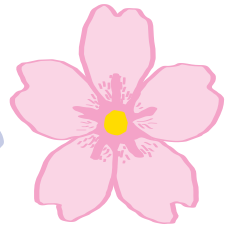


JLGC Newsletter



Issue No. 52 Winter 2005

SPECIAL FEATURE

Aichi Prefecture and World Exposition 2005

by Hideho Takami
Aichi Prefectural Government San Francisco Office



Beginning this March 25th, Aichi Prefecture will host Exposition 2005, the first World Exposition of the 21st Century. Expected to attract over 15 million visitors from across the world, the Exposition will showcase state-of-the-art environmental technologies and feature futuristic exhibits that encourage harmony, inspiration and a passion for creativity. Aichi-ken will be buzzing with excitement and anticipation. Leading up to the Expositions' debut, prefecture officials will unveil the brand new Chubu International Airport to receive the millions of expected tourists and travelers.

The purpose of Exposition 2005 is to share with the world the fine art of living and resolving the global difficulties that the world will be subject to in the 21st century.

With the assistance of many participating nations and international organizations, and under the theme "Nature's Wisdom," the Exposition will stimulate thoughts and ideas for new cultures and civilizations.

Shoichiro Toyoda, the chief executive officer of Toyota Motors will serve as honorary chairperson and will be joined by Crown Prince Naruhito to kick off the event which will be held at three locations, Toyota and Seto cities and Nagakute town. It will be a phenomenal awareness raising and diverse experience, from the perfectly preserved 10,000-year-old Siberian mammoth, to the world's largest seamless screen featuring the history of planet earth. Exhibits will juxtapose past nostalgia with ultra modern and futuristic experience. There will be something that appeals to everyone, green technologies, futuristic modes of transport and a music program directed by guitarist, Eric Clapton.

The main venue will feature an elliptical promenade, called the Global Loop, where six Global Commons and a Japan Zone will contain festive country pavilions. Each day during the entire six month period, participating countries will be showcased in a pro-

gram called "National Days." Visitors can experience the latest amazing technology at the nine corporate pavilions where they can learn about future life on earth. The Bio-lung exhibit, a 150 meter long, 12 meter high wall filled with flowers and plants represents the future of urban space and the Satoyama Nature Trail and the Forest Experience Zone will give participants the opportunity to re-think nature. Hayao Miyazaki's re-creation of "Satsuki and Mei's House will awe guests. EXPO Plaza, an open stage with the newest type of large screen will transmit the excitement of the entire Exposition to the world.

continued on page 2



Map of the "World Exposition 2005" site

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
SPECIAL FEATURE	
Aichi Prefecture and World Exposition 2005	1
Nagoya City – Gateway for World Exposition 2005	2
JLGC UPDATE	
JLGC and NCSL Conferences	3
Experiencing Southern Hospitality in the Lone Star State	4
CLAIR UPDATE	
People that I Met in the US (CLAIR Kokusai Jyuku)	6
JETTA ACTIVITIES	
A Hometown Overseas	8
<i>Masthead: The sakura, or cherry blossom, is Japan's cherished national flower. Special hanami parties and excursions are held during blossom time each year.</i>	



Aichi Prefecture and World Exposition 2005

continued from page 1

In keeping with the spirit and purpose of the Exposition, all structures are reusable and environmentally friendly. Power will be sup-

plied by wind, solar and other forms of clean, natural energy. Transportation will be provided by Maglev train, fuel cell hybrid and driverless buses. World citizens will truly play a leading role at EXPO 2005, freely exchanging

ideas to create an attractive global society. For additional and updated information, please visit www.expo2005.or.jp or contact Chris Fulmer at the Aichi Prefecture San Francisco office at (415) 392-1333, extension 252.

Nagoya City – Gateway for World Exposition 2005

by Hideo Kuwabara

Director, Nagoya International Business Information Center

The capital of Aichi Prefecture, Nagoya City is the political, financial and cultural center of the Pacific coast area between Tokyo and Osaka. Nagoya City is the fourth largest city in Japan whose main industries consist of transportation, machinery, chemical, steel, textile and ceramic ware.

