Kansai. Since then, CLAIR Sydney has been supporting the Organising Committee by promoting the Games at events we attend in Australia and New Zealand.



As exchanges through international sports events can contribute greatly to the sister city exchanges between Australia/New Zealand and Japan, at

the Sister Cities Australia Forum 2019 held in Perth on 19-20 Sep, the Executive Director of CLAIR Sydney held a presentation on the Rugby World Cup 2019, which started on 20 Sep, the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the WMG 2021 Kansai, and spoke about the positive impacts these major sports events will bring to sister city relationships. A representative from the Blacktown Rugby Union Football Club (BRUFC) who listened to the presentation showed a keen interest in registering his team to participate in the WMG 2021 Kansai.

On the day of the meeting at CLAIR Sydney, a committee member of BRUFC, Mr Duke Wolfgramm, also attended the meeting where Mr Takahashi gave details on information such as the registration schedule, the venues and the transportation.

CLAIR Sydney assisted the Organising Committee by providing them with advice and liaised with sports related organisations in Canberra, Melbourne, and Sydney to set up meetings for the Committee during their time in Australia.

For more details, please see the following link!

<https://www.wmg2021.jp/en/>

*The World Masters Games is an international multi-sport athletic competition held every four years by the International Masters Games Association. All athletes or sport fans over the age of 30 can compete in the World Masters Games. The WMG 2021 Kansai will be held 14-30 May, 2021. The Kansai 2021 Games is the first to be held in Asia, and is the auspicious 10th edition of the WMG. Attendees can compete in 59 disciplines across 35 sports at the WMG 2021 Kansai.

LGNSW Annual Conference 2019

The Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference 2019 was held from 14 to 16 Oct in Warwick Farm. Mayors, councillors and other related local government officials from NSW attended this conference.

In this conference, local government requests to the NSW State Government were summarised. The conference also featured lectures and sessions held by local government staff, various specialists and other professionals regarding challenges faced by local governments.

The conference also had a booth area ran by relevant institutions and gave opportunities for networking.

More than 600 participants gathered from all over New South Wales to attend this valuable event.



CLAIR Sydney ran a booth to provide information about our recent activities, opportunities such as the Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar, major sports 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. There

were some participants who expressed their condolences for the victims of Typhoon Hagibis that recently struck Japan.

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



We aim to continue to learn and research about the current challenges and best practices of Australian local governments, strengthen our relationships with these local governments, and promote regional Japanese tourism destinations.

Ehime Prefecture Visited CLAIR Sydney



On 15 October, Mr FUJIWARA Eiji, Mr TANINAKA Kota, and Mr SHIGEOKA Naoki from the Ehime Prefectural Government visited the CLAIR Sydney office. The Ehime Prefectural Government has an economic exchange agreement with the New South Wales Government. Up until now, Ehime Prefecture had mainly been exporting processed food, but they will now also focus on exporting traditional crafts from the prefecture, such as Imabari Towel, the nationally known towels produced in Imabari City; Tobe Pottery, porcelains produced in the town

of Tobe; and Kikuma roof tile, roof tiles produced in the Kikuma district. Apart from this, the Ehime Prefectural Government has also been promoting 'Cycling Shimanami', an international cycling event that takes place along the Setouchi Shimanami Kaido, which is an expressway that connects Ehime Prefecture to Honshu, the main island of Japan.

In the meeting, CLAIR Sydney staff provided the Ehime Prefectural Government staff with information on examples of exchange activities conducted by local governments in Japan, and discussed various related topics.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support the activities of Japanese local governments in their promotion of local products in Australia and New Zealand.

Saitama Parliamentary Association for Japan-Australia Friendship Australia Delegation Visited CLAIR Sydney

On 16 Oct, the Saitama Parliamentary Association for Japan-Australia Friendship Australia Delegation visited the CLAIR Sydney office. The delegation visited Australia to participate in events commemorating the 35th Anniversary of the Queensland-Saitama Sister State-Prefecture relationship. Before the events, the delegation visited Sydney to conduct research on Carers NSW, a carer support organisation.



