The Second Japan—America Grassroots Summit

This summit will take place from September 19th to 26th, 1992. Meetings will be held in Boston, Missoula (Montana) and Casper (Wyoming). The Summit will be organized by the Grassroots Exchange Foundation, in cooperation with the John Manjiro Society and a range of other organizations, including JETRO, the Center for Global Partnership, as well as local governments in the US and Japan.

The organizers are making a special effort to include current and former JETs among the 500 Americans expected to participate in the Summit (a similar number of Japanese citizens will travel to the US to attend). Any American JETAA members who would like more details about this event should contact the following address: Representative office of the Executive Committee of the Japan America Grassroos Summit, c/o Pacific Select, 1500 Broadway, Suite 2207, New York, NY 10036, Attn: Mr. Hiji Kanno, Member of the John Manjiro Society. Tel: 212-575-2460; Fax: 212-575-2468.

JET Program (me) Commemorates Fifth Year by Charles Browne

The JET Program, and the MEF Program before that, has been an important part of my life for almost seven years now. I worked in Kumamoto for two years on the MEF Program (1985-87), and was fortunate enough to be elected AJET first national chairperson (1987-88). Although I left the JET Program to take a position as the coordinator of a chain of English conversation schools, I am still able to stay involved with the program through regular attendance at CLAIR steering committee meetings. While the program has undergone considerable growth and change over the years, the criticisms it receives, as well as the elements which have made it successful, seem to have hardly changed at all.

When I first came over in 1985, everyone was talking about the drastic increase in the number of MEFs that year (we went from 80 to 120), and many were worried about a drop in the quality of the program.

Nothing could prepare us, however, for the changes which occurred as the MEF Program and BETS were discontinued and merged to form the basis for the (then) new JET Program. The number of participants jumped over 400% from 185 to 850, the number of English speaking countries sending over participants grew 2 to 4, and control of the program moved from being solely under the auspices of the Ministry of Education to being shared with the Ministries of Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs. Although the office of CLAIR was created that year to help the smooth running of the program, most of the new staff members knew little about the structure and workings of the old BETS/MEF Program, and it was

(continued on page 5)
As the fifth year of the JET Program draws to a close, about 1600 JET participants will depart from the Program and pursue their careers and academic endeavors. In these, we at CLAIR wish them the best of success. At the same time, with the receipt of their first issue of JET Streams, we wish to invite them to join the current members of the JET Alumni Association.

The JETAA is composed of 34 regions and over 1700 former JET participants. The JETAA adopts the regional approach in order to promote activity within geographical areas. To become a member, non-renewing and former JETS, as well as BETS and MEF participants simply need to return an Information Form to CLAIR or notify CLAIR or a Regional Representative of their interest in joining.

The regional membership organize activities within the region. Most often, these activities are the result of a good working relationship between the alumni in the region and the Consulate or Embassy of Japan located there. These activities include assistance in JET Pre-Departure Orientation, preparation for materials for the same, Q & A sessions and telephone banks for new JETs prior to their departure, university presentations to potential applicants, and assistance with interviewing JET candidates.

CLAIR has approved a budget to fund specifically designated activities within each region. The Regional Representative should apply to CLAIR for a grant in assistance. Upon approval, CLAIR will send the money to the local Consulate or Embassy for disbursement.

CLAIR publishes JET Streams and the JETAA Directory. We warmly welcome any and all submissions to JET Streams, and given enough submissions, we will publish it quarterly. Regular columns that offer information about jobs and educational opportunities thrive on alumni contributions. CLAIR publishes the JETAA Directory annually in January based on the most recent membership lists submitted by Regional Reps. CLAIR mails these publications to all members listed in the Directory through our offices in New York and London.

The Regional Representative and other alumni elected or appointed to various positions organize activities at the local level. While there does exist a set of Regulations and Supplementary Provisions, they are antiquated and currently under revision. Generally, however, each region should organize itself around democratically agreed upon guidelines and pursue activities in a responsible manner.

