

Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR, Sydney)

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W e l c o m e t o T o c h i g i

Tochigi is a prefecture blessed with rich nature. Chosen as one of CNN's Top 10 Dream Travel Destinations, Ashikaga Flower Park and its wisteria flowers are a must-see. Other colourfully blooming flowers, fresh green foliage, and vibrant autumn leaves throughout the prefecture will allow you to enjoy all four seasons to your heart's content. Additionally, you can enjoy bathing and dining at traditional Japanese onsen (hot spring) inns all over the prefecture, including Kinugawa Onsen, referred to as a "retreat from Tokyo."



History and culture are alive and well in Tochigi Prefecture. The iconic Shrines and Temples of Nikko, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, include the luxuriously decorated Nikko Toshogu Shrine and Nikko Rinnoji Temple with its over 1200 years of history. Additionally, traditional festival culture has been continuously passed down into modern Tochigi. The Kanuma Autumn Festival, where splendidly and precisely carved yatai (floats) made by carvers from the Shrines and Temples of Nikko are pulled through the streets, and the Yama-Age Festival, which features extravagant outdoor kabuki theater against a mountain backdrop made from bamboo and paper, are registered on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list. In addition, Tochigi is home to the Ashikaga School, referred to as the oldest school in Japan, and the Oya Stone Museum,

which evokes the feeling of an underground temple. These historical sites and more are waiting for you in Tochigi Prefecture!



Despite its central city of Utsunomiya being located only 50 minutes from Tokyo by Shinkansen, Tochigi Prefecture allows you to get your fill of rich nature, history, and culture. Come visit!

(Tochigi Prefecture Tourism Promotional Video Homepage)

<https://tochigi.global/the-grace-of-japan-2019/>

Study Activities at the NSW Government



Assistant Director SASAKI Yusuke, seconded from Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG), underwent study activities at the NSW Treasury from 3 to 6 Dec. Mr Sasaki also visited the NSW Department of Education International at their invitation on 10 Dec. At the Treasury, Mr Sasaki shadowed an officer at the International Engagement and Marketing Team and attended meetings with other teams. Mr Sasaki also had several meetings with officers at the Trade and Investment in the Treasury to learn about the NSW Government's projects and strategies for international

engagement, and how each officer plays his or her role to achieve their goals.

At the Department of Education, Mr Sasaki spoke about the history of exchanges between NSW and TMG, and the TMG structure. They shared views regarding future exchanges. Mr Sasaki expressed that Tokyo is welcoming of visits for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and that he hopes that further exchanges and collaboration will be developed through this occasion.

During his time at the NSW Government, Mr Sasaki found examples of effective work methods put into practice, such as flexible working styles and agile work environments that are more utilised than in Japan to maximize productivity.



Mr Sasaki would like to extend his thanks to everyone he met at the NSW Government for this valuable opportunity.



Supporting Activity for Tottori Prefecture

On 6 Dec, Mr KAWAKAMI Junichi, Assistant Director of the International Tourism Attraction Division; and Ms Stephanie Noel, Coordinator for International Relations at the Domestic and International Affairs Division of the Tottori Prefectural Government visited the CLAIR Sydney office. At the CLAIR Sydney Office, the Tottori Prefectural staff had a meeting with CLAIR Sydney staff, including a staff member who worked in Tottori Prefecture's neighbouring prefecture Shimane as a Coordinator for International Relations, and discussed the appeals of Tottori Prefecture from an Australian point of view.



The two representatives from the Tottori Prefectural Government participated in Matsuri Japan Festival held the next day. On the day before the Festival, in order to increase the number of inbound tourists from Australia, the two Tottori Prefectural staff visited travel agencies in Sydney to introduce major tourist spots in Tottori Prefecture and discuss travel trends of Australians in Japan.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support Tottori Prefectural Government's tourism promotion in Australia.

Supporting Activity for Kuroishi City, Aomori Prefecture

On 6 Dec, Mr TAKAHI Ken, Mayor of Kuroishi City, Aomori Prefecture, visited the CLAIR Sydney office.

Mayor Takahi visited Australia to attend the Matsuri Japan Festival 2019 and ran a booth as a co-exhibiter with staff of CLAIR Sydney. In addition to Mayor Takahi, shamisen performers and a local dancing group also came to Australia from Kuroishi, and they performed 'Kuroishi Yosare', which is a traditional dance in Kuroishi, and had shamisen playing in the background as the last stage performance of Matsuri Japan Festival 2019. After the performance, the performers paraded around the venue and many festival attendees joined the parade.



A staff of CLAIR Sydney who is seconded from Kuroishi City in Aomori Prefecture coordinated the stage performance with members of the event committee. He also set up appointments and accompanied the Kuroishi delegation during their visit in Sydney.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support Japanese local governments in promoting their local tourist destinations and experiences in Australia and New Zealand.



