

jlgc review

2006



seventeen 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”

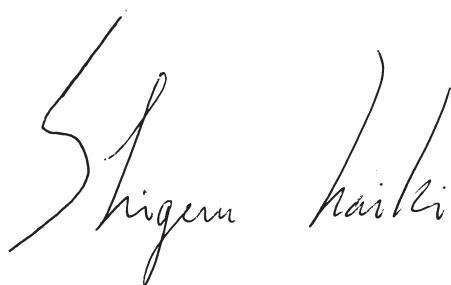
“facilitate such research as conducted by visiting Japanese public officers”

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 2006. The Japan Local Government Centre has continued to conduct research into local government in the UK and northern Europe, and facilitate research visits by Japanese public officers to the UK. This commitment to research has enabled us to publish many reports during the past year on British and European local government systems. This year has also seen the continuation of the successful exchange programmes, those of sending officials from the UK to Japan and vice versa, and our support of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. It is the continuing cooperation and grateful assistance of many authorities across the UK and northern Europe which made our work possible and I would 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 furthering internationalism on a localised level.



Shigeru Naiki
Director



CONTENTS

Events:

Japan Day Seminar 2006	2
JLGC Staff Research	3
Speaker Series	4

Exchange Programmes:

Short Term Trainee Programme	4
Long Term Trainee Programme	5
Japan Study Tour	6
JET Programme	6

Staff Work Placements:

Carlisle City Council	7
Tandridge District Council	7
North-West Leicestershire District Council	7

JLGC Staff Profiles:

Who's Who	8
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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.

Decentralisation, Devolution and Delivery – Local Government in the 21st Century

Edinburgh • 30th January 2007

The Japan Day Seminar for the fiscal year 2006 was held on Tuesday 30th January 2007 at the City Chambers in Edinburgh. The theme of this year's event was 'Decentralisation, Devolution and Delivery – Local Government in the 21st Century' and there was particular emphasis on the promotion of exchange and understanding between the UK and Japan. The event was jointly hosted with the Consulate General of Japan in Edinburgh.

Key speakers at the seminar were: the city's Lord Provost, Cllr Lesley Hinds, who took the opportunity to welcome all of the delegates to Edinburgh and officially open the event; the Consul General of Japan, Mr. Shuhei Takahashi, whose talk about Japan-UK



relations included an informative introduction to the history of Anglo-Japanese relations and their direction in the future; the President of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, Cllr Pat Watters, who gave a speech focusing on the importance of the future relationship between local government and the Scottish Executive; Mr. George Lyon MSP, Deputy Minister for Finance, Public Service Reform and Parliamentary Business who spoke on the theme

'Reforming Public Services in Scotland', and Mr. Mark Turley, Director of Services for Communities for the City of Edinburgh Council, who spoke on the council's agenda for making the city cleaner, greener, safer and better.



JLGC STAFF RESEARCH

During their two-year secondment to 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

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives 'LABGI' (Mr. Shigehiko Nohara)

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives (LABGI) is a scheme introduced in April 2005 to stimulate the growth of local economies. The report deals with this decentralisation programme, which is intended to give local authorities the incentive to promote local economic growth by allowing them to receive a proportion of increases in business rates (non-domestic rates) revenues and decide how it is spent in their local area.

New Forms of Relationships between Local Authorities and the Government based on Partnerships (Mr. Koichi Iwao)

This report looks at a number of Government programmes and policies based on partnerships, with Local Area Agreement (LAA) as its main feature. It discusses how Derbyshire CC and Hammersmith and Fulham LBC utilise the LAA to run their service, the issues and challenges that the LAA is currently facing and its future development, as well as other schemes such as Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP) and Local Public Service Agreements (LPSA).

Local Compact (Ms. Yuko Koike)

Local Compact was created as an agreement between local government and the voluntary and community sectors. It is designed to improve working relationships between all parties and sets the framework for their partnerships. This report discusses how Local Compact was established, its aims and Local Compact Guidelines, as well as how it has developed to involve more public service providers and what impact the "Local Strategic Partnership Compact" has had.

Policies to Support Ethnic Minorities and Community Cohesion in the UK (Mr. Kazato Iwasaki)

The report looks at efforts by the British Government to support ethnic minorities in the areas of education, employment, housing and health as well as its policies to realise "community cohesion." This report has made extensive use of the "Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society: One year on - A progress report on the Government's strategy for race equality and community cohesion," publication by Department of Communities and Local Government (July 2006).

JLGC Publications and Research

Commissioned Research from Japan

- Tax on Depreciable Properties (fixed assets for business excluding land and houses)
(Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)
- Measures to prevent same persons from repeatedly being elected as Mayor or Councillor
(Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)
- The Republic of Austria, including its population
(National Governors' Association)
- Ambulance Helicopters
(Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)
- User Registration and Revenue Collection for Pleasure Craft (Shiga Prefecture)
- Economic Policy and Support to Business in London
(Tokyo Metropolitan Government)

- Public Cultural Facilities established by Local Authorities
(Tokyo Metropolitan Government)
- Tax on Properties
(Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

Reports in English translated into Japanese

- Baker Review of Land Use Planning
- Strong and Prosperous Communities
(Local Government White Paper)

JLGC Commissioned Research

- Review and analysis of developments in UK local government and local governance

JLGC's annual Speaker Series invites experts and practitioners to give presentations on their areas of authority to JLGC staff and associates.