The city of Nagoya will actively support the World Expo 2005 through its participation in a number of activities. Earth Tower Nagoya City will display the world's largest kaleidoscope standing 47 meters (154 ft.) tall. Inside the structure, visitors will be treated to a spectacular barrage of colorful patterns depicting solar spectrums. A collage of glowing Japanese paper lanterns creates a harmonious display that represents nature, light, wind, and water.

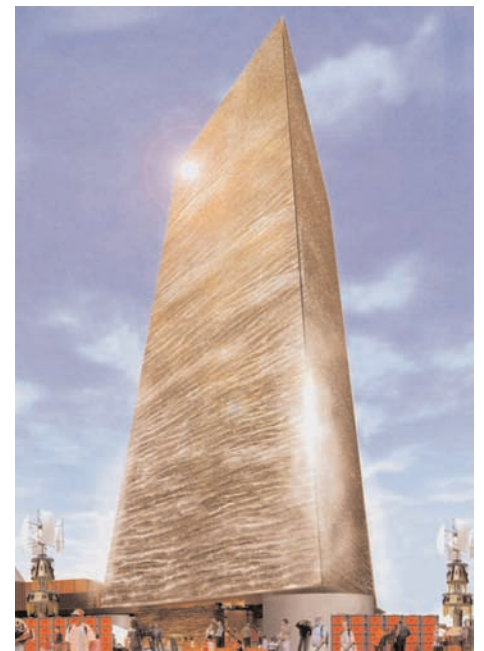
Sasa-Shima Satellite Site will serve as the gateway for World Expo 2005. Located in the city, south of Nagoya Station, the site will serve as a home base for experiencing the cultural diversity of all who pass through. Visitors will experience a festive atmosphere with lively music, entertainment, amusements and a wide assortment of diverse culinary delights. Also, Nagoya City's five sister

cities will hold the "Nagoya Sister-Cities Festival 2005" introducing unique performances and exhibitions.

Finally, with the assistance of the citizens of Nagoya, "N-Expo City Symphony" will be launched advertising Nagoya City's attractions to the rest of Japan. Events influenced by sub-themes such as "environment" and "inspiration" and set to music will be broadcast as a cultural symphony to present and future members of society. Event information and the exchange of information over the Internet will be available in virtual real time.

"New Millennium, Nagoya Castle Expo" will be held from March 19th through June 19th, 2005 in the famous Nagoya Castle. The symbol of the castle, a pair of golden *shachi* (dolphin like sea creatures), will be brought down from its perch on the roof of the castle for visitors to touch.

Make your plans to visit Japan and the World Exposition and be prepared to enjoy a marvelous experience. The city of Nagoya is also looking for volunteers who



The Nagoya City Pavilion: "Earth Tower"

can provide rooms (home stays) for world travelers who visit during the Expo 2005 event. Homestays are a wonderful way for travelers to make friends and learn about the culture, traditions and people on a more personal and intimate level. For additional information on volunteering a home stay, please visit, www.expohomestay.jp or contact Hideo Kuwabara or Lisako Horimoto at the Nagoya International Business Information Center Los Angeles office at (213) 620-7980.

Japan Local Government Center and NCSL Conferences

by Stephen Fasano
 JLGC Senior Researcher

Since the summer of 1992, the Japan Local Government Center (JLGC) has exhibited its programs and services at the annual convention of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). Founded in 1975, NCSL promotes legislative service as one of democracy's worthiest pursuits. A bipartisan organization, NCSL membership is comprised of the legislators and staffs of the nation's states, commonwealths and territories. NCSL provides research, technical assistance and opportunities for policymakers to exchange ideas on the most pressing state issues. Just as important is its role as an effective and respected advocate for the interests of state governments before Congress and federal agencies.