Japanese Tourist Destination Promotion with Japanese Local Governments at the Matsuri Japan Festival 2019

On 7 Dec, the Matsuri Japan Festival 2019 was held at Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour in Sydney. CLAIR Sydney ran a booth at the event to promote Japanese regional destinations alongside our co-exhibitors Sapporo City in Hokkaido Prefecture, Kuroishi City in Aomori Prefecture, as well as Ishikawa, Yamanashi, Wakayama and Tottori Prefectures.



The event attracted many attendees, and many visitors came to our booth and were provided with information on tourist destinations all across Japan, as well as information on the upcoming Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics Games, and World Masters Games 2021 KANSAI.



Research on the Whakarewarewa Forest in Rotorua, New Zealand

Kia Ora!

On 10 to 12 Dec, Assistant Director TANIMOTO Takanori conducted research in the Whakarewarewa Forest in Rotorua, New Zealand.

The Forest is a popular recreational area for locals and is equipped with walking and mountain biking tracks. There is also a tree walk experience for tourists to enjoy, by making use of the huge redwoods in the

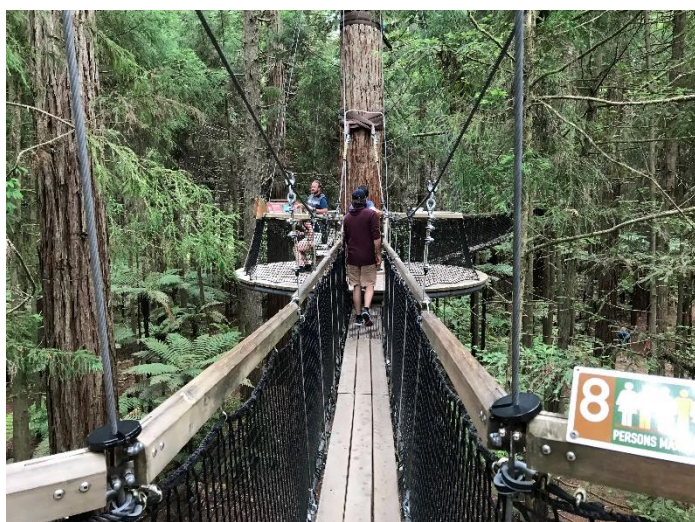


forest. The forest area is over 5,600ha, and the total length of the mountain bike track is about 130km.

Mr Tanimoto was able to complete his trip thanks to the kind assistance and support from Dr Richard Yao of SCION, a New Zealand Crown Research Institute headquartered in Rotorua. Mr Tanimoto will complete his CLAIR report with an aim to provide information to Japanese municipalities to aid their work in creating their own forest master plans.



Ngā mihi



Support Activities for Staff of the City of Yokohama



From 9 to 14 Dec, Ms KONO Haruka from the Family Register Section, General Affairs Department, Tsurumi Ward of Yokohama City visited Sydney to conduct research in multicultural policies in Australia.

Similar to other municipal governments in Japan, Yokohama City is experiencing an increase in its non-Japanese population, and the Yokohama City Government included the establishment of an intercultural society as one of its priority efforts in its international strategies.

Ms Kono visited nine organisations during her time in Sydney, such as the City of Sydney and Ethnic Community Services Co-operative, and had meetings with relevant staff to discuss and learn about each organisation's multiculturalism policies as part of research for Yokohama City's efforts in establishing

an intercultural society. Ms Kono expressed that the visits were very informative as she was able to compile first-hand information from each organisation which she could not have found by researching on the internet alone.

To support Ms Kono's research, CLAIR Sydney assisted with setting up the meetings with the organisations. The CLAIR Sydney office will continue to support Japanese local governments' overseas researches in topics such as multicultural policies.



The Commemorative Delegation for the Launch of the Sydney-Sapporo Seasonal Flights Visited CLAIR Sydney

On 17 Dec, 2019, Mr URAMOTO Motohito, Vice Governor of Hokkaido Prefecture; Mr ISHIKAWA Toshiya, Vice Mayor of Sapporo City; Mr YOKOTA Ryuichi, Vice Mayor of Chitose City; Mr ABE Naoshi, President of the New Chitose Airport Terminal Building Co., Ltd.; and Mr KASAHARA Junichi, Managing Director of the Sapporo International Air Cargo Terminal Co., Ltd. visited the CLAIR Sydney office.



The delegation was in Australia for an official visit to the head office of Qantas, which launched new seasonal flights between Sydney Airport and New Chitose Airport that commenced on 16 Dec. At the flight launch ceremony held in New Chitose Airport on the day, it was announced that the seasonal flights will also be in operation in the 2020-2021 season.

A staff of CLAIR Sydney office gave a presentation on the politics, economics, and social landscape in Australia, as well as discussed ideas to attract tourists to Hokkaido from Australia, and talked about the exchanges between Australia and Hokkaido.