Ideally, regional chapters can do a lot to promote the alumni’s activity in the JET Program, making businesses, universities and professional organizations similarly interested in Japan aware of the Program and thereby improving JET alumni’s employment and academic opportunities. Additionally, the JETAA can be a locally organized pool of Japanphiles that can continue the process of internationalization—this time at the grass roots level in their home country. Better than most citizens in your country, you have come to learn about Japan through local, governmental, and professional contact; you can therefore offer an informed opinion about “the real Japan.”

We are eager to hear about your activities after the JET Program and to share them with others. In addition to JET Streams, CLAIR publishes the JET Journal semiannually and the CIR Report annually. I wish to thank sincerely all the contributors to this edition of JET Streams.

To close, I would like to offer on behalf of the CLAIR Management our best wishes for success and future endeavors. We hope that sometime in the future—perhaps at a JETAA reception held during our fall business trips overseas, or if you return to Japan—we shall meet again. In any event, please keep in touch with us through the JETAA.

Scott Olinger
JETAA Liaison

The Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) publishes JET Streams for JET Alumni Association members. Direct inquiries and contributions to:

CLAIR
Attn: JETAA Liaison
Nisei Kojimachi Building, 4F
Kudan Minami 3-3-6
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan 〒102

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**JETAA Membership**

|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
**GETTING A REAL JOB**

As noted in the January JET Streams, the New York region has started a resume service based on an advertisement placed in the Japanese Chamber of Commerce directory. Here’s a follow-up on its success.

**Jobs for JETS!** Through the efforts of our President, Suzette Brown, the JETAA Resume Book is starting to come to fruition. Already we have received resumes from 10 former JETS and are hoping that by year end we will have a decent size book to send to large corporations. To date, two companies have responded to the advertisement: AT&T and Lewin Coblin Associates. AT&T is currently seeking a bilingual sales staff. Lewin Coblin is a personnel service that has a bilingual marketing opening in a major company in the Satellite Telecommunications Division. Anyone interested in either of these positions or would like to be included in the JETAA Resume Book should submit a resume to: Siobhan Mihara, c/o MCI Telecommunications, 61 Broadway, Suite 2502, New York, NY 10006. TEL: 212-837-4123.

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

**University of Newcastle Upon Tyne: East Asian Studies**

“One of the main aims of the East Asia Centre is to five more impetus to postgraduate studies by providing prospective candidates with a wide choice of courses and supervisors in various East Asia-related fields. It is possible to study for either an MPhil or PhD degree by research, and the Centre has funds available for studentships in Japanese studies. These are currently being completed on such diverse topics as Chinese literature, Chinese regional development, China’s agricultural reforms and EC-Korean economic relations and Japan-Korean political relations.

“In addition, a one year (full-time) or two year (part-time) taught MA course is provided in conjunction with Durham University. It has three elements: East Asian contextual bibliography, East Asian history (1600-1949), and East Asian politics (1945-present). Students are also required to submit a dissertation of up to 15,000 words. Here students can apply for a ‘half scholarship’ provided by the University. Currently there are 12 British and foreign postgraduate students doing research or attending courses on East Asia at the Department of Politics, and the number is expected to increase further in 1992.”

For further information, please contact Professor Reinhard Drifte, Director, East Asia Centre, University of Newcastle, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE1 7RU, Great Britain. TEL: 091-222-6444.

**READINGS**

The May 1992 edition of the *Japanese Studies Bulletin* of the Japanese Studies Association of Australia contains several interesting articles about the JET Program. Articles were written by the following alumni: Antony Cominos, Anthony Gribbin, Catherine Taylor, and Lynette Wood, and current JET participants Donald Gibbons (Silberberg) and Gregory V. G. O’Dowd. The lead article was written by Maureen Todhunter. The *Japanese Studies Bulletin* is published in the Division of Asian and International Studies, Griffith University, Queensland 4111.

