



# JLGC NEWSLETTER

Japan Local Government Center (CLAIR, New York )

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## *1. Career Support Event for JETAA*

Individual alumni chapters and USJETAA will all hold career support events this fiscal year, and we will introduce those here. Some events are hosted by JETAA, but others are not. If you are thinking about job hunting or career development, please check below:

Chapter Name	Activity Name	Date	Description
		Location	
JETAADC	Professional Development Workshop	10/4	We will collaborate with the Embassy of Japan and provide an opportunity to effectively offer returnees the resources and advice they will need in their search. Sessions will include resume and networking skill development, and various panels on graduate school prospects and jobs in different sectors by JET Alumni.
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※For more information, please check each chapter's website or Facebook. You can access each chapter's homepage here ([JETAA USA](#), [JETAA CANADA](#)).

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Chapter Name	Activity Name	Date	Description of Activity
		Location	
JETAADC	JETs@State	November	We will provide an opportunity to hear career paths from the “JETs@State” alumni group.
		The Department of State headquarters	
	Maintaining the Momentum: The Post- Exchange Pipeline to Successful Global Citizenship	November	We will host a panel that brings together JET alumni working in the fields of international education, public diplomacy, and program development to discuss alumni engagement as it relates to all program phases. It is very important for alumni to be aware of the resources available and to learn more about the vital role that alumni associations play.
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	Professional Development Roundtable	February 2020	We will host a roundtable event featuring a senior JET alumna to discuss career paths and networking tips.
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JETAA New York	Sempai/ Kohai Outing Part I	9/21 10:00am–12:00pm	We will have informal meetups on how to adjust to life after JET. For more information, please click here ( <a href="#">Part I</a> , <a href="#">Part II</a> ).
		The David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center	
	Sempai/ Kohai Outing Part II	9/29 2:00pm-4:00pm	
		Sheep’s Meadow in Central Park (Exact location TBD)	
	Job Club	Early October	These meetings will be focused on Networking, Job Leads, Skills Assessment, Confidence Building, and Peer Support. Participants will have access to a private website for group discussion.
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Chapter Name	Activity Name	Date	Description of Activity
		Location	
JETAA New York	Career Forum & Welcome Back Reception	Saturday in early– or mid– October	We will provide JET alumni an opportunity to meet with organizations, recruiters, and companies interested in hiring JETs. You will also hear from local JET alumni working in a variety of fields. In the evening, the Consulate and CLAIR will host a Welcome Back Reception.
		Nippon Club	
JETAA New England	Boston Career Forum	11/1 - 11/3	This event is the largest Japan-centered job fair in the world. It's free to attend after you register online. On November 2nd, the JETAA New England chapter will host happy hour.
		Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC)	
JETAA Florida	Career Development Conference for JET Returnees	September	Participants learn how to convert your experiences on JET into applicable skillsets that can be used in various fields, and will serve older JET alumni as an opportunity to refresh their skills.
		—	
JETAA Chicago	Career Development Fair	11/1	Usually held in November, featured career experts speak to past JET participants about career development and building upon their JET experience and building a path to career success. For more information, please click <a href="#">here</a> .
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	Career Counseling for Recent Returnees and JET Alumni	January to February 2020	Usually offered during the months of January and February, JET alumni are provided with career counseling via virtual one to one sessions with Emily Kikue Frank, a fellow alumna with 10 years of professional experience. For more information, please click <a href="#">here</a> .
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JETAA Pacific Northwest	Transitions: Career Forum & Networking Expo	10/18-10/19	We provide newly returned JETs an opportunity to attend a day-long seminar designed for networking, exploring options, and planning the next steps. For more information on the schedule and registration, please click <a href="#">here</a> .
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Chapter Name	Activity Name	Date	Description of Activity
		Location	
JETAA Texoma	Professional Development Workshop—Houston	December	These workshops would be a chance to meet the other JET alumni in the area and to network, as well as provide alumni an avenue to get extra sets of eyes on their resumes/ cover letters and discuss potential career trajectories.
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	Professional Development Workshop—Austin	December	
		—	
JETAA Northern California	Career Support Professional Networking	Year round	We will host one or more workshops/ webinars aimed at both returnees and older alumni of the JET Program, along with the opportunity to attend professional networking events hosted by Japan– related community organizations. Check back on our <a href="#">Facebook</a> and <a href="#">newsletter</a> for more information!
		—	
JETAA Southern California	Career Fair and Networking Meeting	TBD	We provide an opportunity to share advice on how to market their skills gained during JET.
		Los Angeles	
JETAA Hawaii	Returners Networker and Professional Development	October	We will provide a forum for returners to regale and share their JET experiences with other alumni, as well as answer any questions they may have about adjusting back to Hawaii life.
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JETAA Great Lakes	Job Fair Co-Hosted by JETAA	January 2020	We provide an opportunity for returning JETs and current alumni to network, as well as career and professional development for recent returnees.
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JETAA Ottawa	2019 JET Alumni Career Fair & Welcome Back Reception	10/8 Afternoon	The Embassy of Japan in Canada will be hosting a career fair targeting JET Programme and MEXT Scholarship alumni. Many major Japan-related companies based in Ottawa and the surrounding region will be in attendance, seeking to hire individuals with experience working in Japan. For details and registration be sure to sign up for <a href="#">JETAA Ottawa's Newsletter</a> .
		Embassy of Japan	

