

jlgc review

2007



eighteen years in Britain
building local relations

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I am delighted to present a review of our activities in 2007. Throughout 2007 JLGC London conducted a number of activities including expanding on our research into local government in the United Kingdom, as well as into Continental and Northern Europe, with specific focus on Germany, and running exchange programmes. I would like to sincerely thank all the local authorities who assisted us along the way.

In 2008 we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Anglo-Japanese Treaty of Amity and Commerce. In commemoration of this anniversary, the London office will be holding three seminars in addition to the annual Japan Day Seminar. These seminars will be held in Aberdeen on the 10th of June, Medway on the 13th of September, and Newcastle on the 22nd of September. I hope that we can all continue to work together and that through these activities we can further advance the best practice and understanding of what is local government in the UK and Japan.

梶本 俊行

Shunsuke Mutai
Director

about us

The Japan Local Government Centre is the UK office of CLAIR - the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations. It was founded in 1989 with the support of Japan's Ministry of Home Affairs (currently the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications). CLAIR is a joint organisation of local authorities working to promote and provide support for localised internationalisation.

With its head office in Tokyo, CLAIR has branch offices in each of Japan's 47 prefectures and 17 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 and public policy 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.



Japan Local Government Centre

Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), London
www.jlgc.org.uk

jlgc London Activities 2007

MARCH 2008

Mar 13-14: Conference in Germany JLGC was invited to the Brandenburg Association of Municipalities Conference in Luckenwalde, Germany, to speak on the topic of changing demographics in rural areas.

Mar 12: Japan Study Tour Feedback and Alumni Meeting JLGC held the first JST Alumni meeting at the Japan Foundation offices in Russell Square..

Mar 4-8: Sweden and Åland JLGC visited the Swedish Association of Local Governments and Regions, the Japanese Embassy in Sweden, Hågersten-Liljeholmen District Council, Nyköping Local Council in Stockholm and the government of the autonomous island of Åland in Finland.

FEBRUARY 2008

Feb 14: Japan Day Seminar 2008 (in Cardiff) JLGC held its annual Japan Day Seminar in collaboration with the Welsh Assembly Government and Cardiff Council.

NOVEMBER 2007

Nov 19: Cardiff Council Finalisation of some of the arrangements in Cardiff for the 2007 Japan Day Seminar.

Nov 13-17: Research Trip to Germany Research trip to look into demographic change and the renewal of cities in Germany and meeting with JETAA Germany

Nov 9: GLA JLGC accompanied the Mayor of Nagano on a visit to City Hall.

Nov 7: JET Programme JLGC made a presentation about the JET Programme to Bristol University

Nov 6: JET Programme JLGC made a presentation about the JET Programme to Essex University.

Nov 1: Cardiff Council Development of the arrangements in Cardiff for the 2007 Japan Day Seminar.

OCTOBER 2007

Oct 31: JET Programme JLGC made a presentation about the JET Programme to Lincoln University.

Medway Representatives from Medway came to JLGC to discuss the possibilities of the UK-Japan 2008 programme.

Japan Society JLGC visited this organisation to learn how they conduct their exchanges between Japan and the UK.

Oct 30: JET Programme JLGC made a presentation about the JET Programme to Durham University

Market Harborough District Council JLGC discussed future relations and how they can be developed.

Oct 29: MJ Director Mutai met with Michael Burton, editor of the MJ.

Oct 25: Birmingham City Council JLGC conducted research into how Birmingham has redeveloped and regenerated itself.

JETAA (Birmingham) Information Exchange Meeting with the Midlands Chapter of the JETAA.

Oct 24: Manchester City Council JLGC conducted research into how public transport is improving and the proposed congestion charge.

JETAA (Manchester) Information Exchange Meeting with the North West Chapter of the JETAA.

Oct 23: JET Programme JLGC made a presentation about the JET Programme to London University.

Oct 22: SEEDA JLGC meets with the South East England Development Agency.

Daiwa Foundation Director Mutai made a speech at the Daiwa Foundation.

Oct 19: Cardiff Council Finalisation of some of the arrangements in Cardiff for the 2007 Japan Day Seminar.