CLAIR Sydney supported the delegation's visit by setting up the meeting appointment with Carers NSW, and provided the delegation with

a briefing on the political and economic situations in Australia, and multiculturalism policies in Australia.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support Saitama Prefecture's activities in Australia.

35th Anniversary Events of the Queensland and Saitama Sister State-Prefecture Relationship

On 17 Oct, a state reception to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Queensland-Saitama Sister State-Prefecture relationship was held in the Queensland Parliamentary Annexe. The Premier of Queensland, the Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP; and Mr KAMIO Takayoshi, Chairperson of the Saitama Prefectural Assembly; gave speeches as the representative of their respective state/prefecture. In their speeches, they





reflected on the history of the exchanges between Queensland and Saitama in the past 35 years. Premier Palaszczuk and Mr Kamio also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on a framework for the further collaboration between Queensland and Saitama for the next five years.

A video message from Mr ONO Motohiro, the Governor of Saitama Prefecture, was shown at the reception. Mr Ono remained in Saitama to command the recovery efforts in the aftermath of Typhoon Hagibis which made landfall on Japan a few days prior to the reception. In the video, Mr

Ono explained that Kumagaya City in Saitama is one of the host venues of the Rugby World Cup 2019, and that Saitama Prefecture will host four sports, including basketball and football, in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Mr Ono encouraged the reception participants to visit Saitama Prefecture during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and expressed his hope for the further partnership between Saitama Prefecture and Queensland through this major international sports event.



In the reception, the Japanese Sake, Sayama green tea and confectionary produced locally in Saitama were served. There was a choir performance by local children who sang in both English and Japanese, and taiko (Japanese drums) performances by performers from Saitama and children from Gold Coast. There were many people in attendance on the night to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the sister state-prefecture relationship, such as members of the Saitama Prefectural Assembly, representatives from universities in Saitama Prefecture, the Queensland Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, members of the Queensland Parliament, the Consul-General of Japan in Brisbane, representatives from the local Japanese community in Queensland, and former JET Programme participants from Queensland who were placed in Saitama Prefecture.



There were many people in attendance on the night to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the sister state-prefecture relationship, such as members of the Saitama Prefectural Assembly, representatives from universities in Saitama Prefecture, the Queensland Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, members of the Queensland Parliament, the Consul-General of Japan in Brisbane, representatives from the local Japanese community in Queensland, and former JET Programme participants from Queensland who were placed in Saitama Prefecture.

There were also exchanges in other fields besides government exchange during the Saitama delegation's time in Queensland. Representatives from three universities in Queensland and Saitama signed partnership

agreements to encourage future exchange, and representatives from universities in Gold Coast and Saitama Prefecture held a sports themed forum.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support the further development of exchanges between Saitama Prefecture and Queensland.

JET Programme Returnees Reception (Perth)

On 24 Oct, the 2019 JET Programme Returnees Reception was held at the Official Residence of the Consul-General of Japan in Perth.

Four recent returnees attended the reception, and all of the reception attendees congratulated the returnees on their successes in Japan and welcomed them warmly.

At the reception, Mr SUZUKI Toru, the Consul-General of Japan in Perth; Mr

Will Perera, President of JETAA WA; and a CLAIR Sydney staff gave welcoming speeches. The returnees also each gave a speech and spoke about their memories in Japan.



Throughout the reception, returnees and attendees, which include past JET Programme participants, shared their experiences and future aspirations. The reception was an excellent opportunity for the JET community in Perth to get to know one another.

We hope that all returnees make the most of their experiences in Japan, and that they will play an important role to further strengthen the relationships between Australia and Japan.

Support Activities for Tome City

On 28 Oct, Mr SATO Yoshihiro, Deputy Director of the Planning Department in Tome City, Miyagi Prefecture, met with Cr Darren Everard, Deputy Mayor of Fraser Coast Regional Council in Fraser Coast.

Mr Sato was in Australia to accompany 10 high school students from Tome City for a school exchange with students in Aldrich State High School in Fraser Coast.

At the meeting, Mr Sato reported that the students were able to increase their international awareness through participating in a homestay and interacting with students at Aldrich State High School. He also held discussions with Cr Everard on topics such as agriculture, environment, and the two cities respective future visions.

