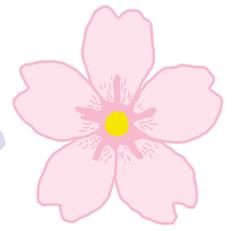


JLGC Newsletter



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JLGC UPDATE

2002 US-Japan Local Autonomy Forum “Public-Private Partnership” in Regional Development: A Look at Japan and the United States

The Japan Local Government Center (JLGC) held its fifth annual “US-Japan Local Autonomy Forum” at the New York office of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) in midtown New York on November 14th and 15th, 2002.

The Japan Local Autonomy Forum is a symposium on topical issues of interest facing local governments in Japan and the United States. The Japan Local Government Center has hosted this annual event since 1998, providing academicians, policy specialists and public administration practitioners from both nations the opportunity to enrich and share knowledge about their local government systems.

The theme for this year’s Forum was “Public-Private Partnerships in Regional Development.” A relevant and fundamental economic development strategy, the use of public-private partnerships is widely becoming an increasingly popular and efficient means by which local governments can effectively provide services to their constituents. The goal of the Forum was to highlight the policies and practices that encouraged the use of these partnerships by local governments in Japan and the United States and to analyze their advantages and disadvantages.

Two informative and expert keynote speakers opened the Forum. Shun’ichi Furukawa, a professor at the Institute of Policy and Planning Sciences, University of Tsukuba, presented a comprehensive white paper entitled “The Role of the Public Sector and the Public-Private Partnership.” The paper examined the developments and transformation of local governance in Japan by describing the traditional nature of Japan’s public sector, the role of the public-private partnership, and the changing nature of governance. Governance in Japan has undergone a transformation to accommodate accountability and the emerging role of citizens. Public-private collaboration has become a lynchpin in this new framework. Professor Furukawa discussed how postwar Japan strongly committed itself to fostering major public policy including regional development and urban affairs. Such commitment and the dominant role of government has drastically lost its effectiveness in the last few years due to changes of governance and institution. Public-private partnership has emerged as a viable means to accommodate such new governance. He also introduced the new concept of “knowledge based governance,” a product of governance and performance mea-



Shun’ichi Furukawa, professor at the Institute of Policy and Planning Sciences, University of Tsukuba, served as a lead speaker at the two day forum.

surement. Knowledge sharing and collaboration are the factors constituting this new governance, and of course knowledge is the key component leading to continuous innovation.

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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.



2002 US-Japan Local Autonomy Forum

“Public-Private Partnership” in Regional Development: A Look at Japan and the United States

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Also, John Tepper Marlin, the Chief Economist at the New York City Office of the Comptroller, presented his paper entitled: “The Role of Public-Private Partnerships in the Management of US Cities and the Limits to Their Usefulness.” Highlighting his experiences in New York City, he expounded on how public-private partnerships offer solutions to the inevitable conflict faced in democratic government between elected officials and professional management. Collaboration provides local government access to the special skills and management expertise found in business and non-profit organizations. Dr. Marlin categorized the five basic public-private partnership models; the CEO led model; the Chamber of Commerce model; the Elected Officials Initiative model; the Presidents’ Organization model and the Privatization model. All models contained a common purpose: to recognize the interdependency of business and regional interests, coordinate individual and local efforts, and provide assistance where existing institutions are unable to tackle certain problems.

Public-private partnerships provide a way to preserve lessons from the past to be passed on to future managers. Therefore, partnerships both promote communication among citizens and between citizens and city managers and offer flexibility in the management of city services.

Day two was devoted to a panel discussion featuring the keynote speakers and three panelists, each of whom gave short case study presentations. Keiichi Matsushita, Director of Research, Business Planning Department, Water Works Bureau, the City of Yokohama, spoke about civic collaboration where citizens, local government and NPO’s work cooperatively on public works projects. He



Day Two featured short case study presentations from noted panelists.

specifically cited that the Yokohama Road Project utilized “civic participation,” a new method by which citizens’ opinions are solicited and analyzed at the beginning of the concept planning stage. This was an innovative initiative in Japan, and the city received a first place award for promoting interactive government.

Sarah Rapalyea, Redevelopment and Public Policy Specialist with the Denver Urban Renewal Authority, spoke about the successful transformation and redevelopment

of the Central Platte Valley in Colorado. This area spent a good part of the past century as an industrial wasteland. But, with strong government leadership, partnerships with diverse stakeholders, committed public and private sectors, and long-term vision and strategic planning, it has evolved into a thriving new urban neighborhood. Anchored by the 25 acre Commons Park, the Central Platte Valley is a vital connection between downtown and the surrounding communities.

Marion Robertson, Executive Managing Director of Insignia/ESG, related his experiences as a commercial real estate developer and consultant working with developers in Japan, China and the United States. Representing many large private companies, he has brokered land development projects by encouraging local governments to offer concessions that allow for flexibility, profitability and

urban renewal. Moderator Hideki Shiroyama, Associate Professor of Public Administration at the Graduate School of Law and Politics, Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo, identified major issues for discussion which were addressed by the panelists as well as members of the audience.

JLGC intends to hold its sixth “US-Japan Local Autonomy Forum” this coming November highlighting another important and relevant topic affecting local governments in Japan and the United States.

Yokosuka City and Corpus Christi

Delegation Travels to US to Commemorate 40 Years of Sisterhood

Yokosuka City in Kanagawa Prefecture and Corpus Christi in Texas have much in common. Yokosuka City, surrounded by Tokyo and Sagami Bays, receives many benefits from the sea and sea-related industries. Corpus Christi faces the Gulf of Mexico and capitalizes on its ports and harbor industry, as well. Both cities host US military bases.