In July we were very happy to welcome Dr. Brian J. Nickerson, Professor of Public Administration and Director of the Edwin G. Michaelian Institute for Public Policy and Management of the



Dyson College of Arts & Sciences at Pace University. He talked to us about emergency planning at a local level. In February we welcomed Professor George Jones of the London School of Economics who gave us a fascinating talk about the recent White Paper on Local Government.

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.



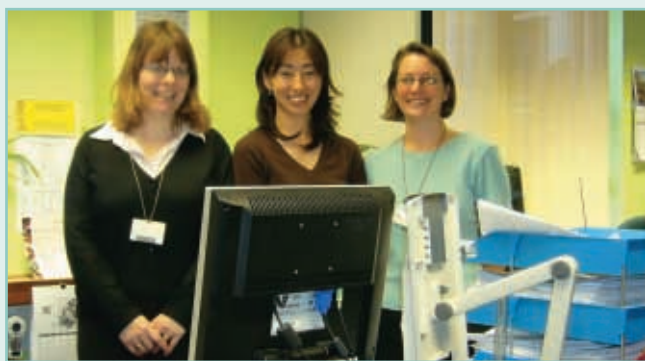
The trainees then embark on a course in Overseas Local Administration at the University of Birmingham. This is followed by a two-week work placement in a UK authority, whereby trainees gain first-hand knowledge by shadowing local government officers. The final part of the programme is spent in France, where trainees gain invaluable insight into local government systems on the continent.

2006 Short Term Trainees

Trainee	Japanese Authority	Host Authority
Ms Satoko Yamanaka	Tokyo Metropolitan Government	GLA, Manchester City Council
Mr Takayuki Ota	Sapporo City	Middlesborough Council, Manchester City Council
Ms Hiroko Kawata	Tottori Prefecture	Cumbria County Council

The Long Term Trainee Programme began in 1998 with the intention of encouraging 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 local government in the UK. 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



Hitomi Morita, Nara Prefectural Government

My time on the CLAIR One Year Trainee Programme was an extremely valuable experience. It was a superb opportunity for me to meet many people not only from the UK but also from many other countries and to recognise different religions, cultures and ways of thinking so different from my previous experiences.

In Japan, one of my areas of interest was the regeneration of run down town centres, and I was able to continue research in this field on the programme by learning about town planning systems in the UK. The persistence of a dated infrastructure despite economic progression, changes in the local community and lifestyle has meant there has been an increase in the number of rundown city centres in Japan. Furthermore, as Japan faces an aging population with low birth rates, the effective use of town centres is an issue which I believe should be taken more seriously.

At the University of Birmingham I was able to learn about the history and principles behind the UK's town planning system, and I learnt about Business Improvement Districts, conservation and regeneration through three work placements. As I am an architectural engineer, it was invaluable to me to have the opportunity to do specific work related to historical buildings and to meet with UK experts to exchange skills and opinions. This practical experience was invaluable to me and provided me with knowledge I could not have gained otherwise. Through these placements my eyes were opened to new ideas which I know will influence my work in the future.

On my return to Nara I will share what I have learnt in the UK with my colleagues and community as we plan the 1300th anniversary of Nara Heiji-kyo capital scheduled for 2010 among other events. At that time we look forward to welcoming many visitors to Nara to enjoy the celebrations.



Hiroko Saita, Ibaraki Prefecture

It was a great experience to study in the UK and meet many people from different countries during the year. At the University of Birmingham, I attended the English classes for international students and lectures about multiculturalism relating to public policy. The English class was quite useful and teachers encouraged me to write academic essays and make presentations. The one-to-one tutorials were especially constructive as I was able to get a lot of advice on how best to improve my English. Lectures at the university also helped me study my topic, multicultural policy; I was able to learn about the UK's long history of immigration and about some of the current problems faced in this multicultural society.

Visits to local authorities and organisations were interesting because I was given lots of examples of multicultural strategies and learnt a great deal about the challenges relating to this area of policy. I visited both Cumbria and Birmingham City Councils, along with other organisations in the private and the voluntary sectors. People from the organisations were very kind and allowed me to attend their community involvement meetings and ceremonies. They also introduced me to many articles concerning strategies to develop community cohesion, and building positive and strong relationships in society. I came to realise the importance of partnerships between organisations to improve community cohesion.

Life in Birmingham was comfortable and I made many friends from different countries such as China, Thai, France, Italy as well as the UK. We sometimes ate together and talked about food, lifestyle and religious differences in our cultures. I could find many similarities as well as dissimilarities. These were also multicultural experiences and make up some of the many precious memories that I take back to Japan.