Dr. Douglas Barry (see Note Board) brought to our attention a new book. The book is entitled *Internationalizing the U.S. Classroom: Japan as a Model*. The articles, grouped under the headings “Professional Development”, “Curriculum Design and Enhancement”, and “Exchange”, should be of interest to alumni who are teachers and educational administrators and who wish to apply their experience in Japan in their classrooms. According to the Forward, “this publication succeeds in presenting compelling reasons for internationalizing the social studies classroom. It also includes valuable cases of effective curriculum development and instructional strategies.” To order a copy, please contact ERIC Clearinghouse for Social Studies/Social Science Education (ERIC/ChESS), 2805 East Tenth St., Bloomington, IN 47408-2698. Tel: 812–855–3838; Fax: 812–855–7901.

The following was submitted by Mr. Richard Oslund (AET, Saga, 1989-91) to the February 1992 Ottawa JETAA Newsletter and is reprinted here.

**The New Romans**

As someone who misspent much of his teenage years reading about Julius Caesar, Hadrian and their contemporaries, life in Japan was in many ways a series of eerie deja vu experiences.

Some of the similarities between the ancient Romans and today’s Japanese are obvious. Both peoples loved public bathing, for example. The Roman built enormous baths called *thermae* in all their major cities. And some Roman towns owed their entire existence to a nearby source of mineral water.

Other similarities are harder to spot. Names, for example. Roman parents often gave their children names based on the order in which they were born. Primus, Secundus, Quintus, Sextus and Septimus, for example, are all fine Roman names, and they mean nothing more than “First boy”, “Second boy”, “Fifth boy”, “Sixth boy” and “Seventh boy.”

Now, no one who has lived in Japan any length of time has failed to meet an “Ichiro”, a “Jiro” or a
"Saburo". But these names also mean nothing more than "First boy", "Second boy" and "Third boy".

Like the Japanese, the Romans also calculated dates from the year in which the current emperor mounted the throne. In Canada, as in most of the rest of the world, it's currently 1991. But in Japan it's Heisei 3, since the current emperor succeeded his father three years ago.

The Romans kept up this year-numbering method they adopted Christianity, after spending 250 years—exceedingly bloody years—trying to exterminate it; just about the same length of time the Japanese devoted to the same task.

Intolerance of Christianity was really quite ironic for both the Romans and the Japanese, since both cultures were otherwise extremely open to foreign religious influences. The Japanese seem to have little trouble being Shintoists and Buddhists at the same time, while Romans readily adopted virtually every religious fad that came along.

Like the Japanese, the Romans raised ancestor worship to a state cult. Roman families passed death masks of their ancestors down from generation to generation, praying to them for guidance in times of trouble. Japanese do the same to the photographs of their dead ancestors.

Romans and Japanese are also similar in their attitude toward foreign cultures, namely unquestioning adoration.

Romans absorbed every aspect of Greek culture they could get their hands on. They were uncannily skilled at imitating Greek painting and sculpture, although few art historians would suggest they ever surpassed their models.

The Romans were much better at absorbing foreign technology. During the First Punic War, the Romans, who knew almost nothing of seafaring, captured a beached Carthaginian warship. In a matter of months, they made hundreds of copies of the ship and won the naval battle that followed against the leading sea power of the time.

In 1854, Commodore Perry's steamships were met in Edo Bay by little more than overgrown rowboats. Fifty years later, the Japanese bled a state-of-the-art European navy out of the water at Tsushima.

Roman education consisted in large part of rote memorization. Roman students were expected to commit extensive tracts of the Iliad and the Odyssey to memory. Sound familiar?

Also familiar to anyone who has attended a Bonenkai would be Roman behavior during the festival of Lupercalia. During the festival, the men of Rome would get drunk, strip and run through the streets of the city making lewd gestures to all the women they met. And nothing they did on that day could be held against them later.

Deja vu.

All over again.

(continued from page 1)
but it is interesting to look at the similarities in personality and mindset among those participants who have reported the most successes and positive experiences. Think of your friends who like(d) their JET experience for a moment. Do any of the following personality traits describe them? Positive, flexible, energetic, people-oriented, a win-win attitude when confronted with conflict, non-judgmentalness about Japanese culture and customs, patience, a willingness to learn...