CLAIR Sydney received a support request from Tome City, and a CLAIR Sydney staff accompanied Mr Sato on his visit to Fraser Coast Regional Council.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support school exchanges conducted by Japanese local governments in their endeavour to increase international awareness in their students.



JET Returnee Welcome Function in Melbourne

On 30 Oct, the Consulate-General of Japan in Melbourne hosted a welcome function for recent JET returnees.

Nine returnees joined the function and deepened their friendship by talking about their experiences in Japan. All attendees including JETAA VIC/TAS/SA members praised the returnees' successes in the JET Programme and welcomed them warmly.

We hope that all returnees make the most of their knowledge and networks gained through their JET Programme experiences in Japan, and that they will play an important role in further strengthening the relationship between Australia and Japan.



JETAA Wellington - Strengthening partnerships and increasing access

As the capital of New Zealand, Wellington is home to the Japanese embassy and a very multicultural community enjoying the windy city together. JETAA Wellington is proud to work alongside the Embassy in connecting our alumni members, newly departing JETs, sister city organisations, and the local Japanese community together over a shared passion of Japan.



Our focus for 2019 has been to lower the barrier to entry for first-time attendees to our events and to better

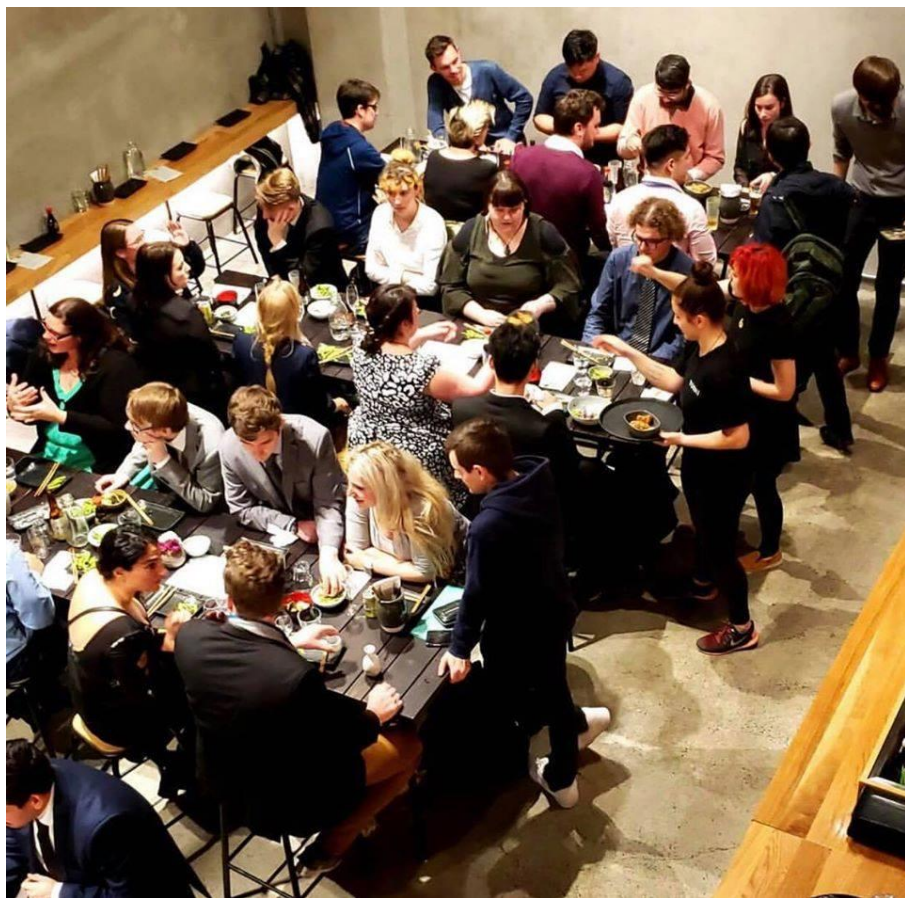
engage our alumni with Japan-related activities. We've found success in increasing the regularity of low-commitment events as well as the scope of our promotional efforts and communications beyond Facebook. We've also started exploring new ways in which our alumni can use their skills and experience to promote Japan and the JET Programme to the general public.