Over the past twelve years, JLGC has attended the NCSL conferences held each year in a different city in the United States.

JLGC staff have manned their exhibit booth, advocated international exchange, attended seminars and engaged in workshops and mobile tours. Through its exhibit, JLGC is able to present information about local governments in Japan, and its programs and services, including the popular Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET). JLGC also sponsors international study programs and supports sister city and sister-state relationships.

Thousands of people have stopped by the JLGC booth. Many have talked about existing relationships between their home states and Japan, or about their personal experiences in

Japan during vacations or business trips. Others were just curious about JLGC and Japanese local government. As a result, new relationships have been forged and old friendships maintained because of JLGC's presence at NCSL conferences.

The Japanese local government officials who have attended these yearly conferences have benefited greatly by interacting with



News Article JLGC and NCSL

state government officials. They have absorbed relevant information about the workings of state government and public policy-making in the United States.

This year the NCSL conference was held in beautiful Salt Lake City, Utah. More than 4,000 delegates attended and were treated to a wide variety of educational lectures on important state issues. The theme of this year's event was entitled "The New Legislative Reality," focusing on the changes the state legislative institution is undergoing, including forces such as term limits, citizen initiatives, federal encroachment on states' rights and responsibilities, as well as other

emerging complex topics. Policy enthusiasts attended sessions on the new Patriot Act, identification security systems, electronic waste, universal health care, electronic voting machines and ethics.

Highlighting the event were prominent guest speakers, such as author Stephen Covey, economist David Wyss and Business Roundtable president John Castellani. They spoke about effective business management strategies, the quality of leadership and the outlook of the US economy. Other notable speakers included former Congressman Asa Hutchinson, now serving as undersecretary at the Department of Homeland Security, former Congressman Bob Barr and Eugene Hickock of the US Department of Education. The closing session featured a discussion on the 2004 national elections by Weekly Standard Editor William Kristol and CNN political analyst Donna Brazile.

In addition to the business of the day, the NCSL conference showcased a lighter side, particularly with regard to America's youth. Students from across America got an opportunity to meet with their home state legislators at special lunch sessions. Also, students were having special community service projects judged by state legislators, legislative staff and volunteers. "We the People: Project Citizen" is an annual competition where portfolios highlighting student projects that address a pressing community issue are produced.

continued on page 4

Japan Local Government Center and NCSL Conferences

continued from page 3

On the celebrity front, Melissa Gilbert, president of the Screen Actors Guild, perhaps best known for her role as Laura Ingalls from television's "Little House on the Prairie," spoke about how states can attract movie and television production within their borders. Olympic Gold Medallist, Picabo Street, a spokesperson for the National Children's Alliance, hosted a tour of the Children's Justice Center in Salt Lake City. The center is a model advocacy center that provides services for victims of child abuse.

After the close of business each day, there were special events for the delegates and exhibitors including a reception at the State Capitol, followed by a private concert by the renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

It was also a fun time for the families and friends of the attendees. The final social event was held at the Olympic Oval where medals were won and records set in the 2002 Olympic Games.

Year after year, in city after city, JLGC staff learns a little more about local government in the United States while absorbing American culture and practicing English language skills. The NCSL conference provides the opportunity for them to engage and communicate with their professional peers allowing for a sharing and exchange of information that hopefully can benefit everyone.

In addition to the personal satisfaction experienced by many JLGC staff, the Annual Meetings of State Legislatures

provides desirable exposure that has and will continue to enhance JLGC's activities as a bridge that serves to connect Japanese local governments with their counterparts in the United States and elsewhere in the world.

