



JLGC NEWS LETTER

Japan Local Government Center (CLAIR, New York)
issue no.71 Oct, 2011



*DATE MASAMUNE, A HERO
OF MIYAGI, STOOD UP TO
SAVE TOHOKU-REGION !!*

ISSUE NO.71 OCT 2011

*CLAIR Fellowship Exchange
Program 2011 will be held from
Oct 24 to 31 (page 1-2)*

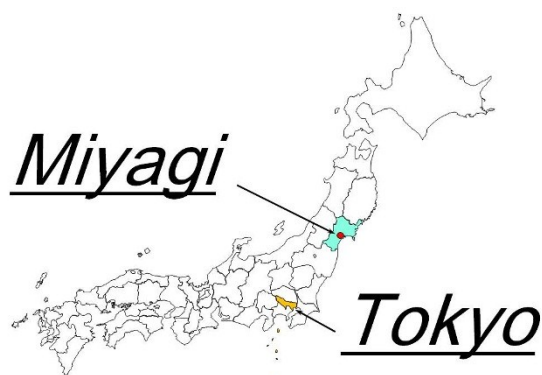
*JETAA Ottawa - JET Alumni
Association for the National
Capital Region, Canada
(page 3-4)*

*Introducing JLGC's
New Director (page 5-6)*

CLAIR Fellowship Exchange Program 2011 will be held from October 24 to 31 !!

The CLAIR Fellowship Exchange Program has been affording senior state and local government officials an opportunity to experience Japanese government administration first hand. This year the program will be held in Tokyo and Miyagi Prefecture.

Miyagi was damaged by the horrible earthquake and tsunami disaster on March 11th. Now Miyagi is on its way to recovery because of citizens' efforts and support from all over the world! We hope during the study tour, participants can inspect and discuss the earthquake disaster reconstruction in Miyagi.



JAPAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER
(CLAIR, NY)

3 Park Avenue, 20th Floor
New York, NY 10016-5902
212.246.5542 office • 212.246.5617 fax
www.jlgc.org

CLAIR Fellowship Exchange Program 2011 Participants



Ms. Nikki Guilford

Director, Office of Management
Consulting and Training

National Governors Association



Ms. Beverly Bell

Senior Policy Analyst, The National
Emergency Management Association

The Council of State Governments



Ms. Susan Parnas Frederick

Federal Affairs Counsel

National Conference of State Legislatures



Ms. Beverly Schlotterbeck

Executive Editor, County News,
NACo web site

Public Affairs Department

National Association of Counties



Ms. Kristin Tillquist

Chief of Staff to the Mayor

City of Riverside, California



Ms. Caryl Arundel

Vice Chair

Canadian Urban Institute



Ms. Dana Rohrbough

Deputy Principal Assistant, Office
of the Secretary of State

State of Delaware



Mr. Daniel Gatien

President

The Association of Municipal Managers,
Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario



Mr. Daniel Perron

Fire Chief and Emergency preparedness
Coordinator

City of Sainte-Julie, Quebec

October 24, 25 [Tokyo Seminar 1]

Introduction to Japanese Local Government
System

Presentation by Fire and Disaster Management
Agency Official & the Tokyo Fire Department

Welcome Reception

October 26 – 29 [Exchange Event in Miyagi]

Workshops (damage, reconstruction, radiation, etc)

Tour of Various Facilities (temporary housing, airport, port,
and the damaged coastal areas, etc)

Japanese cultural experience

October 31 [Tokyo Seminar 2]

Tour of Government Facilities in Tokyo (Tokyo Fire
Department, etc)

Theme:

*Disaster Relief and
Redevelopment in Miyagi*

JETAA Ottawa - JET Alumni Association for the National Capital Region, Canada



JETAA Ottawa is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Formed in 1991 by early

participants of the JET programme, JETAA Ottawa has grown steadily to include a large, dynamic group of alumni. Located in Canada's capital, our chapter is given many opportunities throughout the year to work closely with the Embassy of Japan in the recruiting, selecting and training of new Canadian JETs. Each month, JETAA Ottawa is proud to host events that help bring together JET alumni and the greater Ottawa community to share our love for all things Japan.

Our chapter is run by a handful of very enthusiastic members and over the last two years we have focused our energies to help shape JETAA Ottawa into a professional organization. We have vastly improved our website (jetaaottawa.ca) and upgraded our social media presence to include interactions via Facebook, Twitter, etc. With timely press releases and greater media coverage, JETAA Ottawa has seen a large increase in attendance at each public event.

In March, JETAA Ottawa leveraged its unique position in the Canadian and Japanese communities to act as a bridge to bring together the greater Ottawa community in relief efforts for the Great East Japan earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disasters. Teaming up with the Canada-Japan Society of Ottawa, on March 27, 2011, JETAA Ottawa hosted a charity reception and silent auction to raise funds for the Canadian Red Cross Japan Earthquake/Asia-Pacific Tsunami Relief efforts. We received letters of support from Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Jonathan Fried, Canadian Ambassador to Japan, donations from the Mayor of Ottawa, the Governor of the Bank of Canada, and cabinet ministers and senators. Dozens of local businesses and residents made contributions in all shapes and sizes. Within two weeks, over 200 donations had been collected and the Westin Hotel Ottawa generously donated their space and services. Ambassador Kaoru Ishikawa, Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, and Fukushima JET Gemma Villanueva gave heartfelt speeches and performances by Ottawa's premier taiko group Otowa Taiko, soprano Noriko Hashimoto and ikebana artist Yumiko Tsunakawa, provided entertainment for over 300 attendees. In one night, JETAA Ottawa helped raise over \$30,000 for relief efforts in Japan. JETAA Ottawa will continue to support Japan's recovery and reconstruction efforts in the years to come.

JAPAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER (CLAIR, NY)

Please visit our website at www.jlgc.org for more information

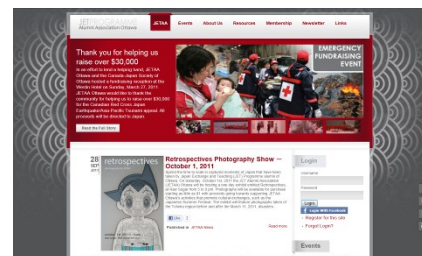
*JETAA Ottawa – JET Alumni Association
for the National Capital Region, Canada*

This August, JETAA Ottawa hosted its 7th annual Japanese Summer Festival. An estimated 600 people, easily doubling last year's numbers, participated in the event to sample Japanese traditions, cuisine and pop culture. Special guest Blaise Plant of Monkey Majik (his brother Maynard is a JET alumni from Ottawa) performed hit songs from the band as well as a song that he wrote following the March 11 events. As anticipated, he drew in a significant crowd. Our very own JETAA-dogs, hot dogs with Japanese-flavoured toppings (oroshi, teri-mayo, and okonomi flavours), proved quite popular in their own right and were featured on a local TV show. All 375 were served before the end of the festival. If interested, please contact president@jetaaottawa.ca for the recipe.

As JETAA Ottawa continues to grow and build stronger community ties, we look forward to collaborating with alumni across the continent.



JETAA Ottawa members and friends hosted a Charity Relief Reception for Japan on March 27, 2011



JETAA Ottawa Website :

<http://jetaaottawa.ca/>

Facebook :

<http://www.facebook.com/jetaaottawa/>

Twitter :

<http://twitter.com/#!/JETAAOttawa/>

Lisa Mallin
President

JETAA Ottawa
(jetaaottawa.ca)



JAPAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER (CLAIR, NY)

Please visit our website at www.jlgc.org for more information

Introducing JLGC's New Director

My name is Takashi Sonohara and I have been assigned as the new director at the Japan Local Government Center. Prior to my appointment, I served as an official at the Tokyo Metropolitan Government for twenty-six years spending most of my time in port administration.

I thought that I might escape the steamy, muggy Tokyo summer season, but when I arrived in New York on July 21st, I faced a record breaking heat wave. I had been to New York twice before, including a three week period training at the NY&NJ Port Authority, but those experiences took place during the winter seasons. So, I was a bit taken back by the sizzling New York summer and especially surprised by the hot and humid subway stations. They felt like sauna baths! I discovered other quirks about New York's subways; for example many times the train doors opened in front of large stone pillars, schedule changes were routine, timetables not posted, and delays due to signal problems. Most surprising was the apparent apathy of the riders who didn't seem to be upset about being inconvenienced. In Japan, these issues would be major complaints from Japanese subway riders.



In 2009, I spent time in Washington D.C as a temporary student at Georgetown University. I naively thought that this prior American experience would prepare me for my time in the Big Apple. Hoping for the best and not prepared for the worst, I soon realized I may have underestimated my new challenge.

First, my apartment in New York was unfurnished, so I had to do quite a bit of shopping for essentials such as; pots, pans, cooking and eating utensils, cleaning supplies and furniture. But by far the most annoying problem I incurred was the trouble I had with the electric company. It seems that they included the previous tenant's usage on my current bill. It took nearly a month for the problem to be corrected.

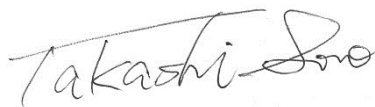
JAPAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER (CLAIR, NY)

Introducing JLGC's New Director

And then suddenly, a once in a century earthquake, and a torrential hurricane Irene accompanied by a full mass transit shutdown due to flooded streets and subway stations. It was a little surreal! In Japan we have an expression – “A man showing up with the hurricane”. It implies the idea of a man showing up in a new place as a trouble maker. I know that I am not that kind of man, but just in case I tell myself I must work extra hard and excel in my new job.

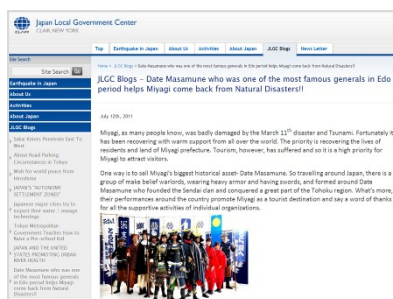
New York life is like manning the controls of a super jumbo jet plane. Every day you are confronted with the unexpected. There are many controls, gauges and switches at your command to deal with these unexpected occurrences and like an experienced pilot I will need time to learn the American system of doing business and living life. I'm always telling myself, “I'm here by my choice, not necessity so enjoy yourself”!

Takashi Sonohara



JLGC Blogs: We Offer Various Information Related To Japanese Local Governments!

Now JLGC Blogs report on various topics such as disaster planning and industrial promotion as well as covering issues relating to Japanese local administration.



“Date Masamune who was one of the most famous generals in Edo period helps Miyagi come back from Natural Disaster!!”

Date Bushotai goes on tour to thank everyone most sincerely for all their aid to the disaster area and to attract more tourists to Tohoku region by making an appeal to help the revive the area affected by the March 11th disasters. This is just like the former New York City Mayor Giuliani did immediately after the September 11th 2001 tragedy, when he said, “Come to New York and spend your money here”.

For further information or other posts, please visit our website at www.jlgc.org and click “JLGC blogs”!

JAPAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER (CLAIR, NY)

Published by Japan Local Government Center

3 Park Avenue, 20th floor, New York, NY 10016 / Tel: 212-246-5542 / Fax: 212-246-5617 / E-mail: jlgc@jlgc.org / <http://www.jlgc.org>