Our Embassy partnership remains strong, as we work to support the JET Programme and its JETs from start to finish. This year, we continued to help the orientation of pre-departure JETs and the welcoming back of recent returnees, creating a strong bond between the alumni and newer JETs. Our members have assisted with a number of the Embassy's events, including university information sessions and workshops. In return, the Embassy hosts events like our annual Japan photo contest and Tanabata display. This year, for the first time, we are organising our own casual Q&A session for prospective JET applicants, with the aim to further promote the JET Programme and introduce it to a wider range of New Zealanders.

We also work closely with Wellington's sister city organisations: the Wellington-Sakai Association (WSA) and the Hutt Minoh House Friendship Trust. This year, WSA is organising events in celebration of 25 years of their sister city relationship and Hutt Minoh is hosting their bi-annual Hutt Japan Day festival - both of which JETAA Wellington is supporting, promoting, and participating in - selling our fresh taiyaki. The most successful ongoing event we host with these groups is our monthly Japanese conversation evening 'Jkaiwa', which continues to be a great source of cross-cultural communication and engagement. Earlier this year, we also introduced a monthly nomikai networking event dubbed "Brewkaiwa" that's seen great turnout not only

from new members, but also older alumni, university students in Japanese programmes, and expats. We'll also be co-hosting a pub quiz bonenkai with WSA in December.

We also continue to support local Japanese businesses, organisations, and cultural events. We have hosted several successful networking events at JET alumna-run restaurant Yoshi Sushi, and our AGM was held at Japanese-owned izakaya Tatsushi, which also provides the prizes for our annual Japan photo contest. We of



course cheered on the Brave Blossoms through two Rugby World Cup events, and the audiences during Japanese film festival showings were filled with JETAA members. We even promoted the opening of Wellington's first Daiso earlier in the year! Through these efforts, we hope to continue the growth and success of Japanese businesses and events in Wellington while fostering our members' connection to Japan.

We took a great amount of inspiration from the recent JETAA Oceania Conference in Sydney. The idea we're most excited about is a first-ever JETAA New Zealand

Summit to bring together the country's various chapters. The event is tentatively set for next January, and being spearheaded by the current Country Representative, who is a JETAA Wellington member.

We're also in initial talks to work with the Japan New Zealand Business Council to organise a professional networking event and career fair aimed at recent returnees keen to continue their work promoting relations between Japan and New Zealand. We'd also like to repeat successful hands-on cultural experiences we've done in the past, such as sushi-rolling, bento-making, and ikebana.

Through all of our events, we continue to do our best in promoting not only the JET Programme and our experiences during it, but the ongoing connection between New Zealand and Japan. If you want to keep up with us, you can check us out online here:

Website -- www.jetaawgtn.org.nz

Facebook -- www.facebook.com/JETAWellington

Twitter/Instagram -- @JETAWellington

From the Executive Director

- Official Schedule of the World Masters Games 2021 Kansai is Available Now-

As I have noted in the 132 edition of the CLAIR Sydney Newsletter released in February this year, the World Masters Games (WMG) 2021 Kansai will be held in Japan's Kansai region in May 2021. The WMG is the special sporting event where anyone aged 30 or above can participate in and enjoy the sports while interacting with other participants and locals of the host country. The Japanese people are proud to be hosting this special event following the Rugby World Cup 2019 and the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and are looking forward to welcoming athletes and visitors from all over the world.

This month, detailed guides of the WMG 2021 Kansai have been published on the event's official website. Please click on the following link to find detailed information on the WMG 2021 Kansai:

(<https://www.wmg2021.jp/en/games/guideline.html>). You can find information on the competitions such as the official schedule, events, capacity and venues, as well as application information such as participation eligibility, how to apply, the application acceptance period, and participation fee. The Organizing Committee of the WMG 2021 Kansai has confirmed that 59 disciplines in 35 sports will take place at the Games. The application period begins from as early as 6 Jan 2020.

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 four editions of the WMG have been held in the two countries in the past- in Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney and Auckland.

The strong emotions shared through sporting activities and the people interactions during the WMG 2021 Kansai may have a positive effect on the relationships with your Japanese partner city or potential partner city. I hope that your city will consider maximising the benefits which the WMG 2021 Kansai has to offer.