On the same day, Mr HIRANO Masaaki, Deputy Superintendent for Educational Affairs of the Board of Education in the Hokkaido Prefectural Government and his staff also visited the CLAIR Sydney office to discuss school exchanges between Hokkaido, Tasmania and New Zealand.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support Japanese local governments in their endeavours to bid for new flight routes for their local airport, and their efforts in international school exchange activities.

The JETAA International Conference

The 2019 JETAA International, International Meeting

Back in 2016, JETAA International was recreated as JETAA-I 2.0. This was made official with the first JETAA-I 2.0 International Meeting and Global Forum. More than 20 members of JETAA-I gathered in Tokyo to discuss issues facing the alumni worldwide, and also to meet with National AJET representatives in the JET Global Forum to discuss issues facing current JETs.

Three years later, in December 2019, once again JETAA-I gathered in Chiyoda City, Tokyo, to discuss current issues and projects within the JET community. Participants included the JETAA-I Executive Officers (Chair and Vice Chair), the Webmaster, four members of the Board of Advisors (BoA), of which includes a representative from National AJET (NAJET), 19 JETAA-I recognised Country Representatives (CoRs), observers from China, Indonesia, the Philippines and JETAA Western Japan and JETAA Tokyo, and members of CLAIR HQ Tokyo. Throughout the three-day meeting, we were



also joined by four members of NAJET, representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and the Japan National Tourism Organisation (JNTO).

Over a year and a half the Executive Officers worked alongside the BoA and the Webmaster, as well as CLAIR staff, to produce a three-day schedule that encompassed issues from around the globe that are important to current JETs, alumni and the greater JET community.

The three day meeting included a full day of discussions with various parties, from representatives from NAJET through to various leaders and representatives from the Ministries, while the remaining two days were filled with discussions on internal JETAA matters.

In order to fully understand the current climate of JETAA chapters in each country, to begin day two of the Meeting, each representative presented for a brief but informative five minutes on the various situations they face, and breakdowns of their committees, alumni size, triumphs and challenges. With each CoR representing between 10 and 55,000+ alumni, the theme of ESID—every situation is different—continues even after you leave JET. The content and discussions that followed in the next two days were all focused on creating a stronger, more collaborative, and truly global outlook for JETAA-I.

Throughout the three days, the discussions featured topics such as JET wellness (mental health resources, sexual security, etc.), career support & networking, KenJETkai, and post-JET opportunities. There were also discussions with representatives from the Ministries on improving communications between JETAA-I and Diplomatic Outposts (DOs), sister city/state relationships, KenJETkai, and sexual security protocols.



One of the most exciting outcomes of the JETAA-I 2019 International Meeting was the establishment of working groups in more than ten areas such as mental health and sexual security, the JET Writers Guild, post JET opportunities, and volunteer opportunities for the JET community. These working groups are open to any members of the JET community who are interested to join. Please reach out to us if you would like to get involved.

The 2019 JETAA-I International Meeting was a roaring success thanks to the hard work of everyone involved from CLAIR Tokyo HQ, members of JETAA-I, Country Representatives, NAJET, representatives from the Ministries, and many more. The JET community remains a strong global community and by working together to share information, it will allow fair representation of our community for us to build projects and strengthen our position as the bridge between Japan and the world.

From the Executive Director

-Disaster Preparedness and Response between Sister Cities and Friendship Cities-

On behalf of all the staff of CLAIR Sydney, I would like to pay my respects to the victims and families affected by the 2019-2020 bushfire season in Australia, and the Whakaari/White Island volcano eruption in New Zealand.

In recent years, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan have all suffered from several devastating natural disasters. I believe the strong and collaborative sister city relationships and friendly relationships between our countries can play a crucial role in improving disaster preparedness, management, response, and relief in all three countries.

A great example is the partnership between Palmerston North in New Zealand and Mihara City in Japan. The two Cities share a history of experiencing earthquake and flooding disasters. Taking this into account, Palmerston North and Mihara have established an exchange program for municipal staff in charge of disaster and crisis management to visit their partner city to collaborate and learn techniques and methods to mutually improve the two Cities' disaster preparedness and response efforts.

In the past, after the occurrence of a disaster, there had been times that the people-to-people connection within sister city relationships and partnerships between Australia, New Zealand and Japan brought comfort and relief to the disaster-stricken regions. An example of this is that after the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, Christchurch's Japanese sister city Kurashiki dispatched a team of municipal staff in charge of disaster victim support to Christchurch.

It is also common for the citizens of a sister city to hold fundraising activities to collect donations as disaster relief for their partner city if the partner city were struck by disaster. Consequently, in recent months, CLAIR Sydney has received many enquiries from Japanese local governments asking how they can donate to their Australian partner cities or disaster victims in bushfire affected areas. Another example of comfort brought on by sister city relationships and partnerships after a disaster is the condolence letters sent by the mayor of the partner cities of disaster-stricken areas. I believe the heart-warming condolences from overseas may somewhat bring a small sense of relief to disaster victims.

I hope that the above examples can be food for thought for your city's consideration in providing support and assistance for your partner city before and after a disaster.