Chapter Name	Activity Name	Date	Description of Activity
		Location	
JETAA Toronto	Orientation: JET Returnees	10/20	Career and mental wellness– focused education, communication, and networking with JETs who have recently returned from Japan.
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	JETAA Career Support and Networking: Career Round Table	1/18 2020	This event is aimed at JET alumni, Japanese businesses, and community organizations. We provide an opportunity to hear presentations from industry professionals about their career paths in relation to JET. We will also provide networking with those professionals.
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JETAA BC & Yukon	Networking and Skills Development	Fall	We will provide opportunities to network with sempai alumni, discuss how to market our international experiences, and learn how to refresh our resumes. For more information on the schedule and details, please click <a href="#">here</a> .
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JETAA Southern Alberta	Career Networking Event and Welcome Back Reception	Mid-September	We will provide an opportunity to engage alumni to assist and share their experiences, strategies for re-integration, and insights into various employment fields. This will be followed by a reception that will bring alumni and recent returnees together.
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USJETAA	JET Alumni Webinar Series	On-Going	We provide guidance and instruction to JET alumni across the country on a variety of careers and professional development topics. Past topics have included how to find a career, best practices for JETs' resumes and LinkedIn profiles, and many more. Click <a href="#">here</a> to watch past webinar recordings and see what's coming up next.
		—	
	Career Services Just for JETs	Applications open 8/29 and will close when filled or by 11/1	We will be hosting free career counseling and resume review services to JET alumni who live in the U.S. All of the services take place online. We will be offering 25 career counseling sessions and 20 resume review opportunities to JET alumni on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, please click <a href="#">here</a> .
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## 2. Introduction of New JLGC Staff



### Aki Sugawara

Assistant Director, / Representative  
of Tsuruoka City, Yamagata Prefecture

from Tokyo by plane. Tsuruoka City is a rare area where various features such as mountains, rivers and the sea are gathered, and there are rich natural landforms with height differences from 1m above sea level to about 2,000m above sea level. The seaside region in Yamagata Prefecture is called the Shonai region, and this region developed based on ship transportation because the high mountains formed a natural barrier. Therefore, the Shonai region developed differently compared to the interior, and there are still many differences from other regions even in Yamagata Prefecture.

Today I'll introduce myself and some of Tsuruoka City's events, sightseeing, and food!

I have worked for two different departments. The first was the Board of Education. There I was responsible for the city education department's statistical survey. This survey covers a lot of things about the make-up of the schools and events that take place in the schools.

My next job was in the Welfare Division. There I was like a 'case worker'. I regularly visited households that were receiving welfare support already. I checked their status for eligibility and provided advice and assistance for living expenses, job-hunting and access to health service or nursing care, as necessary.

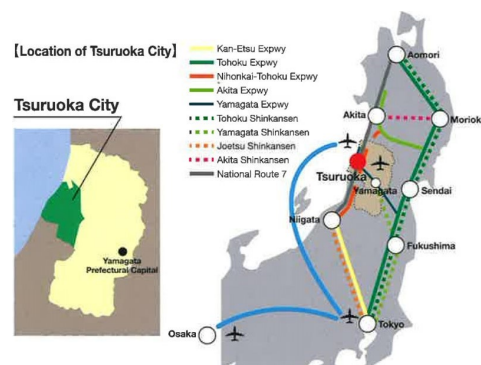
At JLGC, I'm in charge of relations with the JET alumni.

