



JLGC NEWS LETTER

JAPAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER (CLAIR, NEW YORK) ISSUE NO. 69 SPRING 2011

JLGC Projects in 2011

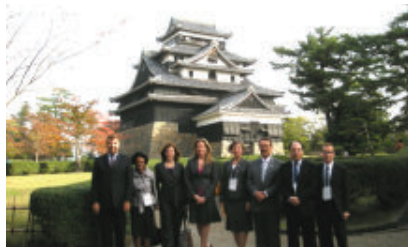
AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE OF JAPANESE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, JLGC CONTINUES ITS WORK TO STRENGTHEN THE TIES BETWEEN NORTH AMERICAN AND JAPANESE COMMUNITIES. FOR EXAMPLE:

1. Partnerships with American and Canadian Local Governments

▶ Attending the National Conferences of Governmental Organizations

JLGC attends the annual national conferences of local government organizations both in the United States and Canada. At these conferences, JLGC learns information about issues pertaining to U.S. and Canadian local governments, and cultivates partnerships with these organizations. At some conferences, JLGC sponsors "Japan Night" to introduce its activities. (Please see page 3 for details)

▶ Fellowship Exchange Program



Fellowship 2010

This program has been affording senior executives from state or provincial and local governments in the U.S. and Canada the opportunity to visit Japan and learn about Japanese public administration.



Fellowship 2010

Participants in recent years are from these organizations: Council of State Governments, National

Association of Counties, National Conference of State Legislatures, National Governors Association, National League of Cities, International City/County Management Association, United States Conference of Mayors, Canadian Urban Institute, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, New York City Council, City of New York, etc. (Please see page 2 for the comments from the Fellowship 2010 participants)

2. Serving as Liaison for Japanese Local Governments

▶ Research

JLGC conducts research and surveys mainly on the administration of states and local governments in the U.S. and Canada. JLGC also conducts research based on requests from Japanese prefectures and local governments. JLGC provides information about Japanese local authorities on issues such as transportation, education, social welfare, and budgeting.

▶ Supporting Japanese Local Governments' overseas projects

Sharing best practices with American and Canadian local governments is a high priority among Japanese local governments. JLGC supports various kinds of Japanese local government projects by facilitating study visits and arranging meetings. In order to revitalize local economies, a few Japanese local governments are trying to find new markets in North America. JLGC introduces their unique activities through showcases, events, and media sources. Some ambitious Japanese local governments have already found business partners in North America with JLGC's support.



International Food and Restaurant Food Service Show

JLGC is making good use of all opportunities to deepen the relationship between the two countries. Mutual cooperation between Japan and U.S. organizations and the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET) Alumni Associations, will promote Japan in American communities.

3. The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program



JETAA National Conference 2010 in New York

Established in 1987, the JET Program has played a significant role in foreign language education and international exchange activities. JET Program participants assist Japanese teachers in schools, and coordinate international projects implemented by local governments. JLGC continuously supports JET Alumni Associations (JETAA; 19 U.S. chapters and 7 Canada chapters) promoting and advocating the program. (Please see page 7 & 8 for details)



Career Forum hosted by JETAA New York Chapter

Comments from CLAIR's Fellowship Exchange Program 2010 Participants

CLAIR's Fellowship Exchange Program 2010 was held from November 7 to 17 in Tokyo, and Shimane. Participants experienced formal meetings with Japanese local government officials, study tours, home stays and authentic Japanese *ryokan* (traditional Japanese style inn). They thoroughly enjoyed "Japan". Here is what they had to say.



Mayor Nancy Chaney

City of Moscow, Idaho

CLAIR opens hearts and minds to the possibilities of internationalization. It builds networks of mutually-supportive relationships, and reminds us that nations are comprised of states, prefectures, counties, cities, villages, and individuals who have much in common. I am appreciative of the opportunities afforded by my experience, and for friendships made along the way!



Mr. Lloyd Halverson

City Administrator
City of Camas, Washington

The CLAIR experience was excellent. The hospitality, grace and courtesy we were shown made a most memorable impression. I returned with a much broader appreciation for Japanese people, culture, history, local government and overall conditions. My hope is that we were able to bring to our hosts at CLAIR and in Shimane Prefecture some good measure of value from our group's experiences.



