



JLGC NEWSLETTER

Japan Local Government Center (CLAIR, New York)

Issue no. 91/ January 2018



JAPAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER WASHINGTON D.C. SEMINAR

ISSUE NO. 91 / JANUARY 2018

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1. The JETAA KenJETkai Program

Mark Frey, JETAA USA Country Representative

JETAA USA is thrilled to announce a new global program for former JET Program participants to re-connect you with your Japanese home so you can continue the grassroots cross-cultural exchange and friendship that was at the heart of your JET Program experience: The JETAA KenJETkai Program.



The KenJETkai groups are a way for you to connect directly with your prefecture by forming a community of fellow alumni who shared the same "local Japan" as you, regardless of where you live in the world.

To get started, go to <https://www.facebook.com/kenjetkai/> and "Like" and "Follow" the KenJETkai Page. Then, check out the KenJETkai Starter Guide in the top Post to find your prefecture's group. Once you join your group, invite your friends from your prefecture to join too, whether alumni, current JETs, or friends in your prefecture.

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Your KenJETkai group is a great opportunity to share memories and interests, and to support your prefecture by letting the world know how wonderful it is. KenJETkai can also enhance the professional and personal networks of everyone involved, in areas such as educational exchange, tourism, and trade.

After celebrating the 30th anniversary year of the JET Program, alumni around the world are clearly feeling a renewed sense of shared experience and community. KenJETkai allows you to build on this natsukashii feeling and make your ties to each other and your furusato in Japan an active part of your daily life.

2. Japan Local Government Center Washington D.C. Seminar

Kotaro Kashiwai, Assistant Director, Representative of Matsue City, Shimane Prefecture

The annual JLGC Washington D.C. Seminar was held over three days from October 17th to 19th. This seminar was arranged by National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). This seminar's main goals are to help JLGC staff and employees who work for Japanese local and prefectural level governments who are staying in the United States learn about the unique administrative structure in the United States. It helps particularly in strengthening our networks with the participating organizations.

On the first day, we visited the NCSL office and received a lecture from the staff mainly on the role of NCSL, intergovernmental relations and the court system in the United States. One very interesting area that was talked about was the regulation of drones.

Next, we received another lecture from Dr. Kirk Jonas, who is director of the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices, on the financial situations of the states and various other issues they face. He mentioned several of these, such as problems with discrimination by police officers, no national university in the United States, and increasing medical and nursing home expenses for senior citizens.

After the lecture, we moved to the Tax Foundation for the last lecture on the first day. The staff talked about the overview of federal tax reform and they explained that proposals to reduce the corporate tax and pass-through taxes are the most important aspects for business reform.



Tax Foundation

At the end of the first day, we held a reception to which previous CLAIR Fellowship program participants were invited, along with Japanese embassy staff and members of the JET alumni in Washington D.C. . We enjoyed talking with them very much.

On the second day, we visited Annapolis, Maryland. We met with Ms. Maggie McIntosh, who is a member of the Maryland State House of Delegates. She explained about the process of budgeting in the Maryland state legislature, the flow of proposed legislation, and the relationship between the delegates and the governor. After the explanation, we moved to the Maryland State House, which is the oldest capitol building in current use in the United States, and had a tour.

After the tour, we visited the Governor's Office and we met Mr. Martin Madden, who is an advisor to the governor, and Mr. Walter F. Landon, who is director of homeland security, and we learned about cooperation between state police and city police, and cybersecurity in Maryland State.

At the end of second day, we visited the United States Naval Academy.

Mr. Paul J. Tortora took us on a tour and he explained about the lifestyle and training of the students and the facilities of the Naval Academy.

On the last day, we visited the White House as the first destination. Since the 9/11 attack, public tour requests for the White House must be submitted through one's Member of Congress, so we feel so lucky that we could enter the building. It was fascinating to see the history of the building.



CLAIR Reception



The Governor's Office



The United States Naval Academy

Our next destination was the Arlington County Office, where we could have a chance to hear about city planning. Arlington County revises its plan once every 5 years and the staff mentioned issues they are continuing to grapple with: (1) It is difficult to secure lands for schools to meet the needs of a growing school population, and; (2) There are a lot of vacant office buildings in Arlington.



Arlington County Office

After we visited the Arlington County Office, we visited the Arlington Public Schools. We met Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, who is a superintendent of the Arlington Public Schools and we could ask some questions about how the schools keep their high standard of education and the utilization of Information Technology (IT) in the classroom. He mentioned hiring high quality teachers is one of the reasons why they can keep a high standard of education. He also mentioned they utilize iPads for the special classes for handicapped children and this is very effective for their study.



