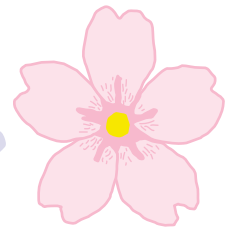


JLGC Newsletter



Issue No. 50 Summer 2004

SPECIAL FEATURE

A Message from JLGC's New Deputy Director

I have been appointed the new deputy director of the Japan Local Government Center (JLGC), Toronto, Canada, effective March 18, 2004. I have the honor of taking over from Hayami Fukudome who served for three years. I am very pleased to be given the opportunity to work in such an energetic and distinctive country as Canada. I look forward to living and working in Toronto, an engaging international city.

I have worked at the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications in Japan for more than

two decades. During this period, I was assigned to work for Hokkaido Government as well as Chitose City Hall in Hokkaido Prefecture. Recently, I also served as Deputy Director and Professor for the Local Autonomy College in Tokyo.

The JLGC performs many important tasks. The center's main mission is to promote the exchange and cooperation of activities between Japanese and Canadian local authorities, supporting the JET Programme and conducting research on local governments in Canada.

I look forward to visiting a variety of wonderful places and meeting many different people in Canada while cultivating international exchange and mutual understanding. Even though these tasks can be challenging, I know they will be rewarding.

Finally, I would like to thank you for welcoming me and for the assistance I know I will be given during my stay here.

Junichi Sawada



JLGC UPDATE

Hiroshima City Promotes World Peace at the United Nations

by Yujiro Toi
Assistant Director of JLGC

As a member of the staff of the Japan Local Government Center (JLGC) in New York and a local government employee of Hiroshima City, I was honored to assist Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima City, during his visit to New York from April 27 to

April 30, 2004. Dr Akiba is the president of Mayors for Peace, a Category II UN non-governmental organization (NGO) that helps member cities coordinate events to abolish nuclear weapons.

The Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) met on April 27 at the United Nations (UN) where Dr. Akiba gave closing remarks advocating the abolishment of all nuclear weapons.

Continued on page 2



The Preparatory Committee for the 2005 NPT Review Conference met on April 27, 2004 at the United Nations.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIAL FEATURE	
JLGC'S New Deputy Director	1
JLGC UPDATE	
Hiroshima City at the United Nations	1
JETAA ACTIVITIES	
Work Experience in Japan	3
PREFECTURE TODAY	
Iwate Prefecture	4
JETAA ACTIVITIES	
JETAA CANADA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2004	5
SPECIAL FEATURE	
2004 New JLGC Assistant Directors	6
JLGC UPDATE	
Overseas Study Program	7
CORE CITY	
Yokosuka City	8

Masthead: The sakura, or cherry blossom, is Japan's cherished national flower. Special hanami parties and excursions are held during blossom time each year.



Hiroshima City Promotes World Peace at the United Nations

Continued from page 1

The general lack of progress in nuclear disarmament and specific emerging threats to the international NPT prompted the Executive Committee of Mayors for Peace to meet in Manchester last October 2003 and approve an Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons. The campaign was officially launched at the 2nd Global Citizens Conference last November in Nagasaki City.

This plan envisioned four objectives. First: to mobilize the mayors of twelve major cities to attend the Non-Proliferation Review Conference and assist the NGO lobbying effort. Second: to mobilize hundreds of NGO representatives to not only attend this conference but to lead the lobbying effort in pursuit of nuclear abolition. Third: to organize thousands of activists to be in New York City to rally and demonstrate on May 1, 2004 and bring world-wide media attention to their efforts. Fourth: to encourage all supporting mayors and NGO representatives to lobby national governments and encouraging nations that are not parties to the NPT to join and work toward nuclear abolition.

The first objective was attained when 12 mayors from all over the world attended the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 NPT Review Conference. Mayor Akiba's poignant closing remarks received resounding applause from the attending government and NGO representatives. These government officials and NGO representatives would meet with repre-

sentatives of the UN, non-aligned nations, the European Union, and the People's Republic of China to promote abolition of nuclear weapons.