Oct 17: Meeting Deputy Directors from other overseas CLAIR offices came to London for their annual meeting

Oct 16: Living in Ireland An information exchange meeting about living in Ireland and the future of the JET Programme at the Embassy of Japan in Dublin.

Oct 15: JETAA (Dublin) JLGC attended a returnee Reception in Dublin for those JETs returned from Japan this year

Living in the UK An information exchange meeting at the Embassy of Japan in London.

Oct 14: JETAA (London) Information Exchange Meeting with the London Chapter of the JETAA.

Oct 9: SOLACE Conference JLGC attended the SOLACE Conference in Cardiff

Oct 7: NALC Conference JLGC attended the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Conference in Bournemouth.

SEPTEMBER 2007

Sep 30: Party Conference JLGC attended the Conservative Party Conference in Blackpool.

Scottish Borders Council Researching how the council are redeveloping their area particularly in relation to sports and tourism.

Sep 29: JETAA (Edinburgh) Information Exchange Meeting with the Scottish Chapter of the JETAA.

Sep 28: Robert Gordon University Researching the status of universities and attendance in Scotland, along with funding issues, etc.

Sep 25: Bracknell Town Council and Panasonic Europe Ltd., JLGC discussed possibilities of strengthening the network with former Japan Study Tour (JST) participants, and at Panasonic Europe Ltd., they discussed the possibility of involvement in the Japan Day Seminar.

Sep 23: Party Conference JLGC attended the Labour Party Conference in Bournemouth.

Sep 21: JETAA JLGC hosted a returnee reception at the University of London for those JETs returned from Japan this year.

Sep 17: Party Conference JLGC attended the Liberal Democrat Party Conference in Brighton.

Sep 15: William Adams Festival JLGC went to Medway to explore the William Adams (Miura Anjin) Festival.

Sep 12: JST Orientation This year's Japan Study Tour participants travelled to London for their orientation.

Sep 11: NPO The NPO Shimin Forum 21 made a visit to JLGC and also to research the functions of NPOs in the UK.

Sep 3: Derbyshire Representatives from Toyota City paid a visit to Derbyshire and also heard about the planned 2008 Japan Day Seminar.

AUGUST 2007

Aug 31: Speaker Series Emeritus Professor Hirofumi Itou, President of the Local Public Finance Council in Tokyo lectured JLGC about the German Fiscal Transfer System.

Aug 29: Dublin City An initial meeting to further promote possible exchange between JLGC and Dublin.

Aug 28: JETAA (Dublin) Information Exchange Meeting with the Irish Chapter of the JETAA.

Aug 22: Medway Researching the economic development of the city.

Aug 20: Market Harborough District Council As part of their posting in the UK, the office staff spent a week at the council shadowing staff.

Aug 16: Shizuoka Philharmonic The Philharmonic played a performance in Coventry and took the opportunity to look around the city.

Aug 9: NILGA (Northern Ireland Local Government Association) Researching current developments and issues affecting local authorities in Northern Ireland.

Aug 8: JETAA (Belfast) Information Exchange Meeting with the Northern Irish Chapter of the JETAA.

Aug 7: JETAA (Cardiff) Information Exchange Meeting with the Wales Chapter of the JETAA.

Cardiff Council Researching current developments at the council and conduct preliminary talks about using Cardiff as a venue for the 2007 Japan Day Seminar.

JULY 2007

JET Pre-departure Presentation

JET Pre-departure Orientation

LGA Conference

JUNE 2007

Meeting of Japanese Local and Regional Authority Representatives in Europe

MAY 2007 Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Strasbourg, France

Japan Day Seminar

The JLGC held its annual Japan Day Seminar in collaboration with the Welsh Assembly Government and Cardiff Council. This year's theme, 'The Challenges of Regeneration and Redevelopment for Local Authorities', continues our rolling series of seminars on devolution throughout the UK. Recently, regional differentials have become a big problem in Japan. The UK too suffers from disparities across the regions, and both countries are taking steps to address the situation through redevelopment and regeneration. It is the intention of the seminar to compare and contrast the different policy approaches of both countries.

Web cast can be seen
<http://www.jlgc.public-i.tv/site/#pp13351>

CLAIR Chairman Michihiro Kayama was interviewed by the MJ local government-related magazine following the Japan Day Seminar. The article which appeared in February 12th edition can be seen on the right.



