

Japan Local Government Center / JLGC, New York

Who Are We?

We are Japan Local Government Center (JLGC), New York, an overseas office of the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), based in Tokyo. CLAIR was formed by and for Japan's prefectures and local governments in 1988 to increase their profile on the world stage and facilitate the exchange of information and ideas on issues facing sub-national governments all over the world. CLAIR now has seven overseas offices: New York (1989), London (1989), Paris (1990), Singapore (1990), Seoul (1993), Sydney (1994) and Beijing (1997).

What Do We Do?

JLGC covers North America and the Caribbean, staffed by Japanese officials from national, prefectural, and local governments stationed in New York. We focus on learning US, Canadian, and Caribbean Island governmental systems, as well as conducting research on various government administration topics or regional and community issues. At the same time, we are dedicated to connecting Japanese prefectures and municipalities with their counterparts in other countries, as well as promoting specific exchanges and activities supporting their mutual interests such as tourism, culture, education, urban planning, and many others.

How Do We Do This?

JLGC works to develop strong relationships with individual state or provincial and local governments, as well as organizations throughout our region. These include, in the 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 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA), and the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO). Additionally, we continually seek new collaborations to benefit Japan's local governments.

JLGC partners with various Japanese organizations throughout our region that operate as bridges between Japan and the countries here, each with its own specialty:

- Japanese Embassies and Consulates focus on diplomatic relations and cultural promotion.
- JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) enhances trade and investment links.
- JNTO (Japan National Tourism Organization) promotes Japan as a travel destination.
- Japan Foundation fosters cultural exchanges.



JLGC joining the Japan Parade & Street Fair, in New York City



US and Canadian officials visiting the historic Kanran-tei in Miyagi Prefecture, Japan, in October 2015.

Details

◆ Fellowship Exchange Program



This program affords senior executives from state or provincial and local governments in the US and Canada the opportunity to visit Japan and learn about Japanese public administration.

Participants of the 2024 Fellowship Program

◆ Research

We conduct research and surveys mainly on state and local government issues in the United States and Canada, either through our own initiative or in response to requests from Japanese prefectures and local governments.

◆ Sister States & Cities

We support states and local governments in North America, the Caribbean, and Japan that wish to create or revitalize sister state or city relationships. Among these, Japan has 467 sister city agreements with the US and 72 with Canada.

◆ The Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association (JETAA)

JETAA helps promote the JET Program and provides support for former JETs. There are over 50,000 JET alumni altogether in the US, Canada, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago.



Participating in a Bonsai workshop



Canada Conference 2024

◆ Online Seminar



We host an online seminar series for Japanese local government officials. Recently, we invited **Dr. Henry Cisneros**, an expert in US-Japan exchanges and urban policy. His thought-provoking insights on the evolving roles of cities highlight the importance of subnational diplomacy and offer perspectives on international exchanges and overseas connections.



Japan Local Government Center

3 Park Avenue, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10016-5902 TEL: 212-246-5542 FAX: 212-246-5617

URL: <https://www.jlgc.org/> Email: jlgc@jlgc.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/japanlocalgovernmentcenternewyork>