



JLGC NEWSLETTER

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1. JLGC's Washington D.C. Seminar

Arisa Kurihara

JLGC's annual Washington DC seminar was held for three days from October 24th to 26th, and 5 staff members attended it. This seminar is arranged by the Council of State Governments (CSG) with the main goals being to help our staff learn about unique administrative structures in the US and strengthening our networks with the participating organizations. We set some themes for this seminar such as education policy, economic development policy and natural disaster measures .

We visited 8 organizations over 3 days. On the first day, we visited the Council of State Governments (CSG) and received a lecture on improving elections for U.S. military and overseas voters. He explained that the CSG's Overseas Voting Initiative maintains two separate advisory working groups, and the Policy Working Group, one of these, made recommendations such as making effective use of election websites and social media for voter communication, and providing online voter registration by states that incorporates registration for overseas and military voters.

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Mr. Kalisa, who explained about CSG's overseas voting initiative, is a former CLAIR Fellowship Program participant, and we were very glad to hear about his experience in Japan.

Members from JETAADC and the Japanese Embassy joined our reception on the first day and we enjoyed talking with them.

On the second day, we met with Ms. Anne R. Kaiser, who is a member of the Maryland State House of Delegates. She explained the education system in Maryland to us, especially about English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and providing educational opportunities for poor students.

We met with federal government officers on the last day, where we could learn about economic development policy and measures to deal with natural calamities such as hurricanes and floods. All of the lectures and presentations were wonderful and informative, and we hope that some policies can be applied to local communities in Japan as well. Also, we could get a chance to see some sites, such as the Maryland State House, United States Capitol, and Lincoln Memorial, and these gave us a sense of history.

We were also so impressed with the highly organized CSG staff who took the time to prepare the visits. Thank you so much!



National Governors Association (NGA)



Maryland State House

【Schedule】

10/24 Day1	Council of State Governments (CSG)	Washington, DC
	National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices, Economic, Human Services & Workforce Division	
10/25 Day2	Alexander & Cleaver professional office	Maryland
	Maryland State House	
10/26 Day3	U.S. Economic Development Department, U.S. Department of Commerce	Washington, DC
	Federal Emergency Management Agency	
	Destination DC	
	Newseum	

2. International City/County Management Association Annual Conference

Arika Aizawa

JLGC attended the ICMA Annual Conference in Kansas City, MO, which was held from September 25th to 28th. We also held a “Japan Night” reception at this conference. ICMA is a professional organization of administrative workers, consisting mainly of managers in local governments around the world, CAOs (Chief Administrative Officers), and other local administrative officials.

At the annual conference, keynote lectures and sessions, discussions, and workshops were held in various fields. It is also a feature of the general meeting of ICMA that there are sessions according to career level, such as for assistant managers, senior managers, small community managers, etc.

One of these sessions at the conference, “Impact of Transit” was a field demo. We walked around the city and rode the street car service. All rides are free and it was a surprise to see such frequent service. City Staff described the transit services in Kansas City, and their most important concern was local bus service for city residents.

I chose to attend the Learning Lounge presentation “Innovation and Emerging Practices in Local Government”, by Coconino County, AZ, talking about best practices for maintaining high level staffing, particularly in health care.



Field Demo

Because of constant turnover and shortages of qualified staff, not to mention the length of time required for hiring, a creative solution needed to be found. The county proposed borrowing a manager from another department. To make a quick decision, the County used e-mail and phone interviewing. This way it was able to tackle a difficult problem, whilst at the same time respecting departmental staff cultures.

We, JLGC, held our “Japan Night” reception on September 26th. Many people, including former CLAIR Fellows, came to the reception and together we introduced CLAIR to the other ICMA participants.



ICMA Welcoming Reception



Japan Night

3. JETAA US Conference 2016 in LA

Kaori Ito



JETAA USA National Conference 2016 was held in Los Angeles from September 29th to October 2nd. Delegates from the 19 chapters in the U.S., the country representatives from the U.S. and Canada, a representative from the Northern Alberta chapter, and many guests attended the conference. This year, the conference was focused on how to keep promoting Japan, various aspects of the JET Programme, and working on making our JETAA chapters stronger while collaborating with other chapters.

