

November 1998

Message from the Interim committee:

Please note that the following is a preliminary draft of a report from the 4th JETAA International Conference. This report will be completed by the end of December 1998 and will then include the post-conference questionnaire results compiled by conference hosts JETAA Atlanta.

Please note also that this report and the contents of this report are based on notes taken at the conference and are not direct copies of speeches.

We appreciate your understanding for any spelling or grammatical errors in the composition of this report as the aim was to have it completed with the shortest delay and distributed to each chapter representative and their local Embassy or Consulate.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and look forward to working with you.

Anita Chandan
Interim Chair
JETAA International

JETAA 4th International Conference (Atlanta, Georgia)

Yvette Pharo, Conference Coordinator & President, JETAA Atlanta

I would like to take this opportunity to thank CLAIR (Council of Local Authorities for International Relations) and the Japan Local Government Center in New York for sponsoring the conference and providing us with this opportunity to once again meet and discuss JETAA related issues. I would like to also thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their generous financial support and thank our Atlanta Consulate for their commitment to helping our chapter organize this event.

I would like to start today's proceedings by introducing you to Mr. Katsutoshi Ohta, Senior Managing Director of CLAIR Tokyo.

Mr. Katsutoshi Ohta, Senior Managing Director of CLAIR Tokyo

Good Morning.

Until now the director of JLGC (CLAIR New York) has always been CLAIR's representative for this conference. As I am travelling in the Southern States I have a chance to attend this year's event.

I would like to first say, "Congratulations on holding this conference".

I am happy to see the representatives not only from Canada and the United States but also Australia, Japan and Ireland.

As you know, CLAIR has supported this conference activity since the beginning and we are very happy to see the results.

Thank you Ms. Pharo and the Atlanta chapter for all the hard work you have put in to this conference.

Thank you also to Mr. Saito, the Consul General of Japan here in Atlanta and his staff and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for all of their support

I have been in my position since last year. Before that I was Secretary General for CLAIR for many years.

This current U.S. tour has taken me to universities and colleges in the South. I have been here before in 1991 when I was Secretary General.

I remember seeing an advertisement in local papers to encourage young people to participate in the JET Program(me). The ad described it as a once in a lifetime opportunity.

In 1970, I was in London working for the Ministry of Home Affairs. That was my own once in a lifetime opportunity. My opportunities today are based on my once in a lifetime opportunity twenty years ago. I believe that your own JET related experiences have also been very influential.

My experience of two cultures makes me think of Fukuzawa, a famous Japanese who wrote of “the passing of two lives through one body”. I am sure that you are all familiar with his image on the 10,000 yen note. He lived in two societies: from feudal society to the Meiji Restoration.

Each of you through your life in Japan have developed a better understanding of Japan and Japanese Culture and being away from home you also understand your own culture more.

When you come in touch with Japanese society also, they did not learn only about your culture but also their own roots.

This JET experience can last through a person's life as I see you all here today.

CLAIR celebrated its 10th anniversary this past July. Our organization has been working to promote internationalization in Japan and overseas. There are over 10 offices worldwide. We have been working with your local governments on the establishment of sister city relationships and other joint programs. Still the JET program is our biggest responsibility. There are now 34 countries and over five and a half thousand participants. It has been the fruit of the combined efforts between JET participants, CLAIR, and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education and Home affairs. Thank you for your contribution and continued support for JET Program promotion through JETAA.

This year we had non-renewers conference to help in readjustment when you leave Japan, reverse culture shock, finding employment etc. I believe that we can make the JET experience more meaningful through the implementation of these types of programs. To date 23,3000 people have participated on the JET Program(me); 17,600 have finished the program and over 9000 have officially registered as members of JETAA.

Your organization has played a vital role in recruitment and orientation of new participants.

Of course your priority for JETAA should be things most meaningful...get-togethers, exchange activities, and returning activities for JETAA. CLAIR funding is intended for these types of activities through our Grant-In-Aid Program. CLAIR money this year is used for meetings, some newsletter expense and also for this international conference. This funding is being provided through CLAIR overseas offices with cooperation from Embassies and Consulates.