During this conference, the JLGC staff helped Hiroshima and Nagasaki representatives set up an exhibition booth in front of the main conference room at the UN Headquarters. After Mayor Akiba departed for Japan, I did my best to answer questions



People join in folding Origami at the Hiroshima and Nagasaki booth by the conference room.

and convey what happened at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 by using visual aids and distributing brochures and pamphlets. I also demonstrated *origami* (the Japanese art of folding paper into decorative shapes and figures) which helped facilitate conversations and mitigate the seriousness of the exhibit. When I was in college majoring in politics, I dreamed of working at the UN and contributing to world peace. It was exciting to be a part of this conference and meet so many UN representatives to promote this worthy cause.

The NPT Review Conference and its

attending national delegates will convene at the UN in New York in late April 2005 to review and amend the NPT. In conjunction with the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the planners hope to provide a powerful message for world peace by rallying 1,000 NGO representatives and 100 mayors of major cities to lead the effort in pursuit of nuclear abolition. They also want one million people lining the streets in New York to demonstrate their support of the NPT.

Mayors are being asked now to put "May 2005, New York" on their calendars. Grassroots groups around the world will have representatives at the NPT Review Conference and members in the streets. Abolition 2000, an international network of over 2000 organizations in more than 90 countries working for a global treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons, will seek representation from all 2000 of its NGOs. During the mayors' stay, a massive "Cities World Fair and Demonstration" will take place in New York, and on their return home, hundreds of coordinated events will unfold around the world. The NPT Conference and the 2020 Campaign with the aim to eliminate all nuclear weapons by 2020 will be a world news event. World governments will be unable to ignore the vast popular support for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

If you would like to know more about the activities of the Mayors for Peace, please visit:
<http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/mayors/english/index.html>.

Making Your Work Experience in Japan a Successful One

by F. Joseph Sonido
ALT, Kobe-shi (1992-1995)

One of the great aspects of the Japan Education and Teaching (JET) Programme is working at the grass-roots level of Japanese society, i.e., within their education system and local governments. Unlike our compatriots working for private businesses, we are able to live and work amongst the Japanese while they educate and lead their populace. In this context, as JETs, we are afforded opportunities to contribute directly to the ever-changing Japanese society.

I would like to take this opportunity to share what I learned during my tenure as a JET and as a privately contracted Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) for the City of Kobe from 1992–1998 in order to help others who work or will work in a similar capacity.

I was fortunate enough to work as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) from 1992 through 1994 in some of Kobe's inner-city schools and one suburban school. My two full years as an ALT gave me an intimate understanding of the job and prepared me to work as the Assistant Supervisor for International Education Programs at the Kobe Education Center (KEC), a position I served for 4 years – my last year as a JET and 3 additional years on a private contract. I believe it is essential that any CIR who coordinates JETs should have a good understanding of the ALT's duties and day-to-day existence at the senior, middle, and elementary schools. I understand that many CIRs serve as prefectural advisors and that demands very keen listening and empathy skills and an understanding of the conditions that ALTs face.

In addition to working with ALTs, I worked with senior Japanese teachers and city officials at the Education Center. I was fortunate to be able to work with two very passionate educators who were very astute in managing relationships with the ALTs and the city officials. One of the most important lessons is that communication is critical in developing, maintaining, and repairing relationships. In my 4 years at the KEC, we dealt with labor relation problems, the Great Hanshin Earthquake and numerous individual situations requiring flexible minds and excellent people and communication skills.

Whether an ALT or CIR, one of best skill sets that can be developed through the JET Programme is project management skills. I found that the following four principles were essential to managing my workload:

- 1) Be organized – Since ALTs and CIRs work fairly independently, it is imperative to manage our time and other resources effectively.
- 2) Communicate – Because we work cross-culturally, we have to traverse the barriers to understanding one another and that requires effective communication strategies.
- 3) Be active, not passive – Those who succeed after the JET Programme are most often those who actively seek opportunities and turn those opportunities into learning and devel-



The author, Mr. F. Joseph Sonido, former ALT (Kobe)

opment experiences. If you simply show up and do the minimum during your years on JET, you may find it very difficult to make the transition into your post-JET career.