Why Japan values its links with local government in the UK

Japan has a highly-developed programme of international links for its local authorities. The head of the organisation which runs it was recently on a visit to the UK – which this year celebrates the anniversary of the signing of the 1858 treaty between the two nations – and talked to *The MJ's* editor, **Michael Burton**

The country which takes the keenest interest in the pattern of local government overseas is Japan, which runs its programme through an organisation called CLAIR - the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations. CLAIR's chairman, Michihiro Kayama, made a visit to the UK recently, during which he opened a seminar in Cardiff

organised by CLAIR's London-based operation, the Japan Centre for Local Government, and also gave an interview to *The MJ*.

Mr Kayama is a civil servant by background, with a 40-year career which ended in the ministry of internal affairs and telecommunications. He became chairman of CLAIR two years ago, an organisation he had helped create, which was founded 20 years ago with funding from Japanese local government.

Ostensibly, it existed to manage Japan's highly-respected exchange student programme, JET, but also reflected a wider desire in Japan for more overseas links.

The country, after all, only opened up to the West in the mid-19th century, and this year celebrates the 150th anniversary of the first links between it and the UK.

CLAIR has 80 staff in Tokyo and eight overseas offices, including London, with some eight to 15 staff in each, mainly seconded from Japanese local government. Its brief is to both promote links between the outside world and Japan through exchanges, and help Japanese local government deal with global issues. It does not, however, promote inward investment. Mr Kayama explains: 'We have to make sure we know what's going on in the world so we're not isolated, while our own local authorities need to be able to handle globalisation.'

Some of the main issues in Japanese local government are more than familiar to the UK. First, there is ongoing reorganisation, reducing the number of prefectures and municipalities from 3,232 in 1999 to 1,804 in 2007, with the average population in each increasing from 39,000 to 71,000.

Unlike in the UK, the process has been voluntary, at least in theory. Those councils which refused to merge found themselves forced into efficiency drives,

shared services and staff reductions, which put them in much the same position as those which merged.

Part of the reason is due to financial pressures. As Mr Kayama says: 'Everyone wants the best public services while paying as little as possible for them. It's been a big problem for governments and, indeed, the last general election was centred around tax issues.'

He believes, however, that if all taxes are put together, the total take is little different in Japan than from other developed countries, adding: 'The difference is in the burden of tax, which in Japan is more on income tax, while in the UK it's more on spending.'

'Nevertheless, in a flat economy, income tax doesn't rise, so the government has to shift the emphasis on to spending.'

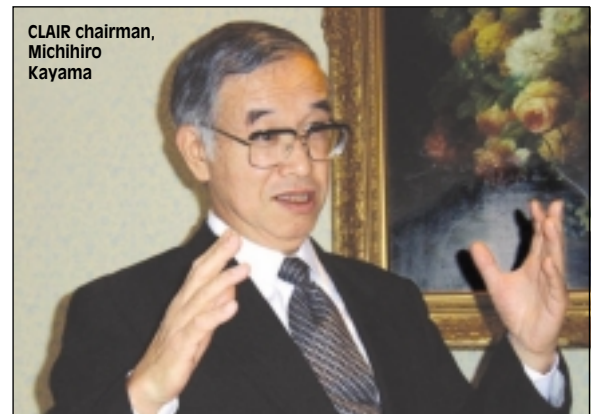
'My own view, though, is that overall tax is not much different between the industrialised countries.'

Roughly, Japanese local government is funded by 30% in taxes raised by councils plus a 'local allocation' tax of 20%, redistributed by the Government, plus the rest centrally-funded through grants.

The 'postcode lottery' is also an issue. There is a strong framework of nationally-prescribed services, with a push to bring in more private sector involvement.

Councils are mostly by politicians who claim they are independent, even though they may have party affiliation, so localism is strong. Associations represent city mayors, town and village councils, and their respective political leaders also have their own associations.