Japan Study Tours October 2006

Every year, JLGC selects a dozen executives from local authorities and associated bodies in the UK and northern Europe to join a 10 day study tour. The principal aims are to foster a better understanding of local government systems and Japanese culture; 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 Aomori, this year's host region, situated in northern Japan. Once in Aomori, participants were able to visit local authorities, meet their Japanese counterparts and try out facilities relating to this year's theme, "Conservation and the use of the Natural Environment". 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

About JET

The JET Programme was set up by the Japanese government 20 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 2006 over 700 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.

Commemorative events were held in Japan in November 2006 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the JET Programme, and look forward to its continued success in the future.



About the JET Alumni Association

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

JLGC offers endowments for the JETAA to help fund their activities. JLGC holds annual meetings with the regional chapters to exchange opinions and to maintain a good working relationship.

2006

1. Endowments given to London, the Midlands, the North West, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Ireland chapters.
2. Annual Meetings held with London, the Midlands, the North West, Scotland, and Ireland chapters.
3. JET Returnees Reception held on 22 September 2006 at the University of London.



For further information please visit the programme website: www.jetprogramme.org

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 their British counterparts as well as visit different parts of the country. Upon their return to JLGC, staff give a feedback presentation in English to share their experiences and the knowledge gained whilst on the placement with their colleagues.

We are very grateful to those authorities who hosted our members of staff during 2006.

CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

MR. KEN FUJINO AND MS. KAZUKO SUNAMI

From the 26th-30th June we were lucky enough to have a work placement at Carlisle City Council. During our five day stay as well as spending some time in a number of different council departments, we were also able to visit the local council assembly rooms, and a number of local museums. We also had the great pleasure of meeting the Lord Mayor of Carlisle, who made time to talk with us and inform us about some of the recent developments that have been made in the area.

Our time in Carlisle was of much use for it gave us the opportunity to practically experience a local authority in

the UK in action. We would like to express our gratitude to all of those who took the time to meet with us in

Carlisle, and helped organise the many visits that we were able to take part in.



beauty. During our placement we met with the Chief Executive of Tandridge District Council, and were given a

For our second week of work placements we visited Tandridge District Council. Our first impression was of a lovely green area full of outstanding natural

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. KEN FUJINO AND MS. KAZUKO SUNAMI

presentation about current issues facing UK local government, as well as a detailed explanation about the everyday work of Tandridge District Council.

We were also given the opportunity to meet with the heads of a number of council departments, where we heard about such things as town planning, the legal and committee service, IT, and public-private partnerships. We were able to visit a number of council facilities where we saw the council in action first hand. We are extremely grateful to everyone in Tandridge who welcomed us and showed us such great hospitality.

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. EITARO KAWAMOTO

During my stay at North West Leicestershire District Council, I had a great many opportunities to learn about the functions of local government in the UK. I was able to sit in on a council meeting, enjoy discussions with many local executives and visit many facilities run by the District Council. Also I was able to make many friends there.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the staff members of North West Leicestershire District Council, and to the other organisations which I visited during my time in North West Leicestershire.



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

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

Ken Fujino Assistant Director
Seconded from Tokyo Metropolitan Government 2006-2008

Kazuko Sunami Assistant Director
Seconded from Okayama Prefecture 2006-2008

Eitaro Kawamoto Assistant Director
Seconded from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and
Communications 2007-2009

Irmelind Kirchner Research and Policy Manager

Andrew Stevens Government Relations Manager

Richard Kelner Publications Officer
and Assistant Researcher

Sarah Turner Secretary and Project Co-ordinator
(until October)

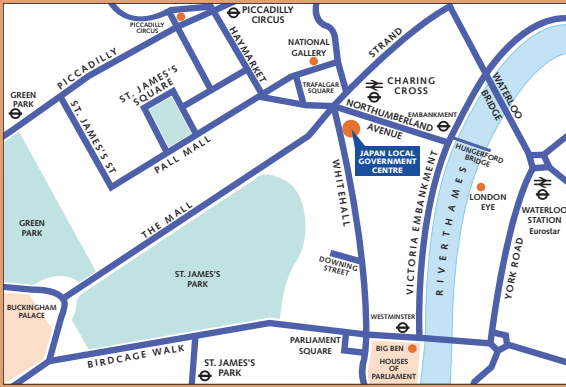
Claire Harris Secretary and Assistant Researcher
(from October)

Marie Yoshikawa Assistant Researcher

Chikako Kato Accounts Assistant



JLGC Staff



THE JAPAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTRE LONDON

15 Whitehall, London SW1A 2DD
United Kingdom

tel 020 7839 8500

fax 020 7839 8191

email mailbox@jlgc.org.uk

www.jlgc.org.uk



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 17 designated cities, and also has 7 overseas offices- in New York, London, Paris, Singapore, Seoul, Sydney and Beijing. 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.