- 4) Think in terms of solutions, not problems – life will become much more fulfilling if we keep a positive outlook and constantly think of different ways of solving problems instead of worrying or complaining about problems.

The real challenge is in striking a balance between achieving our goals and working together well with our Japanese colleagues. There is no magic formula for striking that balance as each person is different – but that, again, is one of those great learning opportunities that fulfill the “Exchange” portion of our JET experience.

Best wishes to all the new 2004 JETs!
May you make the most of every day you live and work in Japan.

Iwate Prefecture Japanese Rice Wine in North Carolina!

by Chiyoshi Hatakeyama
Chief Advisor, Policy Promotion Division, Iwate Prefecture

As the former representative of Iwate Prefecture stationed at the Department of Commerce in the State of North Carolina, my crowning achievement was to help promote the introduction of rice wine from Iwate to North Carolina. This was by far no easy task and many formidable obstacles stood in the way of North Carolinians' experiencing and enjoying high quality *ginjo* (high grade) sake.

Rice wine, known in English as sake, is a brewed alcoholic beverage made from fermented rice. Refined sake, the kind commonly drunk in Japan is *seishu* and is often referred to as *nihonshu* (Japanese sake). There are well over 3,000 manufacturers of refined sake in Japan. Local brands (*jizake*) are numerous and produced across the country. To manufacture sake, yeast is first made in a vat of rice, malted rice (*koji*), which serves as the fermenting agent and water. Additional amounts of these three ingredients are added to the yeast, and the mixture is left to ferment for 20 days. The mixture is pressed, filtered and blended, and then pasteurized, bottled and stored. Market quality sake's alcohol content is about 32 proof and a good quality sake will have a subtle blend of flavor and a mellow fragrance.

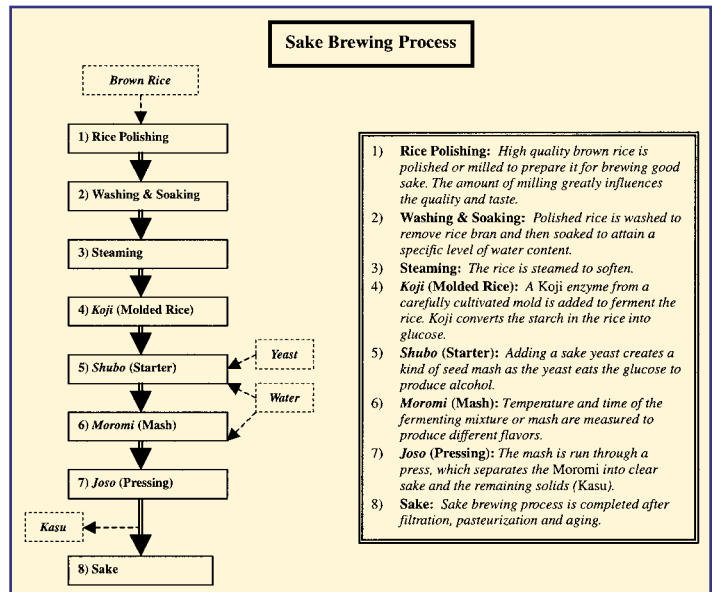


Rice wine (sake) made in Iwate Prefecture is introduced for the first time in North Carolina on August 1, 2004 at a rice wine party sponsored by Iwate Governor Hiroya Masuda (front, left).

Recently, Japanese brewers are concentrating on producing *ginjo* and *dai ginjo* (super high grade) rice wines. Rice for *ginjo* grade is 40 percent polished with a special enzyme added for flavor. *Dai ginjo* grades are 50 percent polished. These wines are popular and served at a cool temperature much like white grape wine. Indeed, it is still a popular Japanese custom to drink sake while appreciating the beauty of nature.

Iwate Prefecture is well suited for brewing high quality rice wine and it has become a very popular profession with over 400 brew masters, the most in the world. The deep mountains of Iwate provide the source for pure mineral water and the rich soil of the Kitakami River basin yields many fine grades of rice. The combination of talented brewers, crystal clear water and great rice makes Iwate famous as a "Great Rice Wine Land".

