

# jlgc review

## 2005



sixteen years in Britain  
building local relations

## our purpose

*“to promote and strengthen ties between the local government sectors in Japan and the UK/Northern Europe, through our events and exchange programmes”*

*“conduct quality research into topics relevant to local government in Japan”*

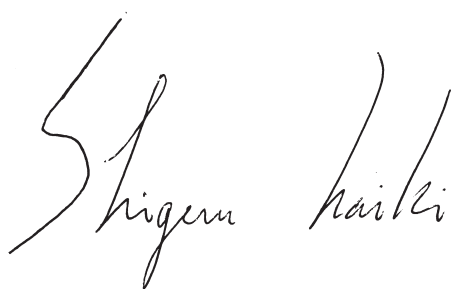
*“facilitate such research as conducted by visiting Japanese public officers”*

To achieve these goals the JLGC staff members research a wide variety of topics, visit local authorities, and facilitate links between local government in the UK/Northern Europe and Japan.

# foreword

I am delighted to present a review of our activities in 2005. The JLGC has been conducting research into local government in the UK and northern Europe, and facilitating research visits by Japanese local government officials to the UK. Our commitment to research has enabled us to publish many reports during the past year on British and European local government systems. We have also been continuing our successful exchange programmes, by sending officials from the UK to Japan and vice versa, and our support of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. The cooperation and assistance of many authorities across the UK and northern Europe has made our work possible and I should particularly like to thank those authorities who have participated in our Japan Day Seminar, Japan Study Tour, our Short Term and One Year Trainee Programmes, and staff placements.

I hope that we can move further towards greater cooperation and understanding between our countries in the field of local government, and look forward to serving you in any way we can.



Shigeru Naiki  
Director



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# Japan Day Seminar

The Japan Day Seminar is an annual event organised by the Japan Local Government Centre to raise awareness of Japan and Japanese local government among UK local government officials and related organisations, as well as provide an opportunity for the exchange of ideas and information and creation of lasting links between the two nations, their cities and local governments.

## The Present and Future Role of Local Authorities in Northern Ireland and Japan

Belfast • 2nd February 2006

The Japan Day Seminar for fiscal year 2005 was held on Thursday 2nd February 2006 at the Europa Hotel in Belfast. The theme of this year's event was "The Present and Future Role of Local Authorities in Northern Ireland and Japan" and there was particular emphasis on the promotion of exchange and understanding between the two nations.

Key speakers at the seminar were: the city's Lord Mayor, Chancellor Wallace Brown, who took the opportunity to welcome all of the delegates to Belfast and officially open the event; the Embassy of Japan's Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy chief of Mission, Mr Hiroyuki Kishino, whose "Japan-UK Relations and Northern Ireland" talk included an



informative introduction to the history of Anglo-Japanese relations and their direction in the future; the President of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association, Councillor Peter Weir, who gave a speech focusing on the role of the local government in Northern Ireland, its history, and the important function played by NILGA; Belfast City Council's Chief Executive Mr Peter McNaney, whose interesting talk was entitled "Belfast-Improvement and Transformation" and MJ's Editor, Mr Michael Burton, who shared some of his experiences drawn from participating on the Japan Study Tour last November.





# JLGC STAFF RESEARCH

During their two-year secondment to the JLGC, all staff are required to carry out research on a chosen topic of interest to Japanese local governments. The results are written up in a CLAIR report and distributed to prefectural and city offices as well as other related organisations. They can also be found on CLAIR's website: [www.clair.or.uk](http://www.clair.or.uk).

## 2005 British General Elections and Local Government Elections (Mr Hisashi Tanaka)

On 5th May 2005, British general elections, local elections in 34 English county councils and 3 unitary councils took place. In the general elections, the Labour Party boasted a third election victory, but with a greatly reduced majority. In the local elections, the Conservative Party gained power in an additional 6 county councils, bringing the total number of counties under Conservative control up to 23.

## CPA (Mr Terunobu Hino and Ms Tomoe Murayama)

The introduction of Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) was announced by the Government in December 2001. CPA is about helping councils deliver better services to local communities and deliver their duty of continuous improvement. We hope this report on CPA will help local government in Japan to deepen the understanding of New Public Management in the U.K.

## Freedom of information and data protection in the UK (Mr Ken Nemoto)

British local authorities have to release information under The Freedom of Information Act and its companion Environmental Information Regulations Act, which came into force in January 2005. Meanwhile, local authorities have to think about data protection. This report deals with how local authorities tackle these new acts, and what impact it has on local authorities.

