

2002 JETAA Canadian Conference

Winnipeg, May 3rd to May 5th

The second annual Canadian JETAA conference was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, over the first weekend in May. Two representatives from each of the seven JETAA chapters in Canada were in attendance, along with the Canadian country representative. They were joined by officials from the Japanese consulate in Edmonton and staff members of the JLGC/CLAIR offices in both New York and Toronto.

The Edmonton Consulate General hosted a Friday night reception at the Manitoba Japanese Canadian Cultural Center. The next morning, Saturday, attendees presented individual chapter reports, and also heard a JETAA International update presented by Elizabeth Stephen Baba, the Canadian Country Representative, as well as a talk by Peter Jordan, a Canadian television personality.

In the afternoon, there were several highly interesting sessions. Session topics included:

- A Canadian federal government initiative to link schools in Japan and Canada using the Internet;
- Development of a unified, national Web strategy for Canadian chapters, including email and website addresses and formats;
- Membership issues;

- Pre-departure orientation handbooks and programs.

A creative and historic Saturday night reception was hosted by CLAIR at the Maison de Bourgeois in a reproduction of an old frontier trading post, Fort Gibraltar.

On Sunday morning attendees took part in additional sessions led by CLAIR and by the Consulate General in Edmonton before moving on to a brainstorming session and wrap-up at 12:30. Major topics this year included the unveiling of a new logo for JETAA Canada, standardization of email and

concern, given the scale of the preparations required and a complete lack of budget and planning information for Vancouver chapter members to work from. The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CLAIR promised to provide whatever information they could; however, JETAA London had still not issued a conference report from the previous year as of the 2002 Canadian conference, and had not responded to requests for information to help with budgeting and planning.

The guest speaker, Peter Jordan, showed some clips of TV spots he had done for Canadian television during the Nagano Olympics, having fun with some of the cultural differences encountered by foreigners when they visited Japan, and he generously gave permission for Canadian chapters to use these materials in their pre-departure orientations, so video copies were promised for distribution to all chapters.

An action plan with deadlines was agreed upon, and tasks were assigned and confirmed during the final brainstorming and wrap-up sessions. There was widespread agreement that the national conferences have proven quite useful, and chapters were invited to submit bids by August 31st so that a host location could be chosen for the third annual conference planned for 2003. Voting on the 2003 venue was scheduled to be completed by September 30th.



Enjoying the Spring sunshine, Canadian JETAA National Conference attendees posed for a commemorative photo during their busy and constructive meeting in Winnipeg.

Web addresses, and the initiation of a project to amalgamate all of the various pre-departure handbooks previously used by the different chapters into one unified "Pre-departure Orientation Handbook for Canadian JETs."

This year's International Conference, to be held in Vancouver, was also an issue of

2002 JETAA US National Conference

Chicago, June 14th to June 15th

The American chapters of the JET Alumni Association held their first national conference in Chicago in mid-June. Representatives from 14 of the 18 US chapters attended, along with Country Representatives and officials from the Consulate General of Japan in Chicago and JLGC/CLAIR New York. The conference was largely devoted to communications, within and among chapters, with current JETs, and with supporting Japanese government offices.

Welcoming remarks were given by Dave Shumaker, president of the Chicago chapter which hosted the conference; Jiro Maruhashi, consul and director of the Japan Information Center in the Chicago consulate, and Naofumi Hida, director of the Japan Local Government Center New York. The keynote speaker was Jerry Mayeroff, a Chicago consultant on media, marketing and communications, who discussed efficient communication both in intercultural contexts and within JETAA. The rest of the day was devoted to workshops on organizational communications and websites, chapter communication with people inside and outside the chapter, and breakout sessions on better serving chapter members and functioning more effectively. The consulate hosted a very pleasant evening reception at their offices near the landmark Watertower.

Saturday's session started at 9:00 am, and evidently the previous evening's *nijikai* (celebration) and *sanjikai* (follow-up party) were fairly subdued, because everyone seemed to be quite well rested and attentive. Several topics were discussed, in preparation for the voting: JETAA International and its relationship to JETAA; confirming that all chapters receive updates and communications; term periods, eligibility, election procedures, and roles and responsibilities for Country Representatives;

representatives are eligible to serve as Country Representatives; US Country Representatives, although divided into East and West positions, can be members of any chapter, even if not technically within that region; future Country Rep elections will be held at the National Conference; Country Reps will serve for one-year-terms, with no limit on the number of times they may serve; and the current "buddy system" will remain in effect to improve communication.