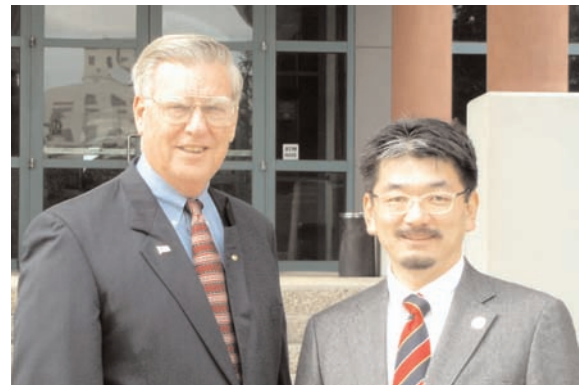
We would like to express our appreciation and hearty thanks for the warmth, friendliness and helpfulness extended over the years by NCSL staff and the people of all the host cities where the Annual Meetings have been held. Thousands of volunteers from all over the states work diligently for more than a year to assist NCSL with the planning, organizing and coordinating of these events. We look forward to continuing our strong relationship with NCSL and anticipate another successful year exhibiting at the 2005 Annual Meeting.

Experiencing Southern Hospitality in the Lone Star State

by Tamaki Yoshida
Assistant Director of JLGC

Lloyd Neal, the mayor of the City of Corpus Christi stands tall when it comes to governing this charming city by the bay. Just how tall even exceeded my vivid imagination! I stand five feet and ten inches (178 cm) but still had to rise on my toes and strain my neck just to make eye contact. When I shook his large hand, I felt a bit overwhelmed by his presence, an aura of confidence and power as big as Texas. Although Mayor Neal is a big man at six feet five inches (196 cm) and strikes

a formidable presence, he greeted me with what I would come to know as Texan hospitality. In just a short time, I would learn that although physically large, he has an even bigger heart. A man of character, passion, kindness and determination, he is sincere about his ability to lead the city into the new century. Yes, everything about him was big and I kept remembering that



Mayor Lloyd Neal (left) and the author, Tamaki Yoshida (right), in front of City Hall

someone once told me that everything is big in Texas!

Touching down at Corpus Christi Airport, I first became aware of the stark climactic and geographic differences that are typical of the United States.

I had been working in New York City where it is crowded and cold, so I was pleasantly surprised to be greeted by balmy weather and a small town atmosphere.

I came to Corpus Christi to interview Mayor Neal on his accomplishments during his tenure as the chief executive officer of the city. The mayor had written an article on behalf of the Japan Conference of Mayors to be published in the journal, "Municipal Administration – Message from Foreign Mayors." The journal is widely read and subscribed to by more than 700 Japanese mayors.

I came to choose Mayor Neal for

two reasons. First, Japanese mayors are curious and intrigued by what goes on in other cities around the world and specifically how foreign mayors successfully handle problems using new programs and progressive policies. My mission was to find a mayor who possessed intellect, leadership

Japan. Yokosuka City is also my home town. While living and working in the United States, I represent Yokosuka City as a kind of good will ambassador.

I had a wonderful experience during my brief stay in Corpus Christi visiting the sites,

absorbing southern culture and Tex-Mex cuisine. My interview with Mayor Neal was both pleasurable and insightful and I owe a special thanks to his Executive Assistant Diana Zertuche-Garcia who helped me with travel arrangements and set up appointments to meet various city officials. The interview with Mayor Neal will be published

and I shall return to Corpus Christi as a local government intern, working in various agencies. I know that I will be able to learn a great deal about government administration and hope to improve my English language ability. Living and working in a hospitable environment, I am confident that my internship will be rewarding and pleasurable.



The author with sister city committee. Starting from the left: Mr. Gene Reshanov; his wife, Ms. Venecia Kelly; the author, Mr. Tamaki Yoshida; Mr. Stephen Fasano (Senior Researcher of JLG); Mr. Edwin Hawn; Mrs. Rebecca Hawn; Ms. Yukiko Barber; Mr. Regis Barber

and strength of will to pursue a vision, carry out a plan and implement innovative programs through effective and efficient government administration. Awarded the prestigious All-America City designation from the National Civic League, Corpus Christi under Mayor Neal's stewardship was just such a city. Second, Corpus Christi's sister city is Yokosuka City in Kanagawa Prefecture,

