



Sapporo City
Emblem

Sapporo City

A Destination City For All Seasons

Sapporo is the capital of Hokkaido, which is the northernmost island of Japan. It is a unique city with a population of 1.83 million, blessed with natural beauty and distinct seasons. As the fifth largest city in the country, Sapporo plays an important cultural, economic, and political role in northern Japan. Overseas it is commonly recognized as a host city of the Winter Olympics and the birthplace of historic Sapporo Beer.

Situated at 43° North latitude and 140° East longitude, Sapporo has snowy winters and mild, pleasant summers. In the year 2001, the annual mean temperature was 9.0°C (48.2°F), with the highest temperature for the year recorded 36.0°C (96.8°F), and the lowest temperature coming in at -14.7°C (5.54°F). The average yearly snowfall for the region is approximately five meters (16.4 ft).

A relatively new city with a history of approximately 130 years, Sapporo was the center of the reclamation of Hokkaido during the Meiji era in Japan. During this period, experts in the fields of agriculture, industry, and education were invited from overseas, and helped spawn development of Sapporo using the knowledge and technology they brought. This infusion of outside ideas contributed to the noticeably

“western” feel of Sapporo when compared to older Japanese cities.

One thing that has remained unchanged throughout the city’s history, however, is its abundant natural resources and striking beau-

ty for residents and visitors to relax. Sapporo Art Park in the city’s suburbs features outdoor sculptures that can be enjoyed even in the winter. Moerenuma Park, designed by the legendary sculptor Isamu Noguchi, is also located in the city.

Sapporo’s citizens enjoy a large variety of cultural institutions and festive events. Music lovers flock to the Pacific Music Festival every summer, created by Leonard Bernstein and featuring young musicians from all over the world. The Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art has a well-known collection of modern glassworks as well as prominent permanent and temporary exhibits. Music performances take place throughout the year at the highly praised Sapporo Concert Hall “Kitara” in Nakajima Park.



The Sapporo White Illumination Festival: Sapporo’s main street and central Odori Park are transformed into a kaleidoscope of light, as trees are decorated with millions of tiny light bulbs and light sculptures are erected along the park, providing a romantic backdrop for strolling couples.

ty. More than 60% of the city is mountainous with lush greenery. Mt. Moiwa and Mt. Teine lie relatively close to the city’s center and are popular destinations for hikers in the summer and skiers in the winter.

The city’s numerous parks provide endless recreational opportunities for citizens. Odori Park stretches from east to west through downtown Sapporo and offers a place

Sapporo has many vivid festivals marking the seasons. Yosakoi Soran Festival began ten years ago and has evolved into the city’s largest summer festival. Sapporo Snow Festival is world famous and over two million visitors come every year in February to see the snow and ice sculptures that adorn the city. Other major events include the Hokkaido Shrine Festival, the Sapporo White Illumination, and the Sapporo Lilac Festival.

Kagawa Prefecture

Beautiful Island Place

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cities and towns with provinces, cities and towns overseas. Furthermore the number of people travelling abroad and the number of exchange students and research students coming from various countries to Kagawa is increasing every year. Globalization is progressing steadily

at both governmental and grass roots levels.

Future

Kagawa is actively promoting the development of a new city center where the city and the Takamatsu Port blend harmoniously. The prefecture and Takamatsu City aim to create a prosperous new city center which utilizes the beautiful scenery of the Seto Inland

Sea. The new buildings, the Station Plaza, and other harbor facilities have finally opened, and this new city has begun to look forward to the future.