This year, the UK-Japan relationship has a particular topicality because of the 150th anniversary celebrations of the signing of the treaty. Events are planned with councils in Aberdeen, Newcastle and Medway, where some of the original visitors to Japan originated. ■



CLAIR chairman, Michihiro Kayama

Japan Study Tour & Other Activities

The Japan Study Tour is an annual programme which aims principally to promote mutual understanding between Japanese and UK local government. The JLGC invites applications from senior level staff of British local authorities and associated bodies to join this ten-day study tour to study the current condition and issues related to Japanese local government. Each year's study tour focuses on the following:

- Observing Japanese public management systems in action.
- Studying and discussing specific services in small group sessions.
- Experiencing daily family life with a short home stay.

The tour is split into two parts. Firstly the group visits Tokyo to learn about the workings of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and other related sites in the area. After this the group travels to a region of Japan to observe local authorities and their work; meeting their Japanese counterparts and visiting facilities relevant to the theme of the tour. This part of the tour also includes a short home stay, offering the opportunity to learn first-hand about Japanese culture through a taste of real family life.

*At Kamitsu Primary School
– Izumo-City, Shimane
Prefecture*



Japan Study Tour Feedback and Alumni Meeting

On March 12th JLGC held the first JST Alumni meeting at the Japan Foundation offices in Russell Square. The meeting was well attended with representatives from previous tours and presentations were given by James McLellan (Argyll and Bute), Ian Rutherford (Gateshead) and Brian Sylvester (Crewe and Nantwich).

Representatives from the embassy, Japan External Trade Organisation, Japan Foundation, and Japan National Tourist Organisation gave short presentations on their objectives for the future.

Many useful comments about JST were made, and JLGC will forward them to head office.

It is hoped that this will become an annual event to further the exchange between organisations and councils in the UK and Japan.

Visits to local authorities in Sweden and Åland

From the 4th to the 8th of March, delegates from JLGC made visits to the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR), the Japanese Embassy in Sweden, the Hägersten-Liljeholmen district council and the Nyköping local council in Stockholm, and the Åland local council in Finland, looking into the different systems and recent trends in local government.

Seminar in Germany

The Association of Municipalities in Brandenburg Conference in Luckenwalde, Germany, was on changing demographics in rural areas, on the 13th and 14th of March 2008. JLGC was invited to speak on the topic of 'Strategies and best practice examples for adapting rural areas in Japan to demographic change', with the aim of providing an international comparison to their members as well as government personnel. Director Mutai and Research and Policy Manager Irmelind Kirchner gave a 40 minute presentation, drawing together facts and figures on how depopulation is affecting Japan's rural areas, what measures have been taken so far, and what new approaches the current government is considering, as the increasing gap between urban and rural areas has become a burning issue. In particular, encouraging people to move to rural areas permanently or semi-permanently (so-called U-turns), measures to share tax takings in cities with rural areas, and measures to revitalise communities are currently taking shape.

Research Trip to Germany – learning about shrinking regions and cities

Like Japan, some areas of Germany are also affected by a declining and rapidly aging population, particularly in rural areas, but also cities and towns. In November 2007, Director Mutai and Research and Policy Manager Irmelind Kirchner undertook a research trip to Brandenburg to learn more about how the German state and local authorities are responding to this challenge.

The schedule included visits to a member of Brandenburg parliament, the Interior Ministry of Brandenburg, the Brandenburg Association of Municipalities, a Regional Planning Association as well as a local authority which covers a number of villages in a rural area. This provided an opportunity to really see what is happening on the ground as well as get the bigger picture about policies adopted by the State of Brandenburg, which is now streamlining its planning policies in order to 'strengthen strength' and concentrate support for business more, instead of distributing assistance for business settlements across all areas. In towns, efforts are underway to physically change the built environment by reducing surplus housing stock and reduce infrastructure (sewage etc.) that has become too big. In rural communities, the issue is how to involve people more in community life, and to find alternative ways to support daily life or replace services the authorities can no longer provide, but also to emphasis the positive side of life in rural areas, and connecting the rural 'hinterland' with urban areas.

It was also interesting to learn that there are projects connecting shrinking areas in various countries in Europe funded by the European Union. Furthermore, the visit succeeded in strengthening contacts with organisations in Germany, and it is expected that this will benefit JLGC's future work.