Mr. Kevin Frazell

Director, Member Services
League of Minnesota Cities

The visit to the CLAIR offices in Tokyo, then on to Shimane Prefecture, was one of the most significant events of my professional life. While the cultures of Japan and the United States are distinct, our challenges are amazingly similar. I left with a great appreciation for how much we can learn from Japan and how much

we can offer in their search for solutions.



Dr. Richard Leclerc

Regional Director (Nord-du-Quebec) Ministère des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire, Quebec

The 2010 CLAIR's Seminar in Tokyo and Shimane gave me the opportunity to learn new approaches to diversify the economic life of resource region. In Shimane prefecture, the local governments in cooperation with the private sector work very hard to develop new activities based on the local resources to create jobs and wealth.



Mr. Ed Sajecki

Commissioner, Planning and Building
City of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

The CLAIR Fellowship Program is without question one of the most rewarding professional experiences of my life. The richness of the program continued non-stop from our arrival and briefings in Tokyo to our very full week in Shimane Prefecture. The organization and hospitality was outstanding including our home stay where we had the opportunity to experience Japanese culture first hand. Perhaps most memorable are the enduring friendships with our Japanese hosts and the bonding that has occurred among all of us who participated as CLAIR Fellows.

Since my return to Canada, the relationship with CLAIR has continued. At the end of January, Mr. Tetsuo Yamashita, Consul General of Japan in Toronto, hosted a memorable evening at his residence for the Canadian Urban Institute Board of Directors, staff and CLAIR Fellows. This provided an opportunity not just to celebrate the values of the enduring partnership with CLAIR (JLGC) but to meet Consulate staff and members of Shokokai and establish a new relationship with a group of important and innovative Japanese Corporations. As a CLAIR Fellow and as a member of the Board of Directors of CUI, I look forward to a long and fruitful

relationship with CLAIR."



Ms. Stephanie Osborn

Deputy Director, County Services
National Association of Counties

I found the challenges and opportunities facing localities in Japan to be strikingly similar to the U.S.: doing more with less, an evolving relationship between national and local government, an aging workforce, and the importance of regional cooperation for domestic and international business development. Thank you, CLAIR and Japan, for such an enriching experience in Tokyo and beautiful Shimane Prefecture!



Ms. Sasha Sutcliffe-Stephenson

Director, International Programs
The Council of State Governments

The experiences and friendships we as a group established through the CLAIR fellowship will last me a lifetime. I was overwhelmed by the hospitality and generosity we were shown by our hosts in Tokyo and Shimane and was so pleased at the number of opportunities we had to exchange ideas and opinions with local and prefectural officials. I can't wait to go back!"



Ms. Joy Wilson

Director, Health Policy
The National Conference of State Legislatures

I found that the opportunities and challenges regarding economic growth and development, education and health care mirror those in the United States and that elected officials in Japan, like those in the U.S. find that the best solutions involve partnerships between the government and the private sector. On a personal note, I was very impressed with the history, cultural activities and natural beauty of Shimane Prefecture and I hope to visit again.

Attending the Annual Conferences of Governmental Organizations

JLGC attends the annual conferences of American and Canadian local government organizations where JLGC staff learns about issues affecting local governments and networks with representatives from the United States and Canada. At some conferences, JLGC sponsors “Japan Night” to introduce its activities, Japanese culture and cuisine. Please contact JLGC representatives at the conference you attend!

In 2010, JLGC attended these conferences

Name of Meetings	Place	Dates
Federation of Canadian Municipalities	Toronto, Ontario	May 28-31
United States Conference of Mayors	Oklahoma City, OK	June 11-15
National Governors Association	Boston, MA	July 9-11
National Association of Counties	Reno, NV	July 16-20
Natinal Conference of State Legislatures	Louisville, KY	July 25-28
Sister Cities International	Albuquerque, NM	July 29-31
International City/County Management Association	San Jose, CA	Oct 17-20
International Association of Chiefs of Police	Orlando, FL	Oct 22-27
National League of Cities	Denver, CO	Nov 30-Dec 4
Council of State Governments	Providence, RI	Dec 3-6