## The Recent Workings of Parish Councils in the UK (Mr Tetsuya Fukushima)

This report describes recent development in parish and town councils in the UK. It is often assumed that local government structure in England has either 1 tier (unitary) or 2 tiers (county and district) when in fact there are 2 or 3 tiers when local councils (parish and town councils) are included. Recently their role within neighbourhood governance has become more significant.

## Outline of the GLA (Greater London Authority) and its prospect (Ms Tomomi Inoue)

Firstly, this report describes the organisation of the GLA including the four functional bodies, the budget and the Mayor's strategies. This is followed by a brief history of London governance and public services arrangement. Lastly, the government proposal for additional powers to the GLA and the 2012 Olympic are described.

### JLGC Publications and Research

#### Reports in English translated into Japanese

- The future of local government : Developing a 10 year vision
- Sustainable Communities : People, Places and Prosperity
- Vibrant Local Leadership
- Citizen Engagement and Public Services : Why Neighbourhoods Matter

#### Large Scale Commissioned Reports

- Local Government Reform in the UK from Thatcher to Blair
- Budget Systems of Local Government in UK

#### Commissioned Research from Japan

- Compulsory Education Budget Systems (National Governors' Association)
- Electronic Signature Systems (Ministry of International Affairs and Communications)
- The Provision of Interpreting in the Health Service (Kanagawa)
- Public Inspection Systems of Voters' Lists (Ministry of International Affairs and Communications)

- Resident Registration Systems and Disclosure of Registered Information (Ministry of International Affairs and Communications)
- City Marathons (Tokyo)
- Electronic Voting Systems (Ministry of International Affairs and Communications)
- Referendums for Constitutional Reform (Ministry of International Affairs and Communications)
- Trade Strategies to Attract Overseas Investment (Tokyo)
- Local Government Pay Scales (Ministry of International Affairs and Communications)
- Financing Sewage Systems (Ministry of International Affairs and Communications)
- Wuppertal City, Germany (Kitakyushu)
- Assembly Systems, London and Berlin (Tokyo)
- Condominium Ownership (Tokyo)
- Voting Conditions for Nationals living Abroad (Tokyo)
- Local Authority Bankruptcy, Sweden (Ministry of Affairs and Communications)
- Economic and Employment Situation (Tokyo)
- Assembly Systems, Hamburg and Helsinki (Osaka)

JLGC's yearly Speaker Series gives the centre's staff and associates the privilege of hearing presentations given by experts and practitioners on their specialist subject. During October 2005 we welcomed three professionals: Mr Fumio Nagai, Senior Associate Member of St Antony's College, University of Oxford and also Associate Professor of Faculty of Law, Osaka City University, who talked to us about comparative aspects of Japanese-British governments;

Dr Howard Elcock of the School of Arts and Social Sciences at Northumbria University, who discussed with communities and community leadership and Mr Michael Burton, Editor of MJ (Municipal Journal), who focused on current topics in British local government. Finally in December 2005, Mr Iain Twine, Senior Corporate Officer of the Chief Executives Office at LGA, kindly gave us a most interesting presentation entitled "The World is Getting Smaller".



## Short Term Trainee Programme

Beginning in 1990, the Short Term Trainee Programme is a three month study programme whose aim is to allow Japanese local government officers to gain hands-on experience in local government in the UK and France.

The first part of the programme offers participants the opportunity to complete a one month intensive English language course whilst staying with a British family. The trainees then embark on a course in Overseas Local Administration at the University of Birmingham. This is followed by a two-week work placement in a UK authority, whereby trainees gain first-hand knowledge by shadowing local government



officers. The final part of the programme is spent in France, where trainees gain invaluable insight into local government systems on the continent.

### 2005 Short Term Trainees

Trainee	Japanese Authority	Host Authority
Mr Toshihiro Higaki	Kure City	Denbighshire County Council
Ms Naomi Nagao	Nagoya City	Middlesborough Council
Ms Mayuko Okada	Ishikawa Prefecture	Denbighshire County Council

The long term trainee programme began in 1998, with a view to encourage Japanese local government officers to spend a year in the UK, studying British public administration at the University of Birmingham's School of Public Policy and INLOGOV. Students receive intensive language tuition at the English for International Students Unit, before beginning their studies on UK local government. Over the years, trainees have carried out research in a range of areas including CPA, Tourism, Best Value, Education Reform and Not for Profit Organisations. This year's participants share their impressions below.