In short, I am eager to see CLAIR and JETAA members work together and network to succeed. Mr. Ishida is the Director of the New York Office, known as the Japan Local Government Center (JLGC). They have been very active in supporting and working with chapters in the United States and Canada. In my recent trips to the southern states I have had a chance to talk to many JETAA and I will take all of this information back to Japan.

I look forward to hearing your frank ideas throughout his conference.

In closing thank you for your support and good luck in all your endeavors related to JETAA.

Consul General Saito, Consul General of Japan in Atlanta

It is a pleasure to have this conference in Atlanta. Thank you to the Atlanta JET Alumni Association for all of their hard work.

In 1987, the JET Program(me) had 848 participants. Since then, it has been expanding and has become so successful that more than 5,700 participants are participating this year. This shows the success it has had since its conception.

The program has been extremely meaningful as it has enhanced a real understanding between Japan and other countries through grass roots level exchange. It is not only language education but also learning about foreign cultures and lifestyles. I remember young students telling us that they were so excited to be able to speak

English and to communicate with JET participants in their language. Often you were the first foreigner that they ever met.

I am very proud of the JET program(me) and hope it expands even further in the future. We are very pleased and happy with efforts and activities of JETAA such as recruitment and promotion of the JET Program, orientation assistance and helping returnees.

The demand for JET participants keeps expanding. We are trying to do our best to meet that demand. We need your support, especially in the area of recruitment and training. Your ideas and your stories about your Japan experience are more exciting for potential participants than anything else. Also, your cultural activities are important such as JETAA demonstrate origami, ikebana and sumo performances.

Your efforts to promote internationalization at grass roots level is also very important to us.

I encourage you to work together to promote your efforts through JETAA. I believe that it is important to consolidate in manpower and finances to achieve your goals through this organization. The Japanese government will do whatever we can to help and support you.

Make use of today to exchange ideas and strengthen your networks. Meet old friends and make new ones. Enjoy Atlanta.

GLOBALIZATION OF JETAA: COUNTRY PROFILES

Mr. Michael Levy, USA

State of JETAA in the United States.

Results of the survey that was conducted:

- 18 regions...1 subchapter Philadelphia
- List:
Washington, New York, Philadelphia, New England (Boston), Atlanta, New Orleans, Miami, Chicago, Kansas City, Houston, Rocky Mountains (Denver), Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Anchorage, Great Lakes (Detroit), and Minneapolis
- New chapter in Texas...San Antonio/Austin
- 14 of 19 responded to our survey
- Mandate or mission statement: 10 have 4 do not
- Bylaws: 13 out of 14 have bylaws
- Executive Board 13/14
- Positions: President/V.P./Secretary/Treasurer/Membership/Newsletter/Event Coordinator
- Committees: social, newsletter, career day, community outreach, hi-tech, web page, athletic, non profit status, job bank, resume bank, membership, financial planning, silent auction, charitable fundraising, database (tomodachi directory), culture/education /school visitations/ sub chapter development/marketing manager/ volunteer work / language lessons / historian /

- Incorporated chapters with non profit status...only two are non profit...Chicago and San Francisco
- Benefits and drawbacks to the status..those chapters who are currently considering it should talk to Libby W. and Jennifer C.
- Seattle looked at it seriously and ran into a problem..if non profit status was established it was required that 1/3 of funding come from public sources...that through a wrench into the process....needs to be looked into further. Chicago and SF have not heard about that requirement.

- Chapter non-alumni members..most chapters have exclusively jets some said about 5%...spouses..partners etc.

