

財団法人

自治体国際化協会

Myriad Leaves

Japan Local Government Centre, London
Annual Review 2010



JLGC Annual Events

The Japan Day Seminar is an annual event hosted by the Japan Local Government Centre in partnership with a host UK local authority, to raise awareness of Japan and Japanese local government and provide an opportunity for participants to exchange ideas.

Japan Day Seminar: Local Links Conference



Participants from around the UK gathered at our 2010/11 Japan Day Seminar and Local Links Conference event held in Rochester, Kent on 4 March 2011. The event combined both the Japan Local Government Centre's annual seminar and the Local Links Conference started during the Japan-UK 150 year of events organised by the Embassy of Japan in the UK. The event was an in depth discussion of links between Japan and the UK, with a particular focus on how local authorities can create value through economic or cultural exchanges with an international partner. The event was also the first time that the three historic place links celebrated during the Japan-UK 150 celebrations had come together under the same auspices. The event was co-hosted by Medway Council and the Embassy of Japan, with the assistance of the University for the Creative Arts, and sponsored by the Japan External Trade Organisation, Japan Foundation and the Japan National Tourist Organisation.

The event began with some opening words by Counsellor Masami Tamura



from the Japanese Embassy. Followed by a speech from the chair, Councillor Susan Haydock of Medway Council, whose speech outlined the history of Medway's link with the cities of Ito and Yokosuka in Japan. Professor Conte-Helm (Director, Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation) presented on the historic but very active links between the North East of England and Japan. Kenji Ikeda (Secretary General, CLAIR) spoke on the health of Japan's place partnerships with the rest of the world, focusing on the changing nature of the relationship from the post-war common sister city twinning to the more value-added economic and cultural links being generated and the role of local government.

Aberdeen and Nagasaki signed their first Citizen's Friendship Agreement in July 2010. Dr. Peter Smart (Aberdeen Business School) introduced its background, while Medway Council's Ashley Davis discussed the council's links to Yokosuka and Ito; 2012 will be the 30th anniversary of Medway's links with Japan.

Joanna Lavan (Creative Sheffield) addressed Sheffield's city development company and its global profile and work, particularly its international strategy to secure the regeneration of England's fourth largest city through inward investment and city marketing.

The presentations were followed by a short question and answer session, during which further questions were asked regarding economic links between towns and cities in the UK and abroad, as well as funding available in the UK for Japan-related activities.

Japan Study Tour Tokyo and Kyoto

The Japan Study Tour is an annual programme which aims principally to promote mutual understanding between Japanese and UK local government. 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 and

experiencing daily family life with a short home stay.

Eight representatives from local government related organisations in the UK and one from the Netherlands working in management related positions in local government related organisations, spent almost two weeks in the end of July to August 2010 touring Tokyo and Kyoto.

This year the theme was on "local authorities' policies for the environment", and as well as taking part in seminars on the system of Japanese local government at CLAIR headquarters, as well as seminars held by the Ministry of the Environment, participants also were able to make visits to the Ariake Water Treatment Centre and the Shinagawa Thermal Power Station.

In Kyoto Prefecture participants were given explanations of independent environmental regulations as laid out by the regional government, as well as seminars on policies to reduce green house gasses born out of the advent of the Kyoto Protocol, and the Kyoto Ecopoint Model initiative. From there, they went onto Kameoka City to inspect the test plantation of the city's Carbon Minus Project fields.

At opinion exchange meetings, environmental policies throughout national and local levels, initiatives towards the reduction of general and industrial waste, protecting the environment in cooperation with industry, all using examples from Japan and the UK contributed towards a valuable exchange meaning the study tour was a meaningful endeavour for all sides involved.

Participants were also able to take part in a homestay with a Japanese family, and stay in a traditional Japanese inn deepening their understanding of Japan through culture, customs and experiencing real Japanese daily life.



Japan study Tour Feedback

On September 13 at the Japan Foundation in Russell Square, London, JLGC held its annual Japan Study Tour Feedback Meeting. This year's participants, together with past participants and Japan related organisations all gathered with JLGC staff, a total of around 24 in the group to hear about the experience of this year and to have a discussion on the value of international exchange.

There was discussion and comment on the role of Japanese mayor and prefectural governor acting as both elected leader and as chief executive in the context of the debate currently going on in the UK. Also at the feedback meeting it was easy to see the differences between the two level system of Japanese prefectures with local authorities beneath in comparison with the UK system of local government, although there was also comment on the overly defined roles in programmes and initiatives between the prefectures and local councils, which was thought to be problematic in sharing best practice between partners on projects.