Last year, the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Programme celebrated its 20th anniversary. It was established in 1987 with the purpose of increasing mutual understanding between the people of Japan and the people of other nations. It aims to promote internationalisation in Japan's local communities by helping to improve foreign language education and developing international exchange at a community level.

JET participants are selected from 44 countries to fill the post of ALT (Assistant Language Teacher), SEA (Sports Exchange Advisor) or CIR (Coordinators for International Relations). The ALT and SEA posts are usually based in local schools; the ALTs provide language instruction (predominantly English) in schools; the SEAs promote international exchange through sport whilst the CIRs are based in town or city halls and work in the community on international exchange activities.

The recruitment of the JET Participants is conducted by the Japanese Embassies and Consulates in each respective country, and each potential applicant (after screening) is interviewed. Once the successful candidates have been announced, a series of seminars is organised to induct the applicants into what is required of them whilst they work in Japan, and ex-participants are invited to give advice based on their experiences. Each contract is valid for one year, although the opportunity to extend may be available. All JET applicants must be graduates, and if they have dual Japanese citizenship, this must be renounced before they can complete the application process. Japanese language skills are not required unless the applicant wishes to apply for a post as a CIR, but participants are given some text books and the local authorities may hold Japanese language classes once the participants arrive in Japan.

Once in Japan, the participants meet their host local authorities and are given training in preparation for filling their posts. As a programme for foreigners wishing to work in Japan, it is by far the most comfortable in terms of living, working and benefits when compared with employees who go to Japan and find work in the private sector.

A number of associations exist to help the participants to adjust to the requirements of the country, and AJET (Association for Japan Exchange and Teaching) is administered by current participants who hold bi-annual talks with the sponsors to exchange opinions on how the programme might be improved for the participants; whilst the JET Alumnae Association (JETAA) is made up of ex-JETs who have returned to their own countries.

The programme is jointly administered by the Ministry for Internal Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR).

JET Alumni Association

JETAA is an independent organisation for former JETs who have completed their tenure in Japan and assist the embassies and JLGC (CLAIR London) in the promotion of the JET Programme in their home countries. The main goal of this organisation is to maintain friendship ties with Japan and communicate with JETAA members. They are financed by JLGC (CLAIR London) and hold regular events for members. In the UK and Ireland, there are 7 local chapters and two national executives (the UK and Ireland respectively) comprising of almost 4000 members.

Once the JETs return from Japan, the JETAA national executive organise a Careers Information Day which is an opportunity to meet with prospective employers and obtain advice about what options are open for them now. By and large, JET participants have gone on to very good jobs with a significant amount based in the teaching profession, the Civil Service and the BBC as well and banking and financial houses.

JETAA in the UK:

In the UK, there are almost 3,500 participants in local JETAA chapters, with London the biggest at almost 2,500. Ireland has just 1 chapter with 215 members.

The chapters organise regular meetings where they eat or make Japanese food, have talks on Japanese culture, and watch Japanese films. The Ireland chapter organises a Japanese speech contest every year.

Furthermore, an informal walk in the country on the outskirts of London is organised by JETAA on the third Sunday of every month. About 10 people gather each time for a 10 mile hike, and to meet more people with a connection to the JET Programme.

Membership of the different chapters (as of July, 2007):

Chapter	Membership
London	2491
Midlands	333
North West	166
Scotland	296
Northern Ireland	65
Wales	64
Ireland	215



JET Programme Links:

- JETAA-UK <http://www.jetaa.org.uk>
- JETAA-Ireland <http://www.je.emb-japan.go.jp/ijet.htm>
- JETAA-International <http://jetalumni.org/mos/index.php>

For more information about the JET Programme, visit <http://www.jetprogramme.org/index.html>



CLAIR Publications

Research into Public Policy and Local Government for Japan (in Japanese)

The London office carries out research within each country in JLGC's assigned region on the organisation of local government finances, published in the form of pamphlets and CLAIR reports. The CLAIR Tokyo office also presents this information on all kinds of activities carried out by UK organisations, through publications for Japanese local authorities.