- Little participation from alum that come from cities where there is no chapter...problem to deal with..there has however been an outreach from chapters to include members outside of the designated cities
- New chapters

Columbus
Louisville
San Diego
Spokane Washington
Charlotte
Phoenix
Dallas
San Antonio

- Outreach...busload to charlotte (Atlanta chapter)
Detroit-Columbus
Houston regional conference
- Joint chapter activities ...
sumo basho in Vancouver (L.A., San Fran., Seattle, and Vanc.), regional conference in Texas
- Dues: San Fran only chapter that enforces dues--\$20--most likely will stop doing it)
Some chapters ask for donations instead of charging dues.
- Newsletters...13/14 have a newsletter. Frequency....10 send out more than twice a year
- Newsletter sent to current jets in Japan...Houston chapter does it once a year before JET's return...Seattle going to also
- 6 resume banks and job banks. Some chapter have one but not the other.
- Marketing efforts being made for job creation...pamphlet in Houston and Great Lakes distributed to Japan related or Japanese related businesses promoting JETAA
- Involvement in promoting JET program.....all 14 chapters are involved in doing this...some cases done exclusively with the Consulate...other cases chapters independently promotes the program
- Social Activities....thriving...promoting a social network...meet others with common experience
- Activities:
sushi night, Bonenkai, hiking trips, sake and sumo night, restaurant hopping, tsukimi (moon viewing), karaoke, festivals, Christmas (holiday) party, pot luck party, Bill Higgins' Beer Garden meetings, monthly happy hour, softball, Cinema Night for Japanese movies, welcome back barbecue, Night at the opera (Madame Butterfly), Reverse Culture Shock Symposium, Evening Banquet at regional conference, joint happy hour with other Japan-related or international organizations, Octoberfest, bowling Night, sporting events (ie. Dodgers game), nengajo, JET baby shower, okinomiyaki party, ice skating party
- Many chapters have a working relationship with one or many Japan related institutions, such as Japan America Society, JETRO, Consulates, Asia Society, sister city programs....
- Many chapters involved Habitat, silent auction, soup kitchen, relay for life, japan fest volunteer, school visits, rotary club, public library workshops.

I am fascinated by what is happening in the U.S. Where else have you ever seen a group of alumni whose bond is a former employment/employer?

Program has a great influence on all of our lives. It is important to maintain that link, to the program to those involved in the program, to the Japanese community and to maintain a connection to Japan. Certainly being done in the U.S.

Since I have been involved in the JET Alumni Association...sincere dedication to the development of the association regionally and now internationally. There is a crying out for help from less organized chapters. Assistance from the more mature chapters should and will probably be seen soon.

Mr. Tom Robles, Canada

There are only seven chapters in Canada at the moment: JETAA BC based in Vancouver, JETAA Calgary, JETAA Edmonton, JETAA Manitoba/Saskatchewan based in Winnipeg, JETAA Toronto, JETAA Ottawa and JETAA Montreal. There may be future chapters established in Victoria and in Atlantic Canada.

STATE OF THE NATION: A YEAR IN REVIEW OF CANADIAN JETAA CHAPTERS

Nineteen ninety-eight seems to be quite an active year for Canadian JET Alumni Associations. With more chapters forming and a recent injection of new members, namely recent returnees from Japan, continuity is assured and fresh ideas cultivated. In addition, with most people accessing the World Wide Web, keeping in contact with one another via the Internet, is fast becoming a common occurrence.

The active Associations share common events during the year including conducting JET Program Presentations in the fall, helping in the interview process for choosing the new JET's, taking part in the Orientation Sessions in late spring and producing quarterly newsletters. A few have mandates and by-laws which aid in effectively administering the affairs of each chapter, including outlining the duties and electoral procedures of Executive members. Most require an annual membership fee (approximately \$15.00 CDN) which help offset the costs of producing newsletters and some social activities. The remainder of annual costs is often borne by local consulates designated to oversee particular chapters.

The frequency and scope of activities varies from chapter to chapter with those who have ready access to consulates or embassies generally having more opportunities to implement certain projects. Chapters, for the most part, are well-supported by their representative consulate, regardless of their proximity to them. Local consulate staff often reiterates that the initiative for the implementation of projects and activities must come from the respective chapter, with the consulates taking on an advisory role.

In the Western provinces, for instance, two newly-created JET Alumni Associations – namely the Northern Alberta JET Alumni Association and the Calgary JET Alumni Association; as well as the possibility of a third in Saskatchewan – have been generously supported by their Consulate in Edmonton.