Although I do agree that there is a lot that can be done organizationally to improve the effectiveness of the program, I also believe that the key to its successes over the years has had a lot to do with the commitment and positive attitudes displayed by many of the participants.

Change in Japan can often seem to move along at a snail’s pace. There is no doubt in the minds of many, however, that the JET Program is working as a catalyst, building up pressure for change within the system at many different levels. As more students, teachers, parents, principals, and government officials have contact with JET participants, the more likely it will be that positive change can occur. I for one, have been greatly enriched through my JET experience, and hope that it will continue to grow and positively affect people’s lives for many years to come.

[Charles Browne’s piece has been reprinted from The JET Program(me): Five Years and Beyond, a copy of which will be sent to Regional Representatives.]

AU-5 Canberra
[Ms. Kimberly Lawrence has submitted two reports since the last JET Streams, indicating that the Canberra region is becoming very active. Ms. Lawrence has developed a good working relationship with the embassy, though the official was a bit surprised to find she is Canadian! Ms. Lawrence returned to Canada in May, so Ms. Michele McAvoy will replace her as Regional Rep.]

About a week after our first meeting, the embassy sponsored a dinner for ex-JETs and ex-Mombusho participants. Our host was the deputy ambassador Mr. Inoki, who was accompanied by Counselor Nakajima and First Secretary of Cultural Affairs Watanabe. Previous to the dinner, the six of us who attended participated in a mini-conference with Mr. Watanabe where we discussed our impressions of and suggestions for the JET program as a whole. Mr. Watanabe was very receptive to our ideas (even though he was in a room alone with six very vocal English-speaking women!) All in all, the three embassy representatives were pleasantly surprised to learn of the existence of JETAA in Canberra and were very interested in our suggestions for local orientation of new participants. We are hoping to obtain a list of future JETs and establish a telephone tree whereby they can contact alumni whenever they have a query. This, of course, would supplement organised Q & A sessions or “learn before you go” workshops. We have also discussed compiling a small collection of anecdotes from our time in Japan to perhaps enlighten the serious mood of orientation. The embassy has agreed with me that a good idea would be to contact Wendy Fletcher in Perth about using her fantastically comprehensive orientation booklets in this region.

FR-1 Paris
[Submitted by Clarisse Carl, translated by Karinn Radtkowsky]

The meeting was held at the Japanese embassy and the persons participating were Mr. Iwamoto, Cultural Department Secretary, Mrs. Allaire, responsible for Assistant Programme at the French Ministry of Education and five members of JETAA-Paris.

It was the first time JET participants and the people who interviewed us could meet after our stay in Japan. We had rather different experiences so each of us explained in detail his/her own situation.

We also mentioned problems concerning the return to our home country. Karinn and Pascal [Grotte] are studying at University, Ghislaine [Gerber] is taking a training programme, Isabelle [Di Giusto] could only find a job as a saleswoman in a shop and is looking for a job in Japan, Clarisse had been looking for a proper job for nearly 6 months and finally got one.

We talked about the orientation JETs received before they left France; we all agreed on the lack of information about the job situation, housing… We must say that
US-2 New York
[Submitted by Ms. Suzette Brown]

Everyone was there. Everyone, that is, except the guests of honor. The President of the Brooklyn Botanical Garden was there. Prominent Japanese officials from business, as well as government showed up and then, of course, there was us. By donning shorts in forty degree [4°C] weather, Bill Higgins' knees even made a grand appearance. However, the sakura stayed home.

Nary a bloom was seen on such a dark and dreary day. But that didn't stop JETs from coming out. Fifteen of us came: JETs, JETs-by-association, JETs-by-engagement and last, but not least, our JETAA caretakers at the Japan Local Government Center (a. k. a. CLAIR, NY), Akira Himori and Yoshihiro Takahashi. We huddled for hours hoping to bring warmth to a winter's day mistakenly filed under "spring" on Mother Nature's calendar.

Expecting JETs from throughout the Tri-State area to arrive, we waived a make-shift banner fervently—JET! JET! JET!—to the bewilderment of the non-JET bystander. Spectators began taking periodic glimpses skyward. "What's happening here?" seemed to be etched on the faces of those in our immediate vicinity, after all, "there wasn't a show above us. It was up front wasn't it?" Yes. It was up front and we had no desire to compete.

