



## JAPAN TODAY

### Experiences of an English Girl at the 2002 FIFA World Cup™

By Nicola Chilton

As an England supporter living in Japan, I was delighted to be here for the 2002 FIFA World Cup™. I have always liked football (the football with 11 players and without shoulder pads, that is — I think you call it “soccer” in the States), possibly because it’s one of the only sports that we’re any good at in England, or possibly because I’ve always had a thing for footballers’ legs. So for me to be in the co-hosting nation of the biggest single sporting event in the world when my country’s team was coming to compete was very exciting.

However, it was not only with excitement but also with some trepidation that I awaited the arrival of thousands of England fans. And it was with trepidation that the Japanese public awaited their arrival, too. The Japanese media did a very thorough job of making the public believe that every England fan was a potential hooligan. In fact, the question I was asked most frequently in the run up to the World Cup was not “Can you use *hashi* [chopsticks]?” or “Can you eat *natto* [fermented soybeans]?” as is usually the case, but was rather “Will English hooligans really come to Japan?” Knowing that various measures had been taken to prevent hooligans from making their way to Japan and causing trouble I could answer, “No, I don’t think so” with some confidence, but secretly I was more

than a little worried about what would happen if things did turn nasty.

The fear of an onslaught of skinhead, tattooed, trouble-making hooligans was a serious concern in the cities hosting England matches. The first match that England played was against Sweden, in Saitama. Jeremy Shaw, former CIR in the Saitama 2002 FIFA World Cup™ Promotion Division and current JET Programme Coordinator at CLAIR, got together a group of English JET Programme participants to show the residents and World Cup volunteers in Saitama that just because an England fan is drunk, shouting and dancing doesn’t mean that he is a hooligan. The group, known as the “Hooligan Janai Boys,” provided a course on the culture and language of England football fans. The aim of the course was to show that the England fans were here to enjoy the World Cup, to see good football and to have fun, as opposed to coming to Japan to smash up shops, have fights and scare small children and grandmothers.

The group used an original and very realistic approach to bring the culture of English football to the seminar room. The English JETs, dressed as “typical” England fans com-



The author, Ms. Nicola Chilton (front left) and her friends enjoyed the FIFA World Cup immensely.

plete with face paint and beer, entered the room singing and shouting loudly in English. They searched the room for someone who could speak English, and all piled over to him, bombarding him with questions and requests in English that were completely lost on their

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*Masthead: The sakura, or cherry blossom, is Japan’s cherished national flower. Special hanami parties and excursions are held during blossom time each year.*



## Thanks to CLAIR for a Most Satisfying Visit to Japan



by Rita Thaemert

National Conference of State Legislatures

The CLAIR-sponsored visit to Japan that I took part in was November 1–13, 2001—four nights and three days in Tokyo, five nights and five days in Ishikawa Prefecture.

CLAIR took us to a wonderful dinner at the New Otani Hotel in downtown Los Angeles the night of November 1. The ten courses likely constituted our most authentic Japanese dinner on the entire trip. The 11-plus hour flight to Tokyo from L.A. would have been much more difficult for me had the sun not shone through the plane window all the way over. But it was raining hard in Tokyo when we landed.

CLAIR provided a guided bus tour of Tokyo on Sunday, November 4. It was a beautiful, clear day and we saw Mt. Fuji and a sea of endless city from the 50th floor of a government office building. Tokyo is a marvel of more than 11 million people, commuting on bullet trains and providing order and safety with police kiosks every few blocks. Real estate in Tokyo today is \$100,000 per square meter (square yard).

Monday and Tuesday, November 5 and 6, we attended a seminar titled “Developing Local Communities that Thrive in the Global Society of the New Century: Building a New Network of International Exchange and Cooperation” with 200 Japanese and 60 other CLAIR participants. Our North American group included representation from CSG (Council of State Governments); New Orleans, Louisiana; Portland, Oregon; and Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Other countries with representatives in attendance were Australia, Cambodia, China, France, Indonesia, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand and the UK.

There were interpreters for English, French, Korean and Chinese.

The Tokyo discussions addressed development of local government authority, devolution and decentralization. Also on the agenda was how to form sister-city relationships. One speaker was Jean Lloyd Jones, a former Iowa legislator who is now director of Iowa’s sister



*Author Rita Thaemert and her husband (left) visited picturesque Aramata-kyo (Aramata Ravine) in Komatsu City with their hosts during their home stay visit.*

city program. We learned a lot about fixed net fishing at the Tuesday workshop, too.