Recent financial cutbacks to consulate budgets have affected the range and types of activities each chapter can undertake, leaving chapter members to scale down their social and official activities. There is also the issue of purpose. Apart from providing returnees with the necessary emotional and social support which they require, as well as conducting recruitment and orientation services for potential and new JET's, chapters are now restructuring their mandates, including with them more involvement in the local communities. Montreal JETAA, for instance, is actively involved in school visits to talk about Japan. These are conducted in conjunction with their local Japanese Cultural Community Association. Manitoba-Saskatchewan JETAA regularly meets with local international students studying ESL for social activities like glow-bowling or cuisine nights at their local Japanese-Canadian cultural centre. British-Columbia JETAA conducts "Career Day" with members whereby local industry representatives speak on topics that are of interest to Alumni. They also have Round Table Discussions on political, social, cultural and educational issues.

(Note Chapter Handouts were circulated giving information on each chapter. This will be included in the final report)

Ms. Catherine Wallace, Oceania

Australia is one of founding countries on the JET program. We have had good participation in the past although we are a relatively small country. We have had about 200 participants per year.

JETAA Canberra..helps in recruitment. Officially there are 5 chapters in Australia.

The largest chapter is the one based in Sydney and the smallest is Tasmania.

I phoned the reps in each chapter to talk to them...there has not been a lot of communication in the past so this is a good start for us, motivated by this conference.

Our level of organization of JETAA is not as developed as North America.

The number of members and active members definitely differ.

Canberra, where I am from has a very good relationship with our Embassy.

Funding comes mostly from the Embassy and Consulates as they subsidize our activities.

There are no membership fees.

Sydney has membership fees but has trouble collecting because it is not mandatory.

High participation rate with partners and spouses.. JETAA baby membership increasing by the month. Also, embassy staff come to the activities and we send the newsletter to them.

Areas that we would like to improve:

- Selection process (Canberra more advanced..recruit...shortlist..interview and orientation)
- Formal and informal promotion of JETAA.
- Looking at expanding on marketing and promotion...targeting educational sector and government...ie. I took leave from Govt. to go on JET program. There may be other employees interested in the program..not just college graduates.

Japan relations:...sister cities (Nara)...biggest export market. Promoting other types of relationships...cultural and educational.

Looking to get more involved with programs related to Japan...sister city relationship.

We are doing things with Australia-Japan associations.

Personal view...of what we like to see of JETAA International:

Increased understanding and bonding with other chapters present and all the countries involved in the program, ie. full involvement with all countries...increased participation from other countries....believe in new ideas and diversity etc.

Need strong consolidation for JETAA International.

Build a stronger organization that will promote friendship with Japan and also between the participating countries..

<u>TERRITORY</u>	<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>ACTIVE</u>
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Capital Territory	35	12
New South Wales	100+	
Victoria	100	
Queensland	20	
South Australia	40	10
Tasmania	12	4
West Australia	100	20
Northern Terr.		
New Zealand	50	

Activities

- JET Selection: Shortlisting, Interview Panel
- JET Orientation:Q/A, Jet Journeys Book, Handbook (Canberra-JETaway), Japanese lessons, Pre-departure orientation, information night, farewell party, JET Hotline, workshops and seminar, dinner
- Support for Returnees: informal advice, welcome home party or dinner

- JETAA Social: O-hanami, dinners, cocktail party, movie screening, AGM with Consular Offices
- Meetings/Newsletters: Canberra-4 times a year (meetings and newsletters); NSW-once every 2 months; VIC-4 newsletters a year; TAS-periodic meetings; WA-4 newsletters a year, NZ-1 newsletter thus far
- Other: School visit program, web site, essay competition judging, cultural exhibition, information seminars, Japan society activities
- Proposed activities: wine and cheese evening for returnees, web pages, JETAA International Conference Sydney 2000, JETAA Trans Tasman Conference (joint conference between Australia and New Zealand)

Ms. Paula Kelly, Ireland

1998 marks 10th anniversary of Irish participation in the JET program

Two related activities: contacted original participants to have a bonenkai and reunion

Also to do a profile on each of the original year participation to find out what they are doing now.

Ireland history with Japan is about 100 years...Lafcadio Hearn..he said...write all your experiences down to remember them.