In the midst of difficulties due to the global economic turndown, many local authorities are still facing problems in public finances. While this is the case, regional devolution is progressing further in Japan's local authorities, which are continuing to roll out localised countermeasures to support local business, regional tourism and protect the environment.

JLGC strongly believes that in the middle of all of this, dialogue between Japanese and UK/EU local government with chances to share and learn about best practice such as the Japan Study Tour, are valuable opportunities. We hope that this is the start of our relationship with this year's participants and we can continue this valuable exchange for years to come, as well as with future partners.

Rakugo in Edinburgh



JLGC co-sponsored the Rakugo in Edinburgh event with the Consulate General of Japan, the University of Edinburgh, the Japan Society of Scotland and the Japan Foundation London. Rakugo is the art of Japanese comic storytelling. It features a lone storyteller in traditional Japanese dress sitting on stage with only a paper fan and small cloth to use as props. The stories are often quite long and feature large casts whose roles are all undertaken by the storyteller alone. Featuring the 5th Yonedanji Katsura, one of the most famous Rakugo artists in Japan, and Danjiro Katsura, the event took place at the Reid Concert Hall in Edinburgh.

Japan-Germany Local Links Conference

As part of the 150-year anniversary celebrations of the first Prusso-Japanese treaty, on February 8 2011 the first ever conference of German cities with ties to Japanese cities took place at the Japanese Ambassador's Residence in Berlin. More than 70 participants turned out for this event, among them mayors and former mayors for major German cities as well as representatives from the more than 50 German-Japanese Societies which play such a pivotal role in grass-roots exchanges. The welcome was given by Ambassador to Germany Dr. Takahiro Shinyo and also Member of the German Bundestag Ruprecht Polenz, who is the chair of the international affairs committee.

The event was jointly hosted by the Embassy of Japan and the German Association of Cities and aimed to recognise the large role such partnerships and exchanges between cities play. It was noted that the inclusion of cities within the celebration of 150 years of German-Japanese diplomacy was a milestone, and although the finances of local government both in Japan and Germany are not exactly rosy, these international links are valued very much and that every effort is made to maintain and develop them. With about 56 formal and even more informal links between cities large and small, Germany leads all European countries in this field (for the UK, the number is 13 formalised links and a further handful of informal exchanges). Contributors from a number of the cities spoke about their experiences and hopes for the future and introduced their successes; and JLGC introduced its role as well as the supporting mechanisms for Japanese

twinning, including small-scale grants and awards from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. The conference in Berlin follows on from similar conferences JLGC and the Japanese Embassy in London organised in 2009 and 2010, and it can be regarded as a highly successful.

Japan Matsuri



On Saturday 18 September 2010, JLGC took part in Japan Matsuri 2010, which took place at Spitalfields Market in London. Japan Matsuri is hosted by Japan Society and Japanese Residents Association in the UK in order to introduce Japanese food, music, anime, manga, and tradition arts, etc.

The JLGC stall has introduced the Onsen – Japanese hot springs culture. Our stall brought together information on where to find onsen, practical advice on how to bath without cultural faux pas, and introducing the history of onsen through British eyes.





JET Programme

The JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Programme was established in 1987 with the purpose of increasing mutual understanding between the people of Japan and the people of other nations. The JET Programme is one of the largest exchange programmes in the world. 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 36 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 is 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 affiliates 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 Alumni 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



Chapter	Membership
London	3,807
Midlands	383
North West	199
Scotland	302
Northern Ireland	67
Wales	76
Ireland	331
TOTAL	5,165

JETAA is an independent organisation for former JETs who have completed their tenure in Japan and assist the embassies and CLAIR 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 in countries under the London office's remit. 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, JETAA organise a Careers Information Day in London 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 organisations such as the Civil Service, NHS, and the BBC as well as banking and financial houses. In the UK, there are almost 5,200 participants in local JETAA chapters, with London the biggest at almost 3,800. Ireland has just one chapter with 331 members.

The regional chapters are involved in supporting the JET Programme, by organising pre-departure events such as Q&A sessions outside London about life in Japan for new participants and their families, helping with the main pre-departure event in London, giving presentations at universities, and organising networking events for former participants.

The chapters are involved with Japanese organisations in supporting cultural events. They all organise their own regular get-togethers where they eat or make Japanese food, have talks on Japanese culture, and watch Japanese films. Some chapters organise Japanese language classes, while the Republic of Ireland chapter has a Japanese speech contest every year. JETAA members are well placed to act as a bridge between Japanese regions and local areas throughout the UK. JETAA UK will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2010.