European Local Government Series

General commentaries on European systems of local governance

- UK Local Government (31/1/2003)
- Austrian Local Government (31/1/2005)
- Åland Local Authority (31/1/2005)
- Swedish Local Government (30/4/2004)
- German Local Government (29/8/2003)
- Republic of Ireland Local and Regional Government (31/1/2003)
- Finnish Local Government (31/3/1992)

Local Government Internationalisation Forum

This is a magazine to introduce useful news and information to a wide audience on local internationalisation activities, principally aimed at people working in the field of community organisations in the regions. This series includes sections such as "JET Plaza" and "International Exchange in Our Town"

Overseas Comparisons Investigation Series

Comparative cross-sectional investigations carried out through head office and the seven overseas offices into local systems of government.

- Outsourcing of Local Government Services (05/2005)
- Public Trust in Local Government Services (04/2004)
- Community and Governance – Local Participating Citizens' Point of View (05/2003)

CLAIR Reports

These reports are published and distributed as CLAIR Reports within the prefectures in Japan, starting with related organisations within the ordinance designated cities, collated specifically from the latest information, based on various fields of research into regional examples of development, on the circumstances around public finances within European countries.

- No. 308 Local Government Partnerships and the renewed relationship with Central Government (24/08/2007)
- No. 307 Policies towards Ethnic Minorities – Looking at the UK from the Point of View of Living in a Multicultural Society (24/8/2007)
- No. 285 The Current State and Prospects for the GLA (11/8/2007)
- No. 284 The Trend for Parishes (11/8/2007)
- No. 283 The Protection and Disclosure of Information in the UK – The Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act
- No. 282 Report on British Government (2)
- No. 281 Report on British Government (1)

Other Publications

- The Genealogy of Local Government Reform in the UK (31/1/2006)
- The English System of Comprehensive Performance Evaluation (31/1/2006)
- Effective Management and Regional Councils in Europe and the USA (14/5/2005)
- Gathering Documentation in Relation to Overseas Local Authorities (30/9/2004)
- Equivalence by Country to the Worldwide Local Economy Charter (30/6/2004)
- The Structure of Local Government in Foreign Countries (31/5/2004)
- Education in the UK (31/5/2004)
- The Trend in UK Local Government Finances (30/3/1998)
- UK Fire and Disaster Prevention (30/8/1997)
- UK Local Government Finances Handbook – revised edition (30/6/1997)
- From No. 15 Whitehall (29/3/1996)
- 100 Years of Parish Governance (29/3/1996)
- Rural Areas of the UK (31/1/1995)
- UK Urban Reform (31/12/1992)
- Post-retirement Activities in Britain (16/3/1992)

Speaker Series

Speaker Series is a programme whereby experts on UK and European local government come to JLGC London to present on a certain topic. Those in attendance may include JLGC staff, government or government-related employees, or academics. The information received in these presentations help with staff development, and is also often passed on to local authorities in Japan.

1. 28 March 2008, 10:00 – 11:45 Programmes in East Sussex. *Bob Lacey, Chairman of the East Sussex County Council*
2. 27 February 2008, 13:30 – 14:30 Immigration Policy in the UK. *Shizuko Fujimoto, Baker & McKenzie (law firm)*
3. 25 February 2008, 14:00 – 15:30 The UK Jury System. *Ken Sasaki, journalist at the Asahi Shinbun Newspaper*
4. 19 February 2008, 13:30 – 14:30 Nuclear Power in Europe, Tokyo Electric Power Company. *London Office Director Karasaki, Deputy Directors Asazuma and Makino*
5. 4 February 2008, 14:30 – 16:30 Promoting e-Government. *Motoo Kusakabe, Advisor to the President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development*
6. 21 January 2008, 14:30 – 16:00 Rating of Local Authority Bonds. *Minoru Yasuda, Rating and Investment Information, Inc., Public Sector Chief Analyst*
7. 21 November 2007, 10:00 – 16:00 Human Resource Management. *Dr Peter Smart, Robert Gordon University*
8. 4 September 2007, 14:00 – 15:30 Latest Developments of Public Sector Finance in the European and International Market (Especially European Local Government Bonds). *Tetsuya Kodama, Deutsche Bank, Global Capital Market Division*
9. 31 August 2007, 14:30 An examination into public finance in Germany. *Hirofumi Itou, Chairman of the Local Finance Council*

Long & Short Term Trainee Programme, JLGC Staff Work Placements

Long Term Trainee Programme

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 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.