Rice wine is a major product of Iwate Prefecture and because of the good relationship between the governments of North Carolina and Iwate, Governor Hiroya Masuda sponsored a rice wine party on August 1, 2003. One hundred guests including representatives from North Carolina's Commerce Department, Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Commission



and several business executives enjoyed five kinds of high quality chilled rice wine along with Iwate's culinary specialties.

Although it was difficult to distribute Iwate rice wine in North Carolina, we successfully registered the labels with the state ABC Board. I worked diligently to introduce and promote Iwate rice wines by urging retailers to display stock, hosting rice wine parties, and donating rice wine to Japanese cultural events in North Carolina. With the assistance of a rice wine wholesaler, Iwate rice wine imports have increased and about 200 bottles are consumed monthly.

Iwate rice wine is now registered in South Carolina and there are plans to expand distribution to Georgia and Tennessee. Although I have returned to Iwate, Japan, my greatest dream will be to see Iwate rice wine enjoyed throughout the United States.

JETAA CANADA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2004

JET Alumni Association (JETAA) CANADA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2004 was held in Ottawa, the capital of Canada, from Friday, May 14 to Sunday, May 16. JETAA Canada has seven chapters: in Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver, and North Alberta, and this national conference is held annually in rotation.

This year, two representatives from each chapter participated in this conference. In addition, the delegates from Japan Local Government Center (JLGC) were Mr. Naofumi Hida, the Director of JLGC, Mr. Yoshiyuki Koizumi, Assistant Director in charge of JETAA Canada, and Mr. Matthew Gillam, Researcher. The Embassy of Japan also sent Mr. Mutsuharu Nakajima, First Secretary, Ms. Christa Amyot, Sr. JET Programme Coordinator, and Ms. Hisako Shirai, JET Programme Coordinator. The JETAA Ottawa chapter sections leaders attended this conference and moderated each workshop. The keynote speech, "Successful Event Planning", was presented by Ms. Lyse J. Lavictorie who is a seasoned event planner for international events in Canada and

abroad. Ms. Brenda McDonald, a representative of JET Alumni Association International (JETAAi) that was established in 1995, also moderated some workshops.

Before the opening of the conference this year, an evening reception was held in

lasted until 17:00 where participants had enthusiastic and positive information exchanges. There was also another evening reception organized by JLGC, where they had an excellent opportunity to continue building on their relationships.

On Sunday, May 16, attendees continued having exciting meetings in the morning. JLGC and Embassy of Japan also gave presentations about "Grant in Aid (GIA)" and "Annual Budget Plan" respectively. People devoted themselves to discussion about a lot of issues, case studies of activities of each chapter, representative election terms for each chapter, how to take care of sponsorship and goods related with JETAA Canada, and

setting next years interim host chapter. The conference finally ended at noon.

During the conference, Ottawa also had a famous "Tulip Festival," which celebrates a good relationship based on a beautiful story between Canada and the Netherlands. Some participants enjoyed attending the event as well the conference. JETAA Ottawa impressed all of the attendees with how well it organized and coordinated the conference.



Representatives attending the successful JETAA CANADA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2004 in Ottawa.

Embassy of Japan on Friday night, May 14, and it started with a toast from Takashi Saito, Minister of Embassy of Japan. This reception was very successful and helped participants create good one-on-one relationships prior to the conference.

On Saturday, May 15, JETAA CANADA NATIONAL CONFERENCE began. Mr. Hida and Mr. Nakajima made the opening speech and addressed a great meeting which

A Message from 2004 New JLGC Assistant Directors

Tamaki Yoshida

Hello everyone! I'm Tamaki Yoshida, and it is an honor to be in New York City. My first name "Tamaki" consists of three Chinese characters which respectively mean "many," "truths" and "myself." I am from Yokosuka City where the black ships commanded by Commodore Perry first entered in 1853 after the long era of closed ports in Japan. He spent his later years in New York City until his death, so I feel a very strong connection between the two cities. I am really looking forward to having experiences in the unique culture, cuisine, music, and everything in New York City!