Down went the sign in deference to those speaking. The opening ceremony was generic and proprieties. Mr. Motoi Okubo, the new Deputy Consul-General at the Japanese Consulate, filled in at the last minute for the ambassador. Then my boss from the Japanese Chamber of Commerce spoke, followed by a Mr. Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Ms. NYC Mayor’s Office and so on as they all appeared to leave the demure, little Japanese tiara-topped woman sitting to the right of the podium for the very last. Saving the best for last, eh? Rumor had it that it was Miss Tokyo.

Alas! The rumor was disputed, thus, dashing many of the hopes and hears of the men present (our own Takahashi-san included). Apparently, the "Grand Tiara" didn't show—so, just who was that sitting on the stage? Miss Chiba, perhaps? Miss Saitama? or Miss Chiyoda-kun? No. On the podium sat "Miss New York Nichibe." Who would have ever imagined that there could be a "Miss New York Nichibe?" Could a "Miss New York Yaohan" be not far behind? Maybe they're roommates. Anyhow, standing about 5'5", slim, with long hair, and a bang, I couldn't shake the feeling that she looked familiar.

Next, a rendition of a scene from Pucci's "Madame Butterfly." Two Americans, clad in Japanese kimonos, were singing in Italian. "Senorina! Senorina!" pleaded the maid as her mistress planted a big, wet one on her cheek. It was a nice touch of "EXPO 92" before my own eyes.

Later there were drummers, Yagura-taiko, followed by much, much more—but we had had much, too much already. Our frostbitten limbs could stand no more.

Ahhhhhhhhhhhhh!

It was a good day, it was a great day, it was a cold day. Unlike the fleeting sakura, the day was the end of one little chapter in an epic yet to unfold.

US-13 San Francisco
[Submitted by Ms. Natallie Kraft]

As of Spring 1992, Lenore Espanola and Natalie Kraft are the new co-representatives of the Northern California JETAA with a very active Steering Committee backing them up.

The last few months have been mainly dedicated to organizational activities. We are working on our by-laws and other procedures necessary to become a recognized non-profit organization in the State of California. Kevin McGee and Andrew Kirk have been busy putting together a quarterly newsletter entitled "Pacific Bridge," which has received financial support from the San Francisco Consulate. Other committees are working on a job networking organization, including resume’ and job files as well as community outreach programs into public schools and other Asian organizations.

Continuing our close interaction with the Consulate, more than fifteen alumni lent a hand at the May 31 orientation, the crucial gathering in the continued efforts to get a well-prepared and enthusiastic bunch out to "kokusai" through the JET program. Everyone involved found the three hour meeting to be very useful. Learning from past experiences the Consulate organized and early orientation, leaving new JETs time to act on all the valuable information imparted to them and left plenty of time for participants to ask questions small group and large group forums. With our organizational tasks behind us the US-13 JETAA looks forward to active involvement in the Northern California international community and to sharing our experience in Japan.

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JETAA Survey

CLAIR would like to organize a survey of JET alumni opinions. While we have several topics in mind, we would be interested to hear what topics and specific questions alumni would like to ask of their colleagues? Please send your suggestions for the survey to the JETAA Liaison at CLAIR. The survey and responses will run in subsequent editions of JET Streams.
Consulate to Host Alumni Reception in San Francisco

The Consulate General in San Francisco will host a reception on September 4, 1992, to welcome back alumni returning to the area. The reception will also provide an excellent opportunity for recent returnees to meet JETAA members already residing here. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ellen Nearman, JET Office, Consulate General of Japan, 50 Fremont St., Suite 2200, San Francisco, CA 94105, Tel: 415-777-3533, as soon as possible so that you receive the more detailed information that will be sent out later in the summer! Looking forward to seeing you in September!

Attention JETs from Alaska.