## Long Term Trainee Programme



### Mr Nobuo Maezawa

My original interest was in the present situation and future prospects of public participation. After studying at the University of Birmingham, however, I realised that it is difficult to discuss current British local governance without touching upon partnership. I gradually became interested in the relationship between partnership and participation, to the point where this finally became my final subject. I found the relationship to be more complicated than I expected. It was a good opportunity to learn about both sides of the modern public management model.

### Ms Satoko Toriyama

I had a great experience through the programme. The lectures at university were wonderful. I could learn a lot about current issues in UK politics as well as my subject, tourism and partnership. All the lecturers were very enthusiastic and kind. They helped me very much with advice. The university's library was also great. I especially used e-journals, which are very useful for finding out about most current theories and examples.

Visits to local authorities gave as much insight as the university lectures. I visited many local authorities to learn about tourism at a sub-regional level in the UK. Each local authority gave me a great opportunity to learn about tourism policies. As my subject was tourism partnership, I asked them many questions about how to manage a successful partnership. Nowadays, in the UK, much work is done through partnership and tourism is not an exception. They showed me the problems and

Besides studying in the University, I was able to visit some local authorities, agencies and partnership bodies in the West Midlands. The officers I met were friendly, open-minded and enthusiastic about their work. They are impressively tackling difficult issues such as unemployment, vandalism and ethnic problems with a positive and forward-looking attitude. I was also invited to some neighbourhood meetings. Lively and frank exchanges of opinions between local people and officers were very impressive. It was an excellent opportunity to talk with them about not only business issues but also lifestyles and daily issues.

Life in Birmingham was quite pleasant, comfortable and interesting. The diversity of people was the most impressive thing. Each of them has their own philosophy and values, and respects each other's differences. This mutual respect for diversity could be one of the reasons why the partnership of different stakeholders works well here. It seems to be one of the key strengths of British society.

sometimes the solutions. As I was also interested in community involvement in tourism, I asked them how to attract local people to get them involved in tourism. At some local authorities, the community is involved as a partner in tourism partnership. It was great to hear about the actual examples.

I was moved by the officers' enthusiasm and kindness. All of them were very nice to me and helped me very much. In some local authorities, tourism officers showed me their areas and explained them in great detail. I was impressed by their hospitality as well as the beauty of scenery and great heritage in the UK.



# Japan Study Tours November 2005

Every year, the JLGC selects a dozen executives of British and northern European local authorities and associated bodies to join a 10 day study tour, whose principal aims are to foster a better understanding of Japanese culture and local government systems, to promote Japan as an overseas exchange partner and to provide a general forum for discussion.

Following a two-day international seminar in Tokyo, delegates travelled to Okayama, this year's host region, which is situated in Western Japan. Once in Okayama, participants were able to visit local authorities, meet their Japanese counterparts and try out facilities relating to this year's tour theme, "IT Revolution and Local Government". The tour also includes a short homestay, offering the opportunity to learn first-hand about Japanese culture through a taste of real family life.



## JET Programme and JETAA

The JLGC continues to assist with the JET Programme, in coordination with the Embassy of Japan. This involves promoting the programme at British universities, interviewing applicants, and assisting with pre-departure orientation. The JLGC also organises an annual reception to welcome back JETs returning to the UK.

The JLGC offers Grant in Aid for the JETAA (Alumni Association) to help fund their activities. JLGC staffs hold annual meetings with the JETAA regional chapters to exchange opinions and to maintain good relationships.



### 2005

1. Grant in Aid given to London, Midlands, North West, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Ireland chapters.
2. Annual Meetings held with London, Midlands, North West, Scotland, Ireland chapters.
3. JET Returnees Reception held on 23 September 2005 at University of London.
4. Support of JETAA EU Conference. (11 to 12 March 2006)

### About JETAA

The JET Programme was set up by the Japanese government 19 years ago, with the aim of promoting grass-roots international exchange. The programme enables local authorities in Japan to employ young people from countries all over the world, to work in

foreign language education, sports education, and promoting international exchange at the community level. In 2005 over 900 participants from the UK joined the programme. The programme is administered by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and CLAIR.