Membership of the different chapters (as of July, 2010):

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, click this web-site: <http://www.jetprogramme.org/index.html>

JET promotion around the UK

JLGC Staff members are active in promoting the JET Programme around the country at universities to undergraduate students. Japanese staff give presentations on life in Japan, while UK staff and former JETs talk about their experiences and explain how the programme works as a joint project between local authorities in the regions and central government ministries in Tokyo. Our main office CLAIR Tokyo is responsible for organising the national orientation for around 1,750 new JETs (in 2010), dispatch to their contracting boards of education throughout Japan, and providing counselling and support for participants.



JLGC

Activities and Events 2010

March 2011

Japan Day Seminar and Local Link Conference in Medway
 Research Trip to Birmingham
 CLAIR Chair's visit to Basildon
 Attendance at the Japan Earthquake Memorial Service in St. Mary Magdalene Church in Gillingham

February 2011

Local Link Conference in Germany
 JETAA Multi-chapter Conferences in Birmingham
 Research Trip to Middlesbrough Borough Council
 Research Trip to Cheshire West and Chester Council
 Research Trip to Berlin

January 2011

Research Trip to Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
 Research Trip to Brighton & Hove City Council
 Research Trip to Rotterdam

December 2010

Research Trip to Liverpool
 Research Trip to Big Pit
 Research Trip to Norwich
 Heritage Economic Regeneration Trust visit
 Research Trip to Gateshead Council

November 2010

Kawasaki-Sheffield Sister Cities Affiliation renewal event
 Attendance at Salon des Maires et des Collectivités Locales in Paris, France
 Research Trip to Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust
 Research Trip to New Forest District Council
 Research Trip to Leeds
 Research Trip to Guilford
 Research Trip to Hartlepool Borough Council
 Research Trip to Bristol
 Research Trip to Faversham Society
 Research Trip to Eastleigh
 JET Programme Recruitment Presentations at UK universities

October 2010

Attendance at JETAA International Conference at Edinburgh
 Attendance at Bordeaux 2010 CEMR
 JET Programme Recruitment Presentations at UK universities
 Research Trip to Freiburg
 Research Trip to Cambridge
 Research Trip to Nottingham
 Attendance at SOLACE annual



conference in Cardiff

September 2010

Research Trip to Sevenoaks
 Attendance at Brandenburg Association of Cities and Towns annual meeting and event near Berlin

July 2010

JET Programme pre-departure orientation, London
 LGA Annual Conference & Exhibition 2010 in Bournemouth
 NALC Larger Local Councils Committee in Middlewich
 Attendance and Presentation at Spelthorne Symposium
 Attendance at the signing ceremony of the friendship affiliation between Aberdeen and Nagasaki

Research Trip to Berlin

June 2010

Work Placement in Spelthorne Borough Council
 Work Placement in Medway Council
 Work placement in Gateshead Council and Norfolk Council
 Work placement in Peterborough County Council
 Research Trip to Berlin

May 2010

CLAIR Overseas Office Directors Meeting, Tokyo
 Rakugo in Edinburgh
 Election Observation visit to Spelthorne Borough Council
 Research Trip to Berlin



**CLAIR Publications:
Research on public policy
issues (in Japanese)**

JLGC carries out research on issues related to local government not only for the UK but also the other countries under our remit, namely Ireland, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. We also report on EU policy with a bearing on local government. From 2008 on research updates are published on our website. CLAIR Tokyo also draws on our research in publications for Japanese local authorities.

European local government bulletins – regular updates on a country-by-country basis

Weekly Topics – coverage of local government topics in the UK media.

Monthly Reports – timely reporting of public policy issues in the UK and Germany, with occasional coverage of the EU and other countries

JLGC Website (Japanese)

UK local authority bulletins (local government structure, planning, regeneration, welfare, health, transport, environment, education, housing, policing, emergency services as well as others)

JLGC Blog – regular updates on public service provision and UK-Japan relations

Japan-UK Linked Local Authorities Blog – events and activities of UK and Japanese local authorities with twinning arrangements

Twitter – real-time information updates

Supporting Japanese local authorities (41 requests)

After receiving requests from Japanese local authorities, JLGC assists with advance bookings for meetings, support with

translation, specialist lectures at JLGC's London offices, working together and supporting local authority research trips from Japan with research activities concerning public service in the UK and Europe.

Research Requests from Japan (22 requests)

Local governance and public finance requests for information needed from abroad, but that cannot be carried out by the local authority themselves are carried out by JLGC staff based in the UK.