Arlington Public Schools

As the last destination for this seminar, we visited the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC). MS-ISAC has a role for cyber threat prevention, protection, response and recovery for the nation's state, local, territorial and tribal governments. The staff explained how MS-ISAC prevents, protects, responds to and recovers from cyber threats and serves as a central resource for situational awareness.



MS-ISAC

We appreciate greatly the highly organized schedule by the NCSL staff, Ms. Molly Ramsdell, Ms. Kathy Brennan Wiggins and Ms. Katherine Boyce, and we are hoping to continue this seminar to deepen our knowledge of federal, state, and local governments of the United States.

3. Intern Report

Nozomi Yamaguchi, CLAIR Tokyo, Representative of Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department

Recently, I was fortunate to have the chance to take part in an internship program at the Japan Local Government Center (CLAIR New York). This was a really valuable experience for me and it will definitely be useful for living and working in our globalizing society. Now I would like to share a part of my experience on the internship program as follows.



As a part of my internship at CLAIR's New York office, I was able to attend the annual convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). This year, the convention was held on October 21-24 at the Philadelphia Convention Center. Although it is called the International Association of Chiefs of Police, not all attendees were necessarily chiefs of police, as local police officers, retired police officers, civilian police staff like myself, professors, students, and others were also in attendance.

The convention consisted of special events, about 300 seminars and meetings in total, as well as an exposition showcasing police equipment and technology. Due to the nature of the event, the venue was under very tight security for its entire duration and unfortunately, there were a few conflicts between the police force and protesters around the venue.

The most impressive event at the convention was the general assembly held on the third day. The assembly welcomed U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and London's Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick. While Attorney General Sessions spoke about the federal government's new policies and financial support for the police, Commissioner Dick shared her experience as the first female to serve at her post. Listening to the speeches of such prominent guests in person was an unforgettable experience for me and it made me realize the importance and significance of this event.



IACP Annual Convention

As for the seminars conducted by a variety of speakers, attending seminars on topics like recruiting and hiring, psychology, and wellness was an easy choice considering the nature of my work as a civilian police administrator. In particular, I learned through the seminar on hiring how the Japanese police's current problem of attracting skilled young people among many other professions is a similarly important issue for the police in the United States. It was especially interesting to learn about the methods used to attract young applicants through

social networking sites, and how analyses of the characteristics and trends of the younger generation were the same as analyses in Japan. I was also able to learn about hiring problems particularly relevant to America, such as the importance of racial equality in addition to gender equality in the hiring process. Learning about these issues reminded me that America is a multicultural nation.

At the exposition, some of the latest technology on display took me by surprise. The equipment, for example, which included guns, protective gear and vehicles, was tougher and more



Latest technology on display

powerful than the Japanese equivalents. Such equipment must be necessary, however, when confronting dangerous criminals. As for software, the development of facial recognition technology was very impressive. This sort of technology could become indispensable for big events and large facilities.

In conclusion, thanks to this experience, I was able to learn the latest information about the state of American law enforcement. Not only the convention, but the whole internship program experience was beneficial and positively affected my point of view and way of thinking. I would like to utilize these experiences in my work and life.

Naoki Hirose, CLAIR Tokyo, Representative of Tokyo Metropolitan Government Board of Education

I had an internship at CLAIR NY for one month this October.

The main purpose of my internship was to study the use of Information Technology in American Education.

These days, various kinds of IT, software and apps are used in the classroom, and picking the right IT for schools is more important than ever.



I cooperated with the New York City Board of Education and the Japanese Consulate General in New York, and was able to visit several schools to view the status of IT usage in classrooms. I'd like to introduce some examples.

First, I'd like to talk about classroom management software. Using classroom management software, all digital materials used in class can be viewed online, and reviewed by students

after class, or even in the event of absence from class. All grades and homework can be viewed online, and used to further improve students' performance in the classroom.

Second, I'll introduce programming as a school subject.

Starting from early elementary school, students study computer programming. First they start with small projects, like making a toy car drive straight, or turn, in order to learn the basic thinking of computer programming. Later, some places use software such as "Snap" which allows computer code to be built from easy to understand "blocks". This helps students focus on the structure of code, without worrying about language. And in high school, students learn programming languages.



Last, I want to mention the efforts to promote students' ability to speak and express themselves. The picture on the left shows a photo booth in the classroom. Students use a green screen to produce "school news" which is viewed by students. They can edit the videos, and choose the background freely. This helps them improve their speaking abilities.

In some classes, in order to facilitate discussion in the classroom, students' desks could be easily moved to create small groups for group-work, discussion, or debate.

It is often said that Americans are good at expressing themselves publicly, or giving presentations, and I believe these parts of the education system play a large role in facilitating these abilities.