On the first of these points, Mr. Mark Frey, the president of the Northern California chapter, gave a presentation about both what JETs gained from the JET Programme and what they gave back to Japan through contributing to bilateral relations, supporting Japan in emergencies like 3.11, being responsible for large numbers of their friends & relatives visiting Japan as tourists, supporting Japanese artists, introducing Japanese culture to their homes and volunteering to actively support JETAA. He himself is a “Monbassador” who promotes Kumamoto Prefecture along with the official mascot of Kumamoto, “Kumamon”. He mentioned the idea of helping to foster a direct connection model for alumni around the world to link together their ‘hometowns’ in Japan and the ‘hometowns’ they have chosen after JET, bolstered by leveraging their personal and professional networks.

Then, the Pacific Northwest chapter gave a presentation about ways to increase volunteer participation and use this to tie a chapter into the local community more strongly, raising its profile and making it a valuable partner for other groups. Tips included volunteering with other organizations that share similar values or objectives, recruiting members before they even leave for Japan, getting to know them and giving them personal attention, posting on social media often, using as many platforms as necessary to reach your audience, and showing thanks to your volunteers.



Japanese American National Museum Tour

As for another highlight of this conference, since Southern California has a rich history associated with Japanese immigrants and five generations of Japanese-American culture, it included a program to educate JETAA chapter delegates on Japanese-American history and culture, as well as ways in which JET alumni can be more connected with the larger Japanese-American community.

There was a panel discussion about “Strengthening Connections Between JET Alumni and the Nikkei Community” featuring Lily A. Welty Tamai, Ph.D., Curator at JANM and Lecturer at UCLA, as moderator, and Alan Nishio, Chairman of the Board of Governors for the Little Tokyo Service Center, and Jane H. Yamashiro, Ph.D., sociologist and author of “Redefining Japaneseness” as panelists.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Nishio presented the history of Japanese immigration to the US, breaking it down into distinct periods defined by the discriminatory laws passed to limit Asian immigration, the internment of West Coast Japanese during WW II, and various social and economic pressures leading to assimilation after the war, and then a new wave of immigrants arriving from Japan in recent decades. Dr. Yamashiro spoke about her research into Japanese Americans living in the US and Japan.



Alan Nishio

Finally, this year's conference had a special meaning as the kick-off for a year-long celebration of The JET Programme's 30th Anniversary in 2017.

USJETAA, an organization which works with the chapters to support JETAA activities, announced to the attendees that they are hosting an event in Washington D.C. to celebrate the 30th anniversary year of the JET Programme. The gathering will be some kind of conference / convention / reunion held in July or August of 2017, and is open to any alumni anywhere in the world who are interested in coming.

USJETAA
Paige Cottingham-Streater

JLGC will closely follow these developments and would like to actively support the alumni's activities.



CLAIR Reception

4. JETAANY Career Forum and JET Welcome Back Reception in NY

Tatsuya Matsumoto

On October 15, JETAANY, the Consulate General of Japan in New York, and JLGC held a Career Forum for recent JET returnees. In total, 15 new alumni attended. At the forum, members of JETAANY covered topics such as writing a resume and performing well in an interview, in addition to sharing their experiences through a panel discussion. The members also mentioned the importance of being involved with JETAANY because of its connections.

The following is a sample of some of the practical advice given on writing one's resume:

- First take some time to analyze your own experiences and strengths;
- While resumes show your background, you do not need to write in detail about the JET Program, rather, focus on using concise, specific keywords that get straight to your experiences and abilities;
- Write your strengths and/or the things you want potential employers to see the most at the beginning of your resume.

The speakers also emphasized the importance of staying connected with the JETAANY chapter, as examples of former JET participants finding work through JETAA connections are far from rare.

As for interview tips, speakers touched on some of the following points:

- Many potential employers check applicants' LinkedIn pages prior to the interview, so ensure that your information is up-to-date;
- Be careful about what information (especially that which could reflect upon you negatively) you put on social networking sites;
- If having a Skype interview, test your connection before the call and pick a place with adequate lighting and an appropriate background in order to make a good impression with the interviewer;
- Following the interview, send a thank you to the interviewer as soon as possible.

After the presentation on interview skills, there was a panel discussion featuring members of JETAANY, where the panelists shared their own experiences and responded to questions from the audience. Participants also had the opportunity to meet with representatives from six Japanese recruiting companies.

Following the Career Forum, there was a Welcome Back Reception for the recently returned former JET participants. The reception, which welcomed 88 attendees, including representatives of Japanese companies and members of the several New York Kenjinkai

(associations for people from the same prefecture), served as not only a welcome back to the recent returnees, but also provided an opportunity for them to expand their networks. Many of the JET attendees expressed a desire to find Japan-related work, but also to keep their connections with Japan in other areas. We wish them the best and hope for their continued success.