CLAIR Report

No. 354- Human Resource Development in local authorities in England (2011/03/10)

Myriad Leaves

Myriad Leaves, the journal of JLGC London, is a twice yearly publication featuring articles on Japanese local government, as well as features on activities and projects by JLGC in the UK promoting international grass roots activities. Back issues are available from the JLGC website in the publications section.

Speaker Series

Speaker Series is a programme of invited experts on UK and European public policy who 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.

Speakers for 2010:

Mitsuhiro Nakamura, Think London "*Activities of Think London and Japanese investment in the United Kingdom*"
Akio Nagahira, Professor,



Department of Management Science and Technology, Tohoku University Graduate School of Engineering "*How to win the global competition - Importance of Intelligence*"
Nobusato Kitaoji, Professor, Meiji University Graduate School of Governance Studies "*From Highly Competitive Procurement to Dependent but Tense Partnership -Introducing 'Balanced Sourcing' to the Public Sector in Japan*"

Hideki Tomioka, Director, JNTO London "*Tourism Promotion of Japanese Local Governments*"

Aidan Rave, Director of Consulting and Interim, Pinnacle PSG "*New game; new rules... delivering public services 2010 and beyond*"

Joanna Lavan, Manager, International Trade & Relations, Creative Sheffield "*Creative Sheffield - transforming Sheffield's economy and looking forward with the LEPs*"

Masayuki Takahashi, Associate Professor, Faculty of International Studies and Regional Development, University of Niigata Prefecture "*Studying Child support system By Comparisons of Japan, UK and Sweden*"

Professor David Cope, Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, Houses of Parliament "*From Parliament to Whitehall to Town Hall*"

Kevin Whittle, Head of Policy, London Thames Gateway Development Corporation "*Moving East London Forward*"

Alan Trench, Honorary senior research fellow at the Constitution Unit, UCL, University of Edinburgh "*Devolution in the UK*"

Research, Placements and Projects

JLGC Staff Work Placements

As part of their training all our Japanese staff visit several local authorities on placements, learning about the functions of local government and comparing practice here in the UK with Japan. These visits 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 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 2010, at Spelthorne Borough Council, Medway Council, Newcastle City Council and Norwich City Council

Research Trips

Sevenoaks Town Council
(September 2010)

East Midlands Government Office
(October 2010)

East of England Government
Office (October 2010)

South West England Government
Office (November 2010)

South East England Government
Office (November 2010)

Yorkshire & the Humber
Government Office (November
2010)

Emergency Planning College
(November 2010)

North West England Government
Office (December 2010)

Berlin (Germany) (May, June,
July 2010 and March 2011)

Freiburg (Germany) (October
2010)

Rotterdam (The Netherlands)
(January 2011)

Rheinland-Pfalz, Bad Durkheim,
Wachenheim (Germany) (March
2011)

Research Trips for CLAIR Report

Eastleigh (Tourism South East)
(November 2010)

Faversham Society (November
2010)

Hartlepool Borough Council
(November 2010)

New Forest District Council
(November 2010)

Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust
(November 2010)

Big Pit (December 2010)

Gateshead Council (December
2010)

Norwich Heritage Economic
Regeneration Trust (December
2010)

Brighton & Hove City Council
(January 2011)

Southend-on-Sea Borough
Council (January 2011)

Cheshire West and Chester
Council (February 2011)

Middlesbrough Borough Council
(February 2011)

Opinion exchange with partner organisations

The Local Government
Association annual conference
and exhibition in Bournemouth
(July 2010)

The National Association of Local
Councils, Larger Local Councils
Committee in Middlewich (July
2010)

Council of European
Municipalities and Regions in
Bordeaux, France (October
2010)

SOLACE Conference in Cardiff
(October 2010)

Salon des Maires et des
Collectivités Locales in Paris,
France (November 2010)

Potsdam University, , Japan
Embassy in Germany (February
2011)

Japanese local government cooperation with local government in the UK

Aberdeen City Council and
Nagasaki Citizens Friendship
Agreement Signing Ceremony in
Aberdeen (July 2010)

Sheffield and Kawasaki City
Twinning 20th anniversary events
celebrating the Friendship
Agreement in Sheffield



Japan Local Government Centre

Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), London

The Japan Local Government Centre is the UK office of CLAIR. CLAIR is a joint organisation of local authorities, working to promote and provide support for local internationalisation.

The main functions of JLGC, 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

**15 Whitehall, London
SW1A 2DD
United Kingdom
Telephone: 020-7839-
8500**

**Fax: 020-7839-8191
E-mail: mail-
box@jlgc.org.uk
www.jlgc.org.uk**