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 two-week study placements in UK authorities, 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.

JLGC Staff Work Placements

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 2007.

- Harborough District Council
- Newcastle-under-Lyme

JLGC London 2008 Schedule of Events and Event in Japan

JLGC London 2008 Schedule of Events

10 June, Japan-UK Biographic Memorial Seminar, Aberdeen

1-3 July, Local Government Association (LGA) Conference (participation and exhibition)

July & September: JET Reception

September – December: JETAA Exchange

13 September, Japan-UK Biographic Memorial Seminar, Medway

22 September, The North East of England and Japan - Economic Past, Present and Futures, Newcastle

October, SOLACE Conference (participation)

18 November, Japan Day Seminar in Derbyshire

9-19 November, Japan Study Tour, "*Linking the Urban and the Rural*", Nagano Prefecture

Events in Japan

7 July - 9 July, G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit. Participating countries include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Union and Japan.

For more up to date details please visit the following site: www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/index.html



Japan Local Government Centre

Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), London
www.jlgc.org.uk

JLGC Staff

Shunsuke Mutai *Director*

Seconded from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

Shingo Kazama *Deputy Director*

Seconded from Chiba Prefectural Government.

Toru Murase *Deputy Director*

Seconded from Aichi Prefectural Government.

Maki Ishida *Counsellor*

Seconded from Tokyo Metropolitan Government, currently following the London 2012 Olympic Games preparation, researching administrative structure and environmental policy in the UK, and government policy in Ireland.

Eitaro Kawamoto *Assistant Director*

Researching police, fire and rescue, finance, taxation and administration. Seconded from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication, researching the political and financial structure of local governments, fire and disaster management, devolution in the UK, and government policy in Denmark.

Yuka Kuwabara *Assistant Director*

Seconded from Gifu Prefectural Government, researching efficiency in the UK public sector, welfare and social services in the UK, and government policy in Sweden.

Toshihiko Takeda *Assistant Director*

Seconded from Shizuoka Prefectural Government, researching housing, local and multi-area agreements, and government policy in Norway.

Takeya Sato *Assistant Director*

Seconded from Nagano City Government, researching planning and development control, sub-national and regional arrangements in the UK and government policy in Austria.

Ryoko Matsunoshita *Assistant Director*

Seconded from Tokushima Prefectural Government, researching education, economic development and regeneration in the UK and government policy in Finland.

Seiki Kimura *Assistant Director*

Seconded from Tokyo Metropolitan Government, researching the duties and status of local officers, public-private partnerships in the UK, and government policy in the EU.

Irmelind Kirchner *Research and Policy Manager*

Conducting and supervising research according to JLGC's remit, with particular regard to the UK and Germany.

Andrew Stevens *Government Relations Manager*

Providing analysis of legislative, policy and political developments, internationalising best practice in the public services.

Chikako Kato *Accounts Assistant*

Administering the office accounts.

Marie Yoshikawa *Assistant Researcher*

Translating reports and assisting with research.

Jason Buckley *Office and Research Assistant*

General office administration, assisting with research and public relations, and translation.

Keith Kelly *Research and Publications Assistant*

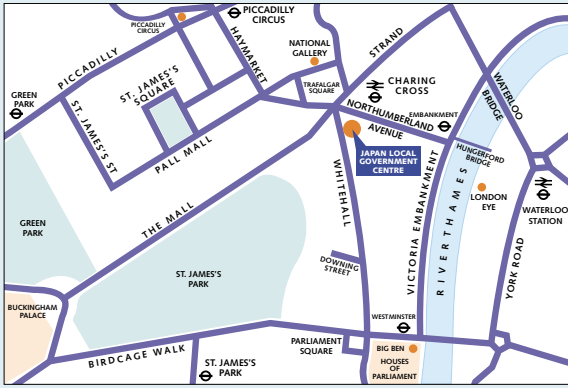
Writing and editing publications, assisting with research, translation, and general office administration.

Staff who returned to Japan in April 2007:

Kazuko Sunami

Ken Fujino

Director Naiki returned to Japan in July 2007 with **Director Mutai** taking over and acting as current director.



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