For further information please visit the programme website: [www.jetprogramme.org](http://www.jetprogramme.org)



# *JLGC Staff Work Placement*

As part of their training all our Japanese staff spend two weeks on placement in a local authority, learning about the functions of local government and comparing practice here in the UK with the way things are done in Japan. These two weeks are very important to the staff as they offer a chance to work with British people as well as visit different parts of the country. Upon their return to the JLGC, the staff share their experience and the knowledge gained on the placement with their colleagues through feedback presentations in English.

We are very grateful to those authorities who hosted our members of staff during 2005.

## NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL – JULY 2005

MR KOICHI IWAO AND

MR KAZATO IWASAKI

During our stay in Newcastle, we were honoured to meet some councillors representing various sections in the council. Newcastle City Council has concentrated its efforts in supporting entrepreneurs and start-up companies and they have succeeded in creating a competitive environment by facilitating both small businesses and major companies.

It was very informative for us to have such a wonderful opportunity to learn how local governments provide their services in cooperation with their citizens, businesses, and central government. We would like to express



our sincere appreciation to the staff members of Newcastle City Council, and to the other organisations which we visited during our time in the north east.

## DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL – JUNE 2005

MS YUKO KOIKE AND

MR SHIGEHICO NOHARA



During our time at Durham County Council we had a great many opportunities to learn about the functions



of local government in Durham. We were able to visit a number of sections in County Hall, as well as visit local facilities such as the Aycliffe Young People's Centre, the Extra Care Unit in Barnard Castle, Framwellgate School, and Durham Science College. We would like to thank the staff of Durham CC for their continued support of our organisation, and acceptance of trainees such as ourselves.

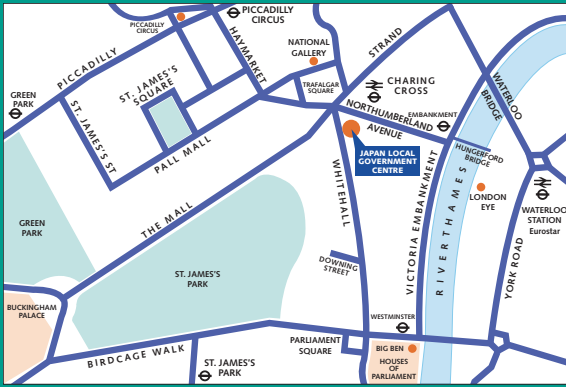
## JLGC Staff

Shigeru Naiki	Director
Consultant for the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations	
Toyosaburo Koyama	Deputy Director
Seconded from Aichi Prefecture 2005-2007	
Tetsuya Fukushima	Assistant Director
Seconded from Kumamoto Prefecture 2004-2006	
Terunobu Hino	Assistant Director
Seconded from Gunma Prefecture 2004-2006	
Tomomi Inoue	Assistant Director
Seconded from Tokyo Metropolitan Government 2004-2006	
Tomoe Murayama	Assistant Director
Seconded from Mie Prefecture 2004-2006	
Hisashi Tanaka	Assistant Director
Seconded from Shizuoka Prefecture 2004-2006	
Koichi Iwao	Assistant Director
Seconded from Kobe City 2005-2007	
Kazato Iwasaki	Assistant Director
Seconded from Kawasaki City 2005-2007	
Yuko Koike	Assistant Director
Seconded from Choshi City 2005-2007	
Shigehiko Nohara	Assistant Director
Seconded from Shiga Prefecture 2005-2007	
Irmelind Kirchner	Research and Policy Manager
Andrew Stevens	Government Relations Manager
Richard Kelner	Publications Officer
Sarah Turner	Secretary and Project Co-ordinator



JLGC Staff





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## About the JLGC

The Japan Local Government Centre is the UK office of CLAIR – the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations. Founded in 1988 with the support of Japan's Ministry of Home Affairs, now the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, CLAIR is a joint organisation of local authorities, working to promote and provide support for local internationalisation.

With its head office in Tokyo, CLAIR has branch offices in each of Japan's 47 prefectures and 14 designated cities, and also has 7 overseas offices – in Beijing, New York, Paris, Singapore, Seoul, Sydney and London. Each overseas office is responsible for a specific area; the London office covers the United Kingdom, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

The main functions of the JLGC in London are to conduct research on local government in the UK and northern Europe, and to promote exchanges between individuals, including government officers and local government representatives, in the UK and Japan. We are also involved in implementing the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) programme, which employs UK graduates in the fields of international exchange and English language education in Japan.