One of the topics I proposed to consider during the Japan visit was libraries. We visited with a librarian, Noriko Toda, from the national Diet Library who had also attended our Annual Meeting in San Antonio. She provided information about the Diet Library that was founded in 1948 and functions as both a parliamentary library and Japan’s only national library. It serves the Diet members and provides library support to government and judicial offices as well as the general public. Each research staff person collects and maintains data for quickly responding to requests for information.

On Wednesday we traveled to Ishikawa Prefecture and visited the Ishikawa Foundation

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for International Exchange. Thursday morning we met with Ishikawa’s Governor. He knew about Denver because he had visited Aspen, Colorado. He also knew something of Portland, Oregon and Canada. Then we took a tour of the newly rebuilt Kanazawa castle, made completely of local wood, which has burned down twice. Friday’s featured activity was a bus trip to southern Ishikawa to visit a school superintendent, a garden and a glass factory and museum. Every site illustrated the Japanese commitment to cultural preservation.

On Saturday morning we met host families with whom we were to stay for the weekend. We were treated to tours of local parks, temples, museums and our host’s underground, low-level radioactivity evaluation laboratory. The hospitality of our hosts was simply the best and their mastery of English was very commendable. On Monday morning, November 12, we rejoined the North American group at the Kanazawa city government offices and heard two presentations, one about the importance of preserving and maintaining local cultural heritage sites and one about the city’s attempts to employ more women.

Again and again on the trip we heard dignitaries tell us how very sorry they were about September 11. The outpouring of sympathy and genuine concern was tremendous and added to the feelings of solidarity with

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Yokohama 

*The Future is Here*



Yokohama Seal

Yokohama may readily be remembered as the venue of three of the first-round matches and the final match of the recent 2002 FIFA World Cup™ Korea / Japan. As the hosting city, it attracted many supporters and visitors from around the globe who learned much about the city and its activities through both the World Cup and other events.

Yokohama is situated in Japan's national capital area, the country's economic, political, and information center. It developed around its port, which is Japan's biggest port of international trade, and its business community includes many foreign-affiliated companies. Its population of roughly 3.5 million makes it the second-largest city in the country. Since its opening to trade with the West more than 140 years ago, the Port of Yokohama has played a pivotal role in Japan's trading activities, and is now poised for further advancement as a hub of East Asian trade.

Improvement of its capacity is exemplified by the April 2001 opening of a high-standard container terminal with a deep berth able to accommodate ultra-large container vessels.

### **Minato Mirai 21, a forward looking business area**

Covering 186 hectares (460 acres), this area is the site of an exciting new urban district that is being created as part of Yokohama's biggest development project. Generating a lot of attention both inside and outside Japan, Minato Mirai 21 (MM21) features a state-of-the-art information infrastructure equipped with optical fiber networks. Showcased by

Landmark Tower Yokohama, which stands 296 meters (971 feet) high and is the tallest building in Japan, its impressive, high-grade office buildings house the offices of numerous major domestic and foreign firms.

### **21st-century industry**

Along with information technology (IT), biotechnology is anticipated to evolve into a leading industry that will provide a powerful



*The Landmark Tower and surroundings characterize the impressive Minato Mirai 21 area of Yokohama.*

drive for Japan's future economic growth. The Yokohama Science Frontier now taking shape will become a center of the most advanced research and development in fields such as structural and functional analysis of genes and protein. Its list of facilities is headed by the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (RIKEN), which is one of Japan's leading organizations of comprehensive scientific and technological research, and also has won much international acclaim.

The Science Frontier is located in a waterfront district that is making the transition from a site of "hard" conventional industry to

one of "soft" research and development as part of the conversion of the area's industrial structure. The district is being transformed into a core of R&D facilities centered around the Institute and bringing together universities, biotechnology-related venture firms, and IT companies for work in programs at all stages, from basic to applied.

### **A Corporate Center**

For more than ten years, Yokohama has actively endeavored to provide opportunities for dynamic economic activity by corporate enterprises, regardless of their nationality. These efforts have motivated many foreign firms to move into Yokohama from other parts of Japan as well as other countries.

Of particular note are four industrial centers intended primarily to serve as hubs for companies based in specific countries.

Among them are the US-Japan Technology Village Partnership (TVP) project, designed for tenancy by US firms, and the Canadian Industry & Trade Centre (CITC), built for Canadian firms.

### **Overseas offices**

Outside Japan, Yokohama has established offices in New York, Frankfurt, Kuala Lumpur, and Shanghai with a view to promoting the business activities of local Yokohama firms, attracting corporate siting, and gathering administrative information. Besides providing the latest business information on Yokohama,

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