Additional information regarding Kagawa Prefecture may be found at:

<http://www.pref.kagawa.jp/kokusai/profile/mainmenu.html>

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Sapporo City

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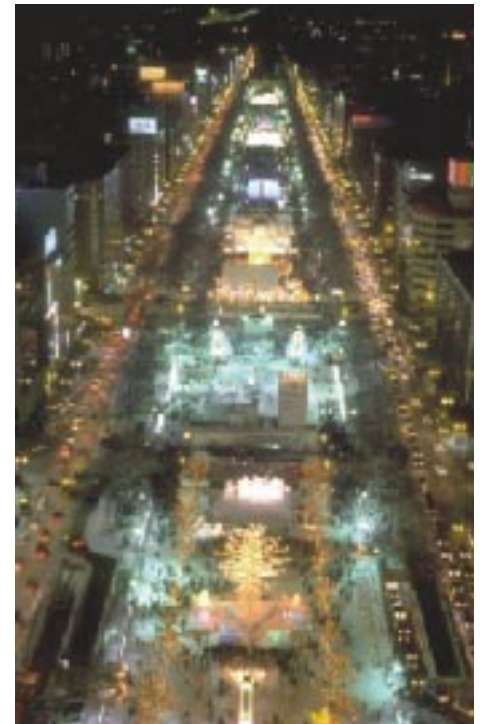
The winters are harsh in Sapporo, and snow removal is challenging for citizens and the government alike. However, the citizens of Sapporo have used wisdom and ingenuity to make winter an enjoyable and livable season. The Sapporo Snow Festival is one way winter is enjoyed, and the ski grounds and ski jump stadiums located in the city enable citizens to have fun in the snow. Sapporo has also been working to develop and promote technology and industry related to heavy snowfall and cold region issues, and these efforts led to the establishment of the International Association of Mayors of Northern Cities by former Sapporo Mayor Itagaki Takeshi in 1982.

The city's vibrant atmosphere has made it a favored location for events of international scale, including the 1972 Winter Olympic Games, the Winter Universiade, and the Asian Games. The all-weather Sapporo Dome opened in June of 2001 and was the venue for three games of the FIFA Soccer

World Cup in June 2002. The Sapporo Convention Center, with an expected completion date of 2003, will further increase the number of world-class conventions held in the city each year.

Active sister-city relationships with Portland (Oregon, USA), Munich (Germany), Shenyang (China), and Novosibirsk (Russia) also give Sapporo's citizens many opportunities to learn about foreign countries and participate in exchange programs and events. This year marks the 30th anniversary of sister-city ties between Sapporo and Munich, and commemorative events include an outdoor German Christmas Market in downtown Sapporo.

Japanese consistently cite Sapporo as one of the most desired places to visit in Japan, and Sapporo aims to preserve its reputation and charm while developing its sports, events, fashion, arts, culture, tourism, and information technology in order to play an even more active world role in the future.



The Sapporo Snow Festival: Huge replicas of world famous architecture made from snow, as well as delicately crafted ice sculptures, can be seen at this internationally famous festival.

Additional information regarding Sapporo City may be found at:

<http://www.global.city.sapporo.jp/>

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Northern Alberta JETAA – Edmonton, Canada

by Brenda McDonald
President of the Northern Alberta JET Alumni Association

The Northern Alberta JET Alumni Association (NAJETAA) is located in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. On an annual basis we offer a wide variety of activities to our alumni which appeal to many different tastes. We provide an Orientation Weekend for departing JETs and a Fall dinner for returning ones. We have a *bonenkai* celebration every December and follow in January with a Japanese cooking night during which we've made very *oishii* (delicious) *sushi*, *okonomiyaki* (Japanese flat pancakes) and *nabe* (a hot-pot dish). We are participants annually in the Consulate sponsored Spring Festival; we have a Japanese photo and art exhibit, and this year we even went so far as to rent sumo suits which proved to be very amusing for everyone involved! In 2002, we introduced a curling workshop and bonspiel forum in the winter and a sake tasting event in the spring. Both events brought out members who hadn't participated before – a sure sign of a successful event!



The Alberta JET Workshop was a success, in part due to the idea of two chapters working together to achieve the same goal.

Last November, a joint effort was formed between NAJETAA and the Southern Alberta JET Alumni Association (SAJETAA) which is based in Calgary. We combined our efforts to create the “*Alberta JET Re-entry Retreat and Workshop*.” This weekend event was primarily aimed at returning JETs to give them the opportunity to network and share their experiences with other returnees and alumni.

