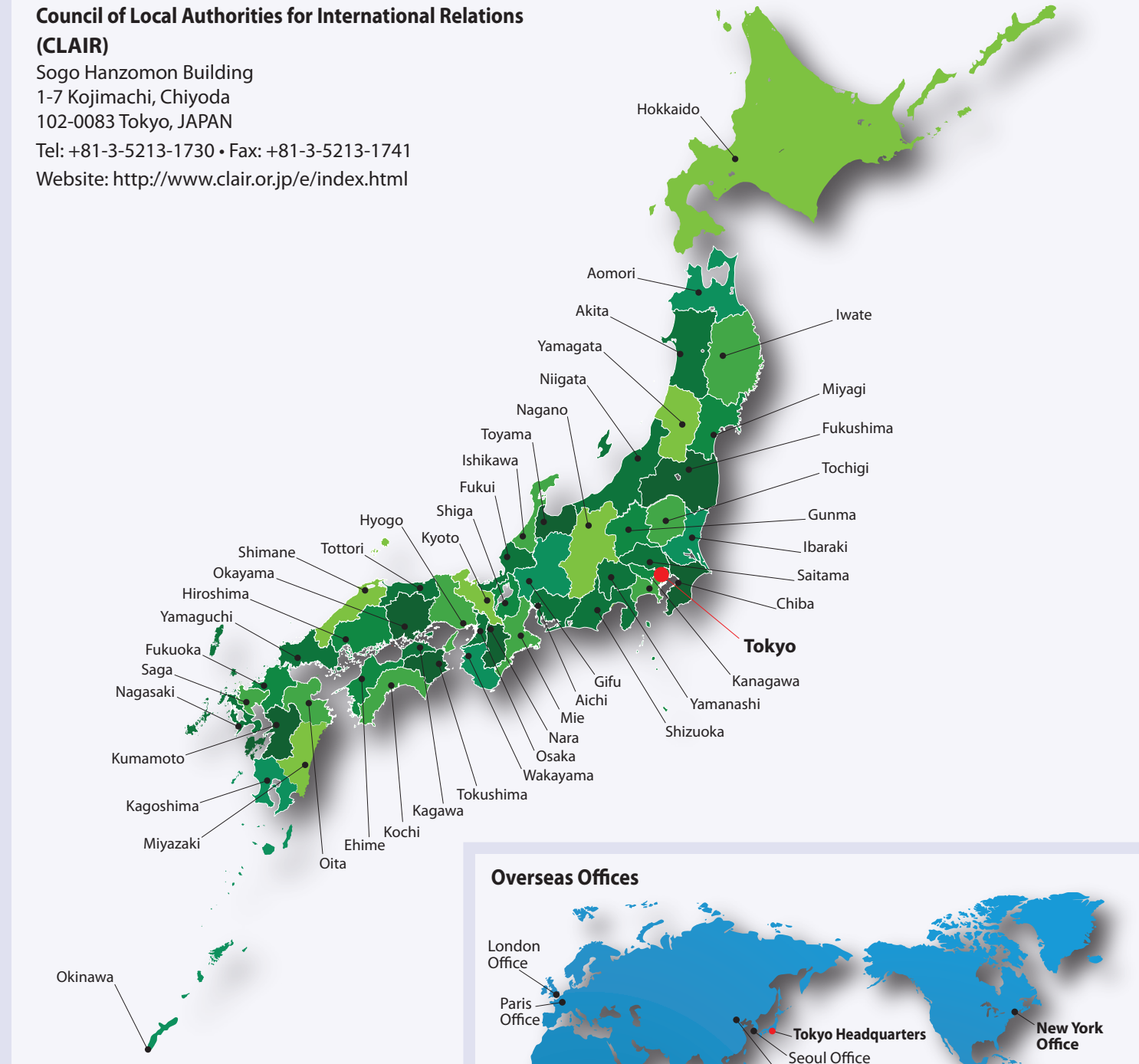


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**Japan Local Government Center  
(CLAIR, New York)**

自治体国際化協会ニューヨーク事務所





Who Are We?

Our mission is simple: The Japan Local Government Center (JLGC) exists as part of an ambitious experiment undertaken by the prefecture and local governments of Japan to expand their world-view, promote Japan’s sub-national governments and share what’s best in public administration with their counterparts all over the world. The Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), JLGC’s parent, was formed by and for Japan’s prefectures and local governments in order to create this higher profile in the world and engage in this exchange of ideas on the issues today that sub-national governments all over the world must face.

Beginning in 1988, CLAIR created seven offices around the world of which JLGC was the first in 1989. Located in New York City, JLGC serves North America (the United States and Canada). Our office consists of Japanese officials, dispatched from the national, prefecture and local governments. Spending two years, situated in New York, these officials learn about the systems of government in the United States and Canada. At the same time, they will undertake in-depth research on specific topics of government administration. These officials are assisted by a small coterie of local staff.

In order to maximize the potential for Japan’s prefectures and local governments on the world stage, JLGC works to develop a strong relationship with governments and the organizations that support them in North America. These include, in the



2019 Fellowship Participants in Kitaibaraki City, Ibaraki Prefecture

United States, the National Governors Association (NGA), the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the Council of State Governments (CSG), the National Association of Counties (NACo), the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), the National League of Cities (NLC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). In Canada, we work with the Canadian Urban Institute (CUI), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA), the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) and the provincial governments.

There are a variety of ways in which JLGC supports the interests and activities of Japan’s prefectures and local governments, from delegation visits to research requests. Nevertheless, one of the most significant methods of cementing a vibrant and close relationship with governments in North America is the CLAIR Fellowship Programme. This is an annual event, beginning in 1993, that offers officials from state/provincial and local governments the opportunity to visit Japan. Covering about 10 days, the participants will spend some time in Tokyo to meet national government officials and learn about the structure of Japanese government. Then, they will travel to a prefecture or local government to experience first-hand local Japanese government administration. Moreover, the participants are invited to immerse themselves in Japanese social and cultural daily life by staying with a local family.



2019 New York Times Travel Show

JET Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme

One of the world’s largest and most successful exchange programs, the JET Programme has been sending college graduates from around the world to Japan since 1987 to teach in public schools and support internationalization, while also learning about the country. JET and its alumni associations are an invaluable resource for Japan and its relationship with the world. JLGC supports our colleagues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) to promote JET and recruit highly qualified applicants, and CLAIR Tokyo is responsible for placing over 5,700 JETs in schools and government offices around Japan and supporting them during their time there.



Teaching English in a Japanese School

JET JET Alumni Association (JETAA)



"Japan Day" cultural event at Central Park

There are now well over 70,000 JET alumni around the world, and over half of these are American and Canadian. They are served by more than 50 JETAA chapters globally, including 19 in the US and 7 in Canada, as well as many subchapters and chapters in development. The JET Programme depends on the JET alumni community to promote the program, prepare new JETs to live and work in Japan, and provide career, networking, and other support to former participants. JET alumni also “bring Japan home” to their countries after returning from Japan and are invaluable partners in teaching the world about Japanese culture. JLGC oversees CLAIR funding for alumni chapters in North America and partners with them to support a broad array of activities.

Sister City / Sister State Affiliations

In 1955, the first sister city agreement was signed joining St. Paul with Nagasaki, and currently Japanese prefectures and municipalities have a total of 1,762 formal city and state relationships around the world. Through our partnerships with Sister Cities International and the JET Alumni Association chapters around North America, JLGC helps support the 455 relationships with the US and the 71 with Canada.



Sister city activity between Hanamaki City and City of Hot Springs