#### *Events*

#### 'Fireworks'

Akagawa Fireworks is one of the most famous fireworks events in Japan. It is held in August

Hello, everyone. My name is Aki Sugawara, I'm from Tsuruoka City in the Shonai region in Yamagata Prefecture, located in the northeastern part of Japan. It takes about 1 hour to get there



in the riverbed of the Akagawa River taking advantage of an area 2km in total length and 1km in height, and about 12,000 fireworks are launched by selected pyrotechnists from all over Japan. Especially recommended programs are fireworks that are synchronized with hit songs. It is so fantastic! Also, the fireworks that you see in the large panoramas spread all over the riverside are really impressive.



### “Noh on outdoor stages”

Noh is a very old traditional performance art, and it often tells a story with a chorus, like ancient Greek theater. Another feature is that people usually wear masks, which are called noh-men or Omote. Every summer season, we can enjoy these plays in fantastic settings.

### *Sightseeing*

#### “Yamabushi experience”

A Yamabushi is a Buddhist monk of Shugendo who is training in the mountains. Shugendo is one of Japan’s unique sects that connects Buddhism with ancient Japanese animist beliefs. At Mt. Haguro, you can experience a part of Yamabushi training. It is a good chance to refresh your mind, body, and soul. Over mountains, through forests, across rivers, and under waterfalls, this training is a memorable experience of authentic ascetic mountain practices with the help of a guide.



### *Food*

#### “Dadacha-mame”

Dadacha-mame is a kind of soybean and one of the typical traditional farm products that represent Tsuruoka City. Dadacha means elder male relative in the dialect of the Shonai region in Yamagata Prefecture. The origin of the name comes from a lord who lived in Tsuruoka in the Edo Period who asked people, “Who (which uncle/ father) grew these soybeans?” it features a deep richness and sweetness, and when you boil it, there’s a fragrant, roasted aroma. In my opinion, dadacha-mame and beer is the best combination!





## Mami Ohashi

Assistant Director, / Representative  
of the Ministry of Internal  
Affairs and Communications

**H**ello, everyone. My name is Mami Ohashi. I have been assigned as a new assistant director at JLGC since this April. Originally I came from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and

Communications (MIC), which oversees the functions of prefecture and municipal governments in Japan. Since I joined MIC in 2012, I have mainly been responsible for the administration and taxation policies of local governments.

For example, I was responsible for the Political Fund Regulation law. In Japan, political parties collect money from supporters and are required to report to the Ministry once a year on the amount they receive, who the contributors are and how they have spent their money. The Ministry then publishes this on the internet. My responsibility was to ensure that the submissions by the political parties to the Ministry were accurately reported and then I assisted in the publication of this information. As for taxation policies, I was responsible for calculating the effect on the revenue of local governments caused by an increase of the consumption tax.

The consumption tax receipts are allocated to local governments depending on various factors related to each prefecture. I was responsible for undertaking research on determining a better way for calculating the amount for each allocation.

Also, I have had an opportunity to work for a local government in Chiba Prefecture, so today I'd like to introduce Chiba Prefecture to you.

### Specific features of Chiba Prefecture

Chiba, next to Japan's capital of Tokyo, is part of the largest metropolitan area of Japan and has a population of over 6 million, the sixth largest in Japan.

Chiba is an international prefecture that is open to the world through such facilities as Narita International Airport, the gateway to Japan; Makuhari Messe, one of the most prominent convention centers in Asia; and Tokyo Disney Resort, whose two theme parks draw in 30 million visitors each year.





Chiba also has a strong industrial base, the Keiyo Coastline Industrial Belt, which stretches out along the bay area. Furthermore, the highway system, including the Tokyo Bay Aqualine, connects Chiba with the greater metropolitan area as well as the whole of Japan.

On the other hand, Chiba is a diverse prefecture. Most of its land is located on the peninsula. Blessed with many beautiful natural areas surrounded by oceans and rivers that provide an abundance of fresh, delicious food, Chiba Prefecture is one of the leading producers of agricultural, forest, and fish products in Japan. Also, with the mild summers and winters, the climate is very calm throughout the year.

### Kujukuri Beach

Kujukuri Beach, extending to 41 miles, is one of the longest and most outstanding sand beaches in Japan. There are a lot of bathing beaches along Kujukuri and thanks to good waves you can also enjoy surfing there. Part of the beach has been designated as the site for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics in 2020.



### Mother Farm

Mother Farm, which is almost one square mile, is designed to introduce farms and farming to city dwellers. Visitors can have a hands-on experience. Incidentally, Chiba Prefecture has the third biggest production of milk in Japan.