The Retreat began on Friday evening with NAJETAA carpooling down to Calgary and meeting up with SAJETAA for a night at the pub. Accommodations were provided by SAJETAA members in *tatami*-timeshare style. The sessions on Saturday ran from 9am to 5pm and were filled with discussions regarding settling back into life in Canada, dealing with reverse culture shock, finding work, keeping in touch with Japan, and getting involved with your local JET Alumni Chapter. The highlight of the day, however, was keynote speaker Deb Calderon from Vancouver who led us through a lively,

hands-on workshop. Deb has done re-entry sessions for JET Alumni Association of British Columbia (JETAABC) in the past and is highly regarded in this aspect. During the workshop, we identified the skills we developed in Japan and learned how to apply those skills to sell ourselves in the



job market. Who would have thought all those drinking and karaoke nights could be interpreted as people skills, conflict resolution and translation technique!

The Saturday evening *enkai* was hosted by the Consulate at a fabulous Japanese restaurant where we enjoyed wonderful food and many toasts of “*Kampai!*”.... This was, of course, followed by the *nijikai* at a local club. On Sunday, alumni went out for the day to Banff in the Rocky Mountains to soak in the hot springs and slurp some *ramen*.

The “*Alberta JET Re-entry Retreat and Workshop*” was undeniably a success, in part due to the idea of two chapters working together to achieve the same goal. Not only was the Retreat good for the returning JETs, it was good for the relationship between NAJETAA and SAJETAA. This November, Edmonton will host the Retreat and we look forward to repeated success.

If any chapters would like further information regarding the Retreat, please check our website at:

<http://najetaa.jetaa.ca>

or contact by e-mail:

president@najetaa.jetaa.ca

or

webmaster@najetaa.jetaa.ca.

JETs Return to Hometown

The 14th Annual Welcome Home Reception in New York

On Thursday, October 21st, 2002, the Consulate General of Japan in New York, JLGC, New York and JETAA-New York chapter hosted a Welcome Home Reception at the Nippon Club for newly returned JETs. JET Programme participants who had just come back to the New York area after spending over a year in Japan were welcomed by their hosts and several important guests.

Among the notable guests were Mr. Jun Okumura, President of JETRO's New York office; Mr. Fumitomo Horiuchi, Director General of the Japan Foundation; and Mr. Takashi Iwao, Secretary General of CLAIR in Tokyo.

The newly returned JETs were in Japan on 9/11/2001 when terrorists attacked the United States. In fact, the reception itself was held just one month after the one-year anniversary. Accordingly, there were some comments from the guest speakers regarding these tragic events. Mr. Hida, Director of JLGC, encouraged those in attendance by saying; "This city is built on the efforts of talented people like you, while it, in turn, feeds your own energy and creativity."

Mr. Koshikawa, Director of the Japan Information Center of the Japanese Consulate General in New York, expressed that all returning JETs would continue to add to the mutual understanding between Japan and the United States, thus helping to create an even deeper and stronger relationship between the two nations.

Ms. Shannan Spisak, the President of the JETAA New York chapter, also wel-



The Welcome Home Reception, hosted by the Consulate General of Japan, JLGC and JETAA-New York, was held at the Nippon Club in New York for newly returned JETs.

comed new members and stated that JETAA would aggressively continue its activities and look to enhance partnerships not only among the JETAA organization, but also among other NPO and volunteer groups related to Japan and New York.

After opening speeches, everyone enjoyed a buffet dinner and spent the evening catching up with old friends and making new acquaintances. Always well attended, the annual Welcome Home Reception is a great way for the Consulate General of Japan in New York and JLGC, New York to say "Thanks" and "Good Job" to JET Programme participants. The reception, attended by almost 120 participants, offers one of the best opportunities for the JETAA New York chapter to attract new members.

After the reception, some of attendees

headed toward midtown for the *nijikai* post-party party. JETs members are always young at heart.