Some of the JETAA members attending the productive and enjoyable U.S. 2002 National Conference took time for a group picture.

chapter representative roles and responsibilities; and development of operational guidelines for US chapters.

One attendee from each chapter was delegated to vote on proposals brought up during the previous discussions. Voting results included: Past and current chapter officers or

Mr. Maruhashi, from the Consulate, and Matthew Gillam, from JLGC New York, spoke about funding and other issues of concern to JETAA. Mr. Gillam also gave a brief report on the Canadian Conference just held in Winnipeg. The remainder of the afternoon was spent on discussion and voting on unfinished business, including a search for the host of next year's conference; a provisional arrangement to vote for new Country Reps at the 2002 International Conference to serve until the 2003 National Conference; debate over national versus international conferences; and consideration of creating a US JET logo, as the Canadians had just done.

The day was topped off with a dinner of Chicago deep dish pizza and a sunset cruise on the Chicago River and Lake Michigan to enjoy the architecture and ambiance of the Windy City.

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

continued from page 1

Japanese victim. At first, the course participants were shocked and, by all accounts, a little scared, but they soon became aware that, like the Japanese fans, England fans were coming to Japan to enjoy the football and to have a good time.

The course participants learnt phrases to help them communicate with the fans, including phrases such as “You can buy food and drinks in the stadium” and the extremely useful “The bars are open all night,” and also learnt popular English football songs. The group performed its skit outside Omiya Station for the general public, and was invited to perform at the British Embassy in Tokyo and the British Consulate in Osaka. The skit and course were both great successes, proof of which were the scenes outside the stadium of

England fans and Japanese volunteers singing England football songs together.

In spite of applying for tickets through all the usual channels and smiling at anyone I saw who was involved in the World Cup in any capacity whatsoever, I was not lucky enough to get tickets for any of the England matches. However, watching the games in bars surrounded by Japanese fans wearing David Beckham shirts and with England flags painted on their faces came a close second (even if England did not come even close to second place in the competition).

Reading stories in the British media and seeing that the England fans had nothing but praise for their Japanese hosts also made me realise what a success the World Cup had been on so many different levels. England fans who would normally have been involved in a few

scuffles even before the match started were quoted as saying that with the friendliness and respect shown to them by their Japanese hosts, why would they even consider making any trouble? Having been shown nothing but friendship, the England fans reciprocated by showing what true England fans are really like, breaking the stereotype that so many Japanese feared before the competition.

Both the Japanese hosts and the English guests gained the respect of each other and, I like to think, of all the other countries involved in the World Cup. For the month of the competition, one could be forgiven for thinking that 90% of the Japanese football fans were actually England fans in disguise. And the sheer number of David Beckham-style “soft mohican” haircuts that appeared after the competition was a sure sign that true internationalization had taken place.

GUEST COLUMN

Thanks to CLAIR

continued from page 2

participants throughout Japan. CLAIR’s objective, to foster mutual understanding and friendship through international cooperation at the community level, was certainly accomplished both in Tokyo and in Ishikawa Prefecture. The highlight of the trip to Japan for me was the stay with a host family with whom we quickly developed mutual understanding and a lasting friendship.

My sincere thanks to CLAIR for their great generosity and well accomplished organization of this wonderful visit to Japan.

DESIGNATED CITY

Yokohama — The Future is Here

continued from page 3

its New York office supports the activities of Yokohama firms in North America and encourages development of business in Yokohama by North American firms.

For more information, see the NY office website: <http://www.coyokohama.org/>

Connections with other cities and ports

Yokohama has established sister- or friendship-city relationships with eight other cities around the world, including San Diego and Vancouver. The city participates in a

number of programs of international interchange in order to deepen ties of mutual understanding and cooperation with these and other cities.

Yokohama has also forged bonds of friendship with six ports in other countries, including Vancouver and Oakland. Interchange with these ports includes the sending and receiving of trainees and delegations.

For additional information on the forward-looking city of Yokohama, please visit its website at: <http://www.city.yokohama.jp/indexE.html>