Ireland Japan association and JETRO are both active

Dublin...and Matsue are sister cities.

Gaimusho in Tokyo sponsored a European wide essay competition. She won so she went to Japan for two weeks.

Each year Ireland participation has grown ..originally it was 18 now it is 50.

When they come back what do they do...biggest issue is try to find a job

Changed name to IJET

This year made draft constitution.

JET presence on the interview panel for new JETS, orientation session (workshops and modules)..also Irish Foreign affairs person talks about being Irish in Japan

Another newsletter for Irish participants in Japan...idea and article exchange with IJET newsletters...contact with current participants.

Upon arrival home encourage to contact with Embassy...returnee reception.

Travelling Photo Exhibition..alumni give photographs..which are mounted and are suitable for photo shows and cultural promotions. Loaned the exhibition to library and schools as well as arts and cultural festival...refundable deposit charge

Fostering Irish-Japanese links: convinced one Japanese restaurants to do a cooking demonstrations...help from the Embassy....filled an auditorium of a culinary school to show Irish people how easy to cook Japanese food.

Calligraphy workshop, Haiku workshop and competition with the Ireland Japan Association.

Newsletter is going well.

Funding: IJET would not exist without the generosity of the Embassy.

No membership fees at this time.

Activities are sponsored by the Embassy or ourselves.

IJET has been involved in promotion of Japanese studies through exchange...Japanese or Irish cultural awareness programs. (reverse JET program)

Thank Embassy and CLAIR London especially Kaneko-san for all his help.

Also...Yvette Pharo and Anita Chandan for all their work. Also Michael McVey

Mr. Daniel Lintz, Eastern Japan (Tokyo)

There are two chapters in Japan, Eastern and Western Japan. We are different from all other chapters. We share some experience and objectives but our chapters are quite different in terms of membership and activities from all other JETAA Chapters around the world.

Most of the overseas chapters, one of the main functions are to support the recruitment and selection of JET program participants

Another main role....support returning JETs and to provide professional and career advice and support.

Also provides a Japan link and bond for participants. Japan related activities and event. Nice way to touch base with Japan and spend time and share experiences

Japan based JETs are very different....many of Alumni have extended contracts outside the JET program...ie. ALTs who are popular are asked to stay on independent from the program. Ie. One guy in Tokushima has been there for 9 years.

Nagano Olympics hired about 40 former CIRs for the Olympic Games.

A number of reasons why people stay. Not everyone stays or extends for the same reason. Many come home and then return to Japan later for work or whatever.

The members are very diverse..some are very much a part of the JET community and associate and identify more with them.

In contrast from Overseas chapters..membership is from a number of different countries. Common factor is that they are all living in Japan.

Purpose and objective and needs are different. Need for distribution of information, social activities etc are very different. Challenges to organize activities (social events) due to time constraints, busy schedules, distances etc.

Given that we have this type of situation in Japan, with people that have other commitments (time and professional) as well as other competing factors. Japan chapters have been slow to start.

People that stay in Japan only stay one to two years....high turnover rate in membership.

In contrast to getting support from Japanese Embassy and Consulates...there is no such connection.

But still this does not mean that there is no need or role for JETAA Japan. Ie. When many JETAA leave their job in Japan they are often asked to find their own replacements. Acting as a clearinghouse of this type.

Newsletter has been a bit difficult to do....going to do a home page. Send out one letter to let everyone know that there is going to be a home page and an email news network.

In addition we have been holding some discussions about AJET....doing a job fair. Interested in running another job fair this year...with more information about Jobs in their home countries...CLAIR Non renewers conference...they want to know what opportunities are available as early as possible to use at this conference to help those returning home. Re. cooperation of AJET...meeting with them soon and I can relay any messages to AJET reps as well as the nationality reps. The purpose to meet with them is to discuss job bank data and also organizing job fair and non renewers.

Want to focus on more cooperation on the chamber of commerce of different countries based in Japan. Joint JETAA-Chamber of Commerce activities...interested to also hear from Japan Society offices worldwide.