People that I Met in the US (CLAIR Kokusai Jyuku)



by Nobuko Nakashima

When I was selected to participate in the overseas international study program, I left Japan wondering how I could maximize this training experience because I was unprepared and swamped with my own work. I was worried, but once it started, everything went smoothly. The local government officials, my host family, and my colleagues were very supportive. All through the three month program, I visited many local government offices and took part in an intensive English language program. In addition, I had a chance to visit more than 20 American cities, something that I could never have done on a private trip. As a result, I learned a great deal about the American culture and the intrinsic characteristics of various geographic areas in the United States.

Toward the end of the three month program, I experienced the presidential election and it was an eye-opener for me. From the intensive campaigning to the televised debates, Election Day hoopla, to the announcement of the results, I was there to experience everything. I shared America's excitement. I felt like I was an American. I enjoyed attending receptions, visiting campaign offices and even waving at cars with candidate bumper stickers.

I will treasure these wonderful memories with thanks to the kindness of all the people who helped me during my three month stay

in the United States. A special thank you goes to Amy Robertson of the International Center in Washington D.C., who arranged my entire itinerary including my memorable visit

pitabile. She said she really enjoys her job because she likes to meet various people. We only spent one day together, but it was an experience that I will never forget.



The author, Ms. Nobuko Nakashima (right), enjoys a Japanese dinner party at the host family's house in Washington D.C. with the host mother (center), her room-mates and friends

to the State of Maine. Under Amy's recommendation, I decided to go Maine for my Individual Study Program. The International Visitors Program World Affairs Council of Maine had only one week to arrange the schedule for me. However, they managed to put together a comprehensive agenda that was much better than I had anticipated. Rebecca, the volunteer responsible for helping me, managed to arrange four appointments for me even though we only had one day. Rebecca was my constant companion picking me up at the hotel, accompanying me to my appointments, having dinner with me, and making sure I arrived safely back to the hotel. I was impressed because she was voluntarily assist me and she was tireless and always hos-

I was surprised to learn that there are organizations such as the International Center that assist foreign visitors through a network of state contacts throughout the United States. Because the International Center exists, I was able to visit Maine. I think we can and should adopt such a system in Japan.

When I visited Fayette County in the State of Kentucky as part of my training, I attended a town meeting. When the meeting ended, the chairman introduced me to the council

members and she asked me to introduce myself. It was the first time I addressed a public audience. It was also the first time for me to appear on American TV, as the town meeting was broadcast. It was totally unexpected. The mayor introduced herself to me and we shook hands. I was both surprised and impressed by her affable disposition. It became the most memorable experience I had on this trip.

I attended the JET Alumni Association reception at the Japanese embassy in Washington D.C. where I thoroughly enjoyed interacting with the JET alumni. I could take a break from English lessons and talk about Japan. I met a JET who had worked in

Yonago City, Tottori Prefecture, as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) and Yonago is my hometown. It was rare to meet someone in Washington D.C. who knew Yonago because even in Japan, people hardly visit Yonago. We talked about many familiar things: good restaurants, and friends who speak the Yonago dialect. It all reminded me of my life in Tottori. What a small world!

I met so many diverse people at the organizations I visited. From government officials and not-for-profit staff to host families and classmates at the English language school, everyone welcomed me in their own unique manner. Being able to meet all these people was the best part of the training. When I was working in Japan, I took great care in being polite and hospitable to maintain harmony. However, I think real hospitality does not work that way. There are no hard and fast rules about hosting guests and it surely must be

difficult with foreign visitors. But sometimes the small imperfections and unique happenings along the way make a visit unforgettable. I like it this way and I hope to be able to return such hospitality to a foreign guest visiting Tottori Prefecture and Yonago City.