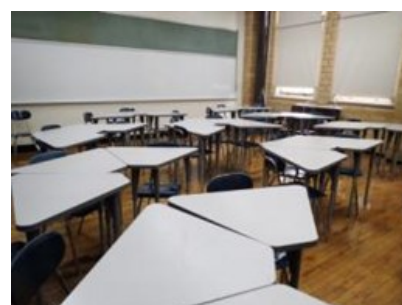
During my internship, I also had an opportunity to attend the welcome back reception for the JETs.

At Clair Tokyo, I'm engaged in the management of the JET Program I have often thought about how JETs keep their ties to Japan alive after completing their appointment on the program, so I was glad to have a chance to hear about that directly from JETs.

Each JET I spoke with wanted to continue to act as a bridge between their home countries and Japan, and I reaffirmed to myself the importance of the JET Program.

I was also able to attend the "Washington Seminar" and several other seminars, so it was a very fulfilling month.

I would like to express my thanks to those who I spoke with during my internship.



Tables in the school



JET Returnee's Reception

4. National League of Cities (NLC) City Summit 2017

Kaori Kurauchi, Assistant Director, Representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

We attended the NLC City Summit in Charlotte, NC, which was held from November 15th to 18th. We also held a “Japan Night” Reception at this conference. NLC is a national organization of municipal governments, consisting mainly of elected officials that represent the interests of local governments in the US.

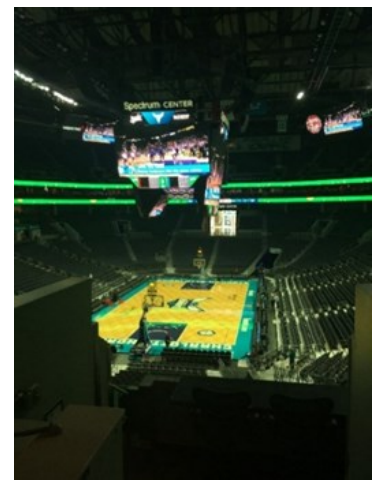
At the conference, keynote addresses, educational sessions, discussions and workshops were held on various topics. For example, at the Opening General Session, Mayor Barry (Nashville, TN) shared her personal experience on the subject of drug overdose. She called for action by all the communities attending the conference to combat what is known as the ‘opioid crisis’.

One of the workshops at the conference, “Charlotte’s Urban Sports Venues and the Partnerships Behind Them”, was a field demonstration. We walked around the city and toured a variety of sports venues such as the Bank of America Stadium, the Spectrum Center and BB&T Ballpark. These are home to the Carolina Panthers, Charlotte Hornets and the Charlotte Knights. We could learn about the public/private partnerships required to make these projects happen.

The highlight for us was our “Japan Night” reception on November 17th. This time we were happy to have our managing director come from Tokyo. Many people, including NLC President Mayor Stodola (Little Rock, AR) and former CLAIR Fellows, came to the reception and together we introduced CLAIR to the other NLC participants.



Opening General Session



The Spectrum Center



Japan Night

Advertisement: Japan Local Specialty Fair in Gardena, CA

The Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR)

If you are a gourmet food lover and are curious to try local foods from different parts of Japan, then you must not miss the Japan Local Specialty Fair to be held by CLAIR this February at Marukai in Gardena.

At the event, you will be able to purchase foods from different parts of Japan and enjoy a KENDAMA performance & workshop hosted by a Japanese KENDAMA Champion! Don't miss this opportunity to experience real Japanese culture!

Date : February 22 - February 28, 2018 9:00am-6:00pm

Admission : Free

Venue: Marukai Gardena Store (1740 Artesia BLVD, Gardena, CA 90248 USA)

日本ふるさと名産食品展

JAPAN LOCAL Specialty Fair

2/22~28
2018

おいしいふるさと

いただきます

北海道 Hokkaido

長野県 Nagano

豊橋市 Toyohashi

大阪府 Osaka

徳島県 Tokushima

香川県 Kagawa

愛媛県 Ehime

高知県 Kochi

Come & Find LOCAL SPECIALTIES FROM ALL OVER JAPAN

WHEN 2018.2.22 (THU) ~ 2.28 (WED)

WHERE MARUKAI GARDENA STORE
1740 ARTESIA BLVD., GARDENA, CA 90248 USA

Kendama Performance & Workshop
by Japanese Champion Satoru Akimoto!

@ 11am & 2pm, 25 Feb (Sun)

Satoru (left) is from Nagai City, Yamagata. He was the Japanese champion in '08/'09, and ranked No.3 in the world in 2014. He has held over 1,000 kendama classes and performances throughout Asia.

一般財団法人 自治体国際化協会

主催: 一般財団法人 自治体国際化協会

Sponsored by: Council of Local Authorities for International Relations

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Supported by: Consulate-General of Japan in Los Angeles
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