### Naritasan Shinshoji Temple

Naritasan Shinshoji Temple has a history dating back over 1000 years. About 3 million people visit during the New Year (from January 1st to 3rd), the second largest number in Japan. It is convenient to Narita International Airport, so it is easily accessible to international visitors. On the temple grounds, there are five buildings designated as important cultural sites. Komyodo, the oldest building among them, was built in 1701 and is built in a classic Japanese style. This area is also famous for eels and there are several long-established restaurants serving eels around the temple.

## Seafood

You will find a lot of places where you can get fresh and delicious seafood. For example, horse mackerel, sardine and lobster are some of the famous seafoods in Chiba and you can eat them as sashimi, donburi, deep-fried and so on. As for horse mackerel, “Namero”, fisherman’s miso-based tartar, is one of the especially popular local dishes of Chiba.



Donburi



Deep-fried horse mackerel



Namero

## Rakkasei

Chiba Prefecture is famous for Rakkasei, which is a kind of peanut. In Japan, approximately 80 percent of Rakkasei is produced in Chiba Prefecture. Just like in the southern part of the United States, many people in Chiba prefer boiling them and boiled Rakkasei taste so good.



## Festivals

Summer is a good season for going to festivals in Chiba. One of the most famous festivals in Chiba is Sawara no Osai (Sawara no Taisai), which is a generic term for Yasaka Shrine Gion Festival in July and Suwa Shrine Autumn Festival in October. It is one of the three major Kanto float festivals. It is recognized as a world cultural heritage event by UNESCO. For Japan, it is an important part of folk culture. In the July festivals, floats are pulled from 10 am to 10 pm. The floats have large dolls and luxurious sculptures. These have long and significant history for the Japanese. Even in bad weather, the performers are excited to display their skills and courage in battling the elements. The floats go through Sawara’s traditional area and are a memorable sight.



### *3. The 87th Annual Meeting of United States Conference of Mayors*

From June 28th to July 1st, the 87th Annual Meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) was held in Honolulu, Hawaii. USCM is the official non-partisan organization of cities with a population of 30,000 or larger, and there are 1,408 such cities in the U.S. today. It has been 52 years since the last annual meeting was held in Honolulu and that was in 1967.

USCM is now focusing on three strategic priorities, Infrastructure, Innovation and Inclusion, to help cities thrive across the country. According to their argument, cities are playing an important role to identify and prioritize infrastructure projects that should be invested in and undertaken. Innovating by learning about some of the nation's best practices and cutting-edge technologies helps mayors who are being faced with more demands and less funding. As leaders, it is the mayors' job to create a culture of inclusion and an environment that lifts everyone up. Most of the sessions were categorized into these three themes and U.S. mayors shared their ideas with discussion and presentations.



As an organization promoting good mutual understanding between the U.S. and Japan, we, Japan Local Government Center (JLGC), were very glad that Japan had a strong presence during this year's meeting.

Because of their sister city relationships with Honolulu City, the mayors of Chigasaki City (Kanagawa Pref.), Nagaoka City (Niigata Pref.), Hiroshima City and Uwajima City (Ehime Pref.) participated in the meeting and Mr. Kirk Caldwell, the Mayor of Honolulu City, introduced them in his remarks, explaining how they have been building a strong connection with Honolulu, especially at the grass-roots level.

The Honorable Yuriko Koike, Governor of Tokyo, made a presentation at the session titled "A Celebration of City Livability". She mentioned how Tokyo plans to hold the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in an eco-friendly way. The Mayor of Hiroshima City,

Mr. Kazumi Matsui, also made a speech as the President of Mayors for Peace, the international NGO that works for world peace with 7,764 member cities including 215 U.S. cities. He asked all mayors to work with him by joining Mayors for Peace in order to abolish nuclear weapons from the world.



JLGC's Executive Director, Yoshihiro Akagi, gave a greeting at the International Affairs Standing Committee. He explained how we reach out to local governments in North America to understand management systems. He also offered our support for the U.S. cities that want to have a relationship with Japanese local governments. The highlight of the conference was the remarks made by Her Excellency Caroline Kennedy, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan (2013-2017) in the opening plenary session. Attending the USCM annual meeting in Honolulu meant a lot to her because her father, President John F. Kennedy, made a historic speech about civil rights at the USCM annual meeting in the same place in 1963. Ambassador Kennedy also celebrated the long history of the U.S.–Japan relationship. Her speech was welcomed by the longest standing ovation.



One of the receptions during the conference took place at the Battleship Missouri Memorial. It is one of the Pearl Harbor historic sites and the most important landmark for the history of both countries. Fireworks, provided by Nagaoka City, were displayed at night in Honolulu.