Yoshiyuki Koizumi

I am from Yamanashi Prefecture, which is famous for Mt. Fuji, the highest and most beautiful mountain in Japan. Starting my New York life, I feel like I am standing at the gateway of my new future. I wonder what will be there for me when I cross the gate, though I know it will all depend on my own attitude. I hope to have many learning opportunities through various experiences during my stay in the United States.

Maki Tomikawa

I am from Osaka City, Japan. New York City is my most favorite city in the world. I've even visited it several times and have dreamt of living here for a long time. Now my dream has come true! I am excited about working

here in New York for the coming two years, and I hope it will be full of valuable experiences. I would like to meet a lot of people and visit various places. I am looking forward to meeting and working with you!

Junya Kato

I am from the Akita Prefectural Government. Akita is particularly famous for traditional hot-springs where well-seasoned wooden baths and tubs produce both sentiment-



2004 New JLGC staff members. L. to R.: Yoshiyuki Koizumi; Tamaki Yoshida; Maki Tomikawa; Masahiro Nagumo; Yoichi Takimoto; Junya Kato

tal and elegant experiences. Akita is also famous for festivals celebrating the rice harvest and giving thanks to nature for life, and the most famous festival is *Kanto Matsuri* (*Kanto Festival*). A *Kanto* is an array of 46 candle-lit lanterns hung on an 18-meter (59 ft.) bamboo pole. The festival centers around a competition among a few men to balance a *Kanto* straight on the palms of their hands without gripping the poles while parading through the street. Using this traditional test of strength and balance, I would like to introduce the Akita spirit to New York.

Masahiro Nagumo

I am from Niigata Prefecture. Niigata is located in northeastern Japan and is famous for its rice and *sake* (rice wine). It is also famous as a winter resort. I have traveled to many Asian countries, but I have never visited the United States or Canada. Also, it is the first time for me to live in a foreign country!! It will be a good experience as well as a chance for me to learn about local government administration of foreign countries. I am very excited about my new life and work in New York, and the great opportunities that I have never had in my lifetime!! I hope to see you sometime in near future!

Yoichi Takimoto

I was transferred to the Japan Local Government Center (JLGC) from Hamamatsu City, known as the birth-place of such big-name companies as Honda, Suzuki, Yamaha and Kawai. I hope that Hamamatsu City will become as familiar to you as these famous companies are. Anyway, my first visit to New York City (NYC) was ten years ago when I was a college student. I was just a visitor at that time. Now I feel lucky enough to work and live in NYC for the next two years. I'm looking forward to learning about not only American's governmental system and city planning but also its culture and history.

The Local Government Employee Overseas Study Program

by Kazuhiro Yoshikawa (Nara Prefecture)

As a Nara Government employee, I was given an opportunity to participate in the 2003 One-Year Overseas Study Assistance Program. While educating myself about public administration, local government policy and American culture, I was able to improve my English language ability and meet many wonderful people who shared their experiences, thereby enriching my life in the United States.

The program, which started in 1992, continues to strengthen and support the educational and cultural connections between Japan and the United States. Sponsored jointly by the Japan Local Government Center (JLGC), New York and Pace University, the annual program offers English language study, graduate course on American government, field trips to Albany and Washington D.C., and practical internships. I traveled to the capitals of the United States and New York State to study the policy and practices of federal and state executive agencies. I also served as an intern for a few weeks in Westchester County Government, the City of White Plains and Grace Church, a non-profit organization (NPO).

The program was anchored by a 4-month internship focusing upon participants' main research interests, beginning in



The author, Mr. Kazuhiro Yoshikawa (front, center), attends Pace University Graduation to complete the One-Year Overseas Study Program.

November 2003 and ending March 2004. I was placed at Pace University Environmental Center and Rye Nature Center in Westchester County, New York. My interest in environmental policy and education of local governments and NPOs made me look at diverse ways of approaching environmental issues. My work entailed data collection on the activities offered by other universities and colleges in preparation for a symposium at Pace Environmental Center and to assist in compiling data for the Rye Nature Center's guide book.