The year 2002 marked 40 years of sister-city relations between Yokosuka City and Corpus Christi. These two cities were tied together on October 18, 1962 by invitation from Corpus Christi and assisted by the US Cities Association in Yokohama. Over the last 40 years the two cities have built a close relationship.

Yokosuka and Corpus Christi have ongoing gift exchanges that have contributed greatly to each city's culture. For example, Yokosuka presented a stone lantern to Corpus Christi which now stands in front of the Texas State Museum of Asian Cultures. The most fruitful exchanges, however, are the ones involving people, such as the annual student exchanges and the Sister Cities International supported volunteer exchange program.



The Mayor of Yokosuka, Hideo Sawada (left), leads the Calligraphy Corner at the "Japan Festival in Corpus Christi" which celebrated 40 years of sister-city relations between Yokosuka City and Corpus Christi, Texas.

In October 2002, Yokosuka City dispatched a 23 person "Citizens' Cultural Exchange Delegation" to the US Members included: Hideo Sawada, Mayor of Yokosuka, the City Council Chairperson and their spouses. There were two main purposes for this delegation. The first was to commemorate 40 years of sister-city relations. The second was to explore Yokosuka's deep relationship with the US by expanding Yokosuka's citizens' awareness of their own historical heritage. In doing so, the delegation hoped to help other people understand the traditional culture, people, places and events of Yokosuka City.

In exploring Yokosuka's historical roots, the delegation paid a visit to Newport, Rhode Island. Newport is the birthplace of Commodore M.C. Perry whose arrival almost 150 years ago in Yokosuka brought about the opening of Japan to the western world. In August 2003 Yokosuka will hold the "Yokosuka Kaikoku Festival" in commemoration of this event

For the 40th Anniversary of sister-city relationship the Yokosuka delegation presented the "Japan Festival in Corpus Christi" which included cultural presentations such as: tea ceremonies, calligraphy, origami, flower arrangements, dancing, storytelling, and traditional cuisine. Over 300 Corpus Christi citizens visited the festival to deepen their understanding about the culture of their sister city.

Many people contributed to making this exchange such a huge success. The Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) of Yokosuka's JET Programme from the United States played an impor-



Corpus Christi Emblem



Yokosuka City Emblem



40 Years Sister-City Anniversary Seal

tant role in establishing and maintaining close contact with Corpus Christi officials, preparing schedules and translating letters and presentation materials. His interest in traditional Japanese culture, combined with his in-depth knowledge of the tea ceremony, ensured that all involved were left with a lasting impression.

The delegation also visited places around Corpus Christi, including the local food retailer, H-E-B, the USS Lexington where the Mayor received a plaque, and a luncheon at the Museum of Science and History. They also participated in the 40th Anniversary Signing of Proclamation where they were presented Honorary Citizenship Certificates. A house party was also on the menu and a traditional American dish of warm hospitality was served for all to enjoy. Another highpoint was the excitement and honor of receiving a police escort to and from the airport.

Prior to the arrival of the Yokosuka delegation, Corpus Christi was struck with a tornado that caused terrible damages. The delegation could not help but express their concern for the people of Corpus Christi in their time of crisis. Yet during this difficult period, the citizens of Corpus Christie put their worries behind them for a short while and provided the delegation with a warm and heartfelt experience. Yokosuka City looks forward to showing the same warmth and hospitality to the Corpus Christi delegation when they visit in 2003.

The 2002 JETAA International Conference in Vancouver, BC



Representatives from 41 JET Alumni Association chapters in eleven countries around the world gathered at the Metropolitan Hotel in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, in November to participate in the 2002 JETAA International Conference. Most chapters sent one delegate to the conference, and these alumni were joined by representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in Tokyo, consular officers from Vancouver and New York, and personnel from CLAIR's offices in Tokyo, New York, and Toronto.

The Japanese Consul General in Vancouver kicked-off the four day conference with a charming reception at his residence on Thursday evening, November 21st, during which attendees had the chance to get acquainted or catch up with old friends and touch base before getting down to business on Friday morning. Friday started off with speeches by representatives of MOFA, CLAIR, and the JETAA International execu-

tive committee. These helped update everyone on issues concerning Japanese government support for JET and JETAA, and on the various activities of the JETAA International executive officers over the last year. The main event of the morning was a presentation by Paul Donovan, British Columbia Chapter, introducing an idea for a centralized JETAA website. After lunch the delegates split up into breakout sessions dealing with communications, special chapter activities, and relations with the community. In the evening CLAIR hosted a reception at the hotel.

On Saturday morning the delegates started in once again at 8:00am, breaking up into three groups to discuss re-entry and career support for returning JETs, regional issues, and funding issues. The parliamentary session was conducted in the afternoon. Amendments to the bylaws were voted on, elections were held for JETAA International officers for the coming year, the website proposal was discussed further, and issues relating to the execu-

tive committee were debated. The British Columbia Chapter then took everyone out for a lively and relaxing dinner at a local Chinese restaurant.

Sunday morning was given over to small group sessions on information sharing and organizational issues, membership recruitment and retention, JET Programme issues, and small versus large chapter issues. Despite the fact that many delegates were already catching their flights home throughout the morning, these sessions were well attended and productive, and everyone seemed to come away with a sense of accomplishment and a wealth of new information to take home with them.

Overall, the general consensus seemed to be that the conference was productive and worthwhile, and held great promise for being a strong platform for action to improve JETAA and its international organization over the coming year.



Pictured here are the JETAA Chapter representatives who attended the inspiring JETAAI meeting in Vancouver, BC last November.