Dr. Douglas Barry, Deputy Director of the Alaska Center for International Business and World Trade Center Alaska at the University of Alaska in Anchorage, is interested in hearing from you upon your return. In addition to authoring several articles (see Readings) and television programs about Japan and US/Alaska relations, he is interested in involving you and your experiences in his work at the university. Please feel free to contact him at the Center above, 4201 Tudor Centre Drive, Suite 120, Anchorage, AK 99508. Tel.: 907-561-2322; Fax: 907-561-1541.

Additionally, he has volunteered to be a contact person for the JETAA in Alaska. With this in mind, perhaps this year is a good one to start an Anchorage chapter? If you are interested, check the box on the Information Form or contact the JETAA Liaison at CLAIR.


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France: Ms. Sandrine Gabara, Domirur Furusho 201, Orimoto 1-2-15, Yamaguchishi, Yamaguchi-ken 740.


Ireland: Ms. Aileen McCaul, Kodanawa Higehits B-22, Asakura ko 137-1, Kochi-shi, Kochi-ken 780.

New Zealand: Mr. Steve Grey, Rowaimu CL 208, Shiodara Shinden 1180-9, Hamaoka-cho, Shiwaoka-ken 437-16.

United Kingdom: Ms. Gillian Place, Shimoaia 629-23, Komagane-shi, Nagano-shi, Nagano-ken 399-41.

United States: Mr. Adam Schneider, Sun Heights 201, Sakanoue-taira 3101-10 ko, Komoro-shi, Nagano-ken 384.


Employment Agencies

The January issue of JET Streams contained eight employment agencies and referred to a list supplied to all Regional Representatives. These were submitted by the New York and Los Angeles regions and are reprinted below.


Ryan Search Associates, Mr. Dennis Ryan, 1674 Broadway, New York, NY, 10019. TEL: 212-956-7769.

DPL Management, Ms. Laura Fogel, 8 W. 38th St., New York, NY 10018. TEL: 212-302-7990.


Nihon Manpower (NMP of America, Inc.), 3440 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 609, Los Angeles, CA 90010.

Persona, Inc., Headquarters, 444 South Flower St., Main Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90071.

Career Jumpstarters USA, 3250 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 805, Los Angeles, CA 90010.

JET Program(me) Essay Competition

Over the coming months CLAIR will be sponsoring an essay competition for JET participants and members of the JET Alumni Association. The purposes of the competition are to promote a deeper and more thorough analysis of the impact of the JET Programme and to encourage a more thoughtful approach to improving it.

Eligibility: Entrants must be JET Programme participants or members of the JET Alumni Association (JETAA) on 15 November 1992.

Application Period: Entries will be accepted between November 15 and December 15 1992. Entries postmarked later than 15 December 1992 will not be accepted.

Essay Format: Entries will be between 2,500 and 5,000 words, typed, double spaced on A4 or B5 paper. The number of words must be printed at the end of the essay. Essays must be presented in academic format (including bibliography, references and footnotes) and must present the results of primary research as well as secondary reading. Supporting illustrations, photographs and materials are welcome. Entries must be on a topic decided by CLAIR (see below for titles). Essays must be addressed to: Essay Competition, CLAIR. Essays should be in English. If your native language is not English and you would prefer not to write in English then an English translation should be provided.

Prizes: First Prize: ¥100,000 (or equivalent in foreign currency for JETAA members)
Second Prize: ¥50,000 (or equivalent in foreign currency for JETAA members)
Special Prizes: 5 prizes of ¥10,000 book tokens (or equivalent in foreign currency for JETAA members)
Prizes to be awarded by CLAIR. The right not to award prizes is reserved by CLAIR. Prize winners will be decided by January 31, 1993 and will be announced in the CLAIR Newsletter and JET Streams: The JET Alumni Association (JETAA) Newsletter.

The two winning essays will be printed in the JET Journal or if conditions demand, all prize winning essays will be printed in a separate publication.

Essay Titles: Entrants must choose their own title but the essay must be on one of the below listed topics:

*The JET Program(me) and the Revitalisation of Local Communities.
*The JET Program(me) and International Exchange
*The JET Program(me) and Foreign Language Education
*The JET Program(me) and Me