Throughout my stay in the United States, I learned about the political and cultural differences between the United States and Japan. It was more than I imagined!

For example, the United States advocates decentralization of power among governments, a dominant role for NPOs, and value individualism and diversity. I learned that it was also a valuable experience for me to exchange opinions about the differences between the United States and Japan with the staff of offices I visited.

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to all the people who took a lot of time and energy to support and help me; the faculty, staff and fellow students of Pace University, the staff and other volunteers of Rye Nature Center, the staff of JLGC and all the people I met in the United States. I greatly appreciate their kindness and support. I hope to see them again some day.

Yokosuka City – Past to Present

by Hiro Matsumoto

First Assistant Manager, International Relations Division, City of Yokosuka

Yokosuka
City
Symbol



Yokosuka is a city in southeastern Kanagawa Prefecture, central Honshu, Japan. Situated at the mouth of Tokyo Bay with a natural harbor, the city of Yokosuka covers about seventy percent of the Miura Peninsula. Surrounded by water on its east and west sides, the Japan Current passes near the coastlines, blessing the area with natural beauty and moderate weather throughout its four seasons. Yokosuka measures 100.67 square kilometers (1,083.64 square feet) and is approximately 50 kilometers (31 miles) south of Tokyo. An one-hour train ride provides an easy commute to the central business district of the Tokyo metropolitan area.

The population of Yokosuka City is estimated at 430,000 people or 160,000 households. It was designated as a “Mid-level Designated City” on April 1st, 2001. Requirements for the Mid-level Designated City include a geographic area of 100 square kilometers or more and population of 300,000 people or more. Currently, there are 37 cities in Japan that meet these requirements. Mid-level Designated Cities are responsible for four major functions of government: social welfare, health and sanitation, zoning, and environmental protection.

The municipality of Yokosuka was founded in 1907. The city government is led by a publicly elected mayor assisted by two deputy mayors and a treasurer. The local city council is comprised of 45 members elected at large who serve four year terms. The chairman is elected annually by the membership.

City governments first and foremost responsibility is to prepare and implement an annual budget. Yokosuka’s 2004 annual budget

total is 318 billion, 631 million yen (about \$2.9 billion dollars based on 1\$=110 yen) There are 20 departments and 119 divisions within the city government and 3,889 city employees.

Historically, Yokosuka pioneered the modernization of Japan. When Commodore Perry, the first foreigner to knock on the closed door of Japan, arrived at the Yokosuka Port with his “Black Ships” in 1853, Japan opened its door to foreign countries for the first time in over 200 years. In 1865, French engineers were invited to set up steelworks at Yokosuka Port, successfully giving rise to a new industrial era in Japan. Capitalizing on its progressive accomplishments, Yokosuka quickly became a center of heavy industry in Japan. With its deep harbor and geographic location, Yokosuka became a military base and ship-building became the natural and prominent industry. It is presently the home to the United States Navy and the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force, making Yokosuka the largest military port in Japan. Other industries quickly developed. Led by the Nissan Motor Company, the automobile industry has flourished in Yokosuka and new high-tech industries have sprouted recently, including wireless telecommunications and information technology. The Yokosuka Research Park is fast becoming the center for global research and development in the field of telecommunication technology.

Embracing and implementing technological advances sooner than other Japanese cities, Yokosuka City has been aggressively working to expand the city hall’s computing facilities and local area network, with the goal of becoming a “Cyber City Hall” or “E-City Hall”. When you say “E-City Hall” in



Yokosuka Research Park is a next generation telecommunication technology hub for research and development.

Japanese, “E” means “good”, so it’s a “good city hall”. Progressive information technology policies have allowed Yokosuka to develop electronic administrative systems including an open bidding system, ID cards, disaster telecommunication network, geographical information systems and more to help the city respond to the ever expanding administrative requirements of its citizens.

For further information, see the Yokosuka City website:

<http://www.city.yokosuka.kanagawa.jp/e/index.html>