It has been three months since I returned to Japan. I still enjoy speaking and listening to English. I cannot believe it, since there was a time when I disliked the language. Now, whenever I use English, I remember the people that I met in the America. If I have the occasion to host foreign guests, I will try



Experiencing a US presidential campaign rally in Kentucky with the host mother (left) and a co-worker (right)

to make their stay as pleasurable as my stay in America. Everywhere I went in the US, people always said to me, "If you have any questions, you can ask via e-mail. Please keep in touch." I like the fact that Americans like to keep in touch as Japanese people hardly say such things to visitors that they meet. I want to keep these fond feelings with me for as long as I can.

Itinerary of the CLAIR Short-Term International Study Program 2004

Aug. 20	Travel to New York	
Aug. 23–24	Opening session and orientation at Japan Local Government Center in New York	
Aug. 25– Sep. 17	Travel to Alexandria, VA All-day language training	Stay hotel
Sep. 20– Oct. 8	All-day language training 3 days a week Meetings and site visits in Washington D.C. area rest of the week	Stay host family
Oct. 9–15	Meetings on state government (Group A: Austin, TX Group B: Atlanta, GA)	Stay hotel
Oct. 16–22	Meetings on municipal government (Group A: Seattle, WA Group B: Boulder, CO)	Stay hotel
Oct. 23–Nov. 5	Individual Internship (2-week internship in municipal government(s))	Stay host family
Nov. 6– Nov. 12	Independent travel (I went Augusta, MA and Quebec, Canada) (meeting with municipal government(s) or organization about own theme)	Stay hotel
Nov. 15	Closing session at Japan Local Government Center in New York	Stay hotel
Nov. 16	Travel to Japan	

A Hometown Overseas



by Rosemary de Frémery

You won't find my Japanese hometown, Hamaoka, on any new maps of the country. It has merged with a neighboring town to become Omaezaki-shi. The word *-shi* implies that this new municipality is a city, but anyone who has been to the former Hamaoka-cho can tell you it is definitely a *-cho* (town), not a *-shi* (city). Almost no Japanese I've met outside of Shizuoka Prefecture knows where it is and there's a reason for that. It's a Podunk little town!

But that's why I liked it. As cliché as it might sound, I really did once live among the rice paddies with the cicadas humming persistently outside my screen door on humid summer nights. If I went out for a bicycle ride, I'd hear frogs gurgling in the irrigated rice paddies. A swollen moon would beam overhead. If I biked just a few minutes further, I'd reach the beach and hear its calming rush of waves.

I grew to love Hamaoka over the three years I spent there. Although many of my Japanese friends asked if there weren't a lot of things I found strange or confusing, the truth was that before long, being there made sense. Just like in my Western Massachusetts hometown, I could stop by a roadside farm stand to pick up fresh flowers or cherry tomatoes on my way home. Although it wasn't always convenient (buses out of Hamaoka stopped running at 8pm, for example), it had its own treasures: fresh fish from the ocean, brilliant green tea from the fields I biked past

every morning, and seasonal flowers of every hue and shape you could think of blooming all year round.

Of course, a town is just an empty landscape without a community of people to give it life. At the high school, there were students showing a range of personalities from shy to exuberant. There was my private Japanese tutor - were it not for her I would not have learned nearly as much Japanese or enjoyed life in Japan to the level that I did. There was my tea ceremony sensei who somehow roped me into practicing *chado* by inviting me to a demonstration and then saying, "Now you try it!"

There were the people I knew around town who I also miss. They didn't open up for over a year. That made sense too: we New Englanders are famous for taking years if not decades to grow friendships (just ask my transplanted Californian father) but are known for our loyalty once the friendships have been established. It should have come as no surprise that just around the time I left in 2001 I finally started to feel as if I belonged, and everyone else got used to having me around too. Leaving was anything but easy.

I'm hoping to finally go back this year to see my friends and find out if anything has changed. I'm pretty sure I'll recognize it all; I'll just have to follow the signs for Omaezaki-shi, not Hamaoka-cho.



The author, Ms. Rosemary de Frémery, former ALT (Shizuoka Prefecture)