CSG National Conference 2010



In 2011, JLGC will attend these conferences

Name of Meetings	Place	Dates
Sister Cities International	Arlington, VA	Mar 3-5
Federation of Canadian Municipalities	Halifax, Canada	June 3-6
United States Conference of Mayors	Baltimore, MD	June 17-21
National Governors Association	Salt Lake City, UT	July 15-17
National Association of Counties	Portland, OR	July 15-19
National Conference of State Legislatures	San Antonio, TX	Aug 8-11
International City/County Management Association	Milwaukee, WI	Sept 18-21
Council of State Governments	Bellevue, WA	Oct 19-23
International Association of Chiefs of Police	Chicago, IL	Oct 22-26
National League of Cities	Phoenix, AZ	Nov 8-12



New York & Tokyo; 50 Years Working Together as Sister Cities

TOMOYA SUZUKI / ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, JLGC (REPRESENTATIVE, TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT)

In 2010, New York and Tokyo celebrated fifty years as sister cities. Initiated on February 29th, 1960 New York is the eldest of Tokyo's eleven sister city relationships. New York has ten sister cities and Tokyo is the oldest and only Japanese city.

In commemorating their fiftieth anniversary, Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) hosted a panel exhibition in Tokyo introducing the history of exchange between the two cities with a chronological display of photographs, received gifts and mementos. Perhaps the highlight of the showing was the original proclamation document.



Proclamation Document 1960

During these fifty years, the two cities have developed mutual understandings firmly grounded by programs including baseball tournaments, staff exchange, inviting students and teachers to Tokyo and cultural events. Today, the two cities are sharing information, model programs and best practices to solve issues unique to large metropolitan areas. For example:

► Environment



Governor Ishihara at the C40 summit, on the far right

In May 2007, the Governor of Tokyo, Shintaro Ishihara, participated in the C40 (The Large Cities Climate Leadership Group) summit held in New York. He spoke about TMG's

progressive approach to regulate exhaust gasses from diesel vehicles. He also introduced TMG's cutting edge eco-friendly water works technologies. Distributing sample bottles of "Tokyo Water" to the participants, the governor promoted its taste and safety.

In November 2010, the Commissioner of New York City (NYC)'s Department of Buildings visited the TMG's Bureau of Environment. The commissioner learned about TMG's pro-environmental urban development policies while describing NYC's environmental plan.

► Education



Mr. Tetsuo Iwasa, Deputy Director General, Tokyo Metropolitan Office of Education and Ms. Marjorie Tiven, Commissioner, NYC Commission for the UN, Consular Corps and Protocol, at NYC Global Partners Summit 2010

The field of education has seen active exchanges since the inception of the sister city relationship. As recently as 2006, Tokyo has participated in NYC's "Global Partners Junior"- a student internet exchange program. Through this program, students in both cities communicate online about topics relevant to both cultures, sharing research and the latest data on their communities. The highlight of this successful program took place in May 2010 when elementary school pupils in New York visited a Tokyo elementary school that they were corresponding with.

Representatives of TMG's Board of Education attended NYC's Global Partners Summit in November 2010. During the summit, they shared

their best practices with NYC public school leaders and representatives from other global major cities to improve urban education.

► Culture and Grass-root Exchanges

Maybe the most interesting and exciting exchanges over the past fifty years has been in the field of culture. Every year, amateur ceramic artists from both cities hold an affable competition that has served to cultivate and cement the friendship. TMG and NYC Global Partners, Inc. support the events.

In June 2006, a photo exhibition entitled "Landmark of New York" was held at the observatory of TMG Headquarters. Many Tokyoites and tourists visited this exhibition to enjoy the beautiful pictures of the famous buildings in New York.

► Tourism

Regarding New York as an important inbound tourism market, TMG sponsored "Tokyo City Promotion" events in 2005 and 2006, featuring the appeal and attractiveness of Tokyo as a hot tourism spot for New York travel agents and the travelers they serve.

In order to further stimulate tourist travel to Tokyo, direct flights between JFK airport and Haneda airport were launched, providing additional opportunities for visitors to experience the sights and sounds of Tokyo while observing how the aforementioned environmental, education and cultural policies have enhanced Tokyo as a 21st century city.

As a staff member of TMG working at the Japan Local Government Center in New York, I shall aspire to do my best to help cultivate further the friendship between these two great global cities.

<http://www.metro.tokyo.jp/ENGLISH/index.htm>