Also, seem to be a lot of interest for JETAA who have returned...JETAA Japan are thinking about letting members to be an in-country contact in Japan. Overseas reps could use this as a resource....to be in contact with JET Alumni.

JETAA Japan Home Page was scheduled to be launched in August but because of the International conference this will be postponed until January. Type of assistance we need from overseas chapters...link to their home pages.

One of the Main purposes of JET Alumni in Japan would be to serve the JETAA Community as an in-country (Japan) contact and to assist in coordination of activities.

JETAA INTERNATIONAL: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Following a closed session for Chapter representatives only from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. which included open discussion, submission of draft bylaws, mission statement, new logo etc and voting, the following was presented to the representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Council for Local Authorities on International Relations (CLAIR Tokyo) and JLGC (Japan Local Government Center New York)

BYLAWS

I. Official Name: The Japan Exchange and Teaching Program(me) Alumni Association - International (JETAA - International). **APPROVED**

II. Geographical Boundaries: JETAA International in conjunction with CLAIR and the relevant Japanese Ministries will recognize chapters defined by geographical regions. **APPROVED**

III. Mission Statement:

JETAA International is an organization dedicated to fostering positive relations between Japan and the home countries of JETAA chapters, serving as a support and network group for JETAA chapters and promoting the success of the JET Program(me). **APPROVED**

IV. Objectives (APPROVED)

Objectives of JETAA International

1. To provide support for and facilitate communications between JETAA chapters
2. To promote international awareness
3. To serve as a resource for the community
4. To act as a liaison body between JETAA Chapters and official bodies in Japan and JETAA Chapter regions
5. To promote and publicize JETAA

V. Leadership Structure: To be drafted by Bylaws committee no later than December 31, 1998. Approval by JETAA International Members (Chapter reps) no later than February 1, 1999. (Here in recognized as TBD...To be Drafted)

VI. Job Descriptions:

- A. **Chapter Representatives:** TBD
- B. **Country Representatives:** *TBD*
- C. **Executive Committee:** *TBD*
- D. **Officers:**
 1. **Chairperson:**
 2. **Vice Chair:**
 3. **Secretary/Communications Officer**
 4. **Treasurer:**

V. Procedures:

- A. **Membership:** TBD
- B. **Elections:**
- TBD
- C. **Voting:** TBD

INTERIM ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE

Anita Chandan (Montreal) Bill Higgins (Philadelphia) Yvonne Thurman (New York) Daniel Lintz (Tokyo)
Tom Robles (Winnipeg)

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Representatives from the following Chapters will draft bylaws, present to the Chapter representatives no later than December 31, 1998. A one month evaluation period will be given and a final copy must be submitted by February 1, 1999. Bylaws committee will report to Interim Organization Committee which will be responsible to officially give bylaws to appropriate Ministries and organizations.

Dublin Canberra San Francisco Edmonton L.A. Houston Denver Japan East Minnesota

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 1999 SUGGESTIONS

Each chapter must receive approval from their Consulates and local chapters. Once approval is received, the chapter representative must inform in writing to Interim organization committee. Interim organization committee will then make the official request to all relevant Ministries and organizations.

**CHICAGO
LOS ANGELES
HOUSTON
VANCOUVER**

JETAA INTERNATIONAL LOGO

Following the presentation of 23 choices of the new official logo for JETAA International logo, the chapter representatives voted on the top 2 choices. The top choice can be now seen on the header page of the JETAA Web site. The two logo options were presented to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CLAIR at the conference.

JETAA WEB SITE UPDATE

\$3000 Grant provided two years ago by the Japan Local Government Center in New York.
Money was put into an account and used for an Internet service provider
\$25 per month for the ISP. We have the Internet account to year 2006
Virtual Domain called jet.org
Any chapter can put their web site on this service for free.
All chapters will receive a password so that each chapter can access their information and update as necessary. Also, Michael can be contacted to do the update for you.

We now have an average of 152 users per day (last year 47 per day)
Electronic update of JETAA contact information
JETAAWeb discussion group for JETAA International
New Section will be on JETAA International Issues. All relevant information will be posted in this section with access to all chapter representatives, consulates, Embassies, Ministries, organizations and JETAA general membership.