Spring Greetings
Welcome to the 1998 January edition of JET Streams.
I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who are working hard at regional level to organise events.

JETAA News
JETAA membership currently stands at 6318. A total of 941 JETS - or 37% - who left the programme in 1997 joined JETAA. Recently the number of countries participating in the JET programme as well as the number of actual participants has increased. This has brought a corresponding increase in the diversity of countries in which JETAA are based. Although numbers are still too low to have their own separate region, from this year there are Portuguese, Russian and Spanish JETAA members. It is hoped that in the future as these numbers increase they will be able to form their own regional JETAA branch but in the meantime they have been made association members only.

Update Contact Info
At CLAIR, JETAA names and addresses are entered into our database from mail received. However with the constant change of details it is hard to maintain up-to-date information. At present we update from mail returned, but when personal details change please forward new contact information to BOTH your local JETAA group and CLAIR.

Are you using the INTERNET?
If you are using the internet then it is soon going to be possible to send address updates directly from the ‘Entry Update Form’ on the CLAIR homepage: www.clairstreams.org JETAA International Conference editions then please forward your ideas to the address below.

International JETAA Conference
There are some very active regions and this year saw the 3rd International JETAA Conference which was hosted in Montréal. One of the key aims of this was to exchange ideas between the various countries and regions. For more details see the following page.

JETAA Internet Site
A JETAA Internet Site has finally been developed. This was set up with the assistance of Masako Arai at the Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR) in New York and JETAA funds in California. To access this please use the following address: http://www.jet.org

Picture from International Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Updates</th>
<th>Region 1</th>
<th>Region 2</th>
<th>Region 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JETAA International Conference</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry corner</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey Results</td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reclaim the tax on the pension fund</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Representatives</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nos. of alumni per region</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiku</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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JETAA International Conference - Montreal

By Anita Chandan & Shaun McMahon (JETAA Conference Coordinators)

The Japan Exchange and Teaching Program Alumni Association held its third International Conference from August 8th through 10th, 1997 in Montréal, Canada. Sponsored by the Japan Local Government Center, New York and hosted by JETAA Montréal, it was attended by close to 50 representatives from Canada, the United States, and for the first time the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand, making this the first truly international conference in its three year history.

Following the framework set in the two previous conferences held in New York and San Francisco, representatives participated in seminars, workshops, discussions and social activities. The overall focus in Montréal was to define JETAA's role and purpose in preparation for the 21st Century.

Introductory remarks were offered by Anita Chandan, (Conference Coordinator); Ronn Patton (Host of the San Francisco Conference in 1996); Toshiyuki Otaki (Director, Japan Local Government Center); and Consul General Tadanori Inomata (Consul General of Japan in Montréal).

The formal sessions on Day I began with "The Globalisation of JETAA" as a representative from each nation gave a profile of current issues and activities in their nations' chapters. Speakers included Jason Hicks (Canada); Elisa Hernandez (U.S.A.); David Briggs (U.K.); Donal Garvey (Ireland); Keith Parker (Australia); and David Taylor (New Zealand). These were followed by a presentation and discussion on issues related to membership, led by Mike Levy of Houston, who focused on assessing member needs, effective communication incentives to encourage JETAA membership.

WORKSHOPS

On Day Two a variety of workshops targeted specific issues:

The World Wide Web Update

Presented by Michael McVey (JETAA Web Page Web Master) highlighted the progress since 1996. All but six chapters in the U.S. and Canada now have an e-mail address and all but five have web sites...everyday the number of connections is increasing. The main JETAA site receives hundreds of visitors a month, providing a communication tool for JETAA and a source of information for JET applicants.

Marketing your Chapter

Presented by Blaine Leckett (Montréal) provided practical advice on marketing and creating an easily identifiable image such as a logo on letterhead, posters, t-shirts, web sites and more. The result was the formation of a committee to create a JETAA International logo that could be used by all chapters in addition to their own, as well as an international JETAA brochure that could be used by chapters and members in promoting their own association as well as assisting in job creation since the majority of future employers do not know who JETAA is or what the JET Program is.

Career Development

Presented by Joy Haywood of Pasona Group, a Japanese employment agency outlined how JETAA members should use the skills obtained through their participation on the JET program to further their careers. Social Outreach was the subject of a workshop led by Libby Wolfsensperger of San Francisco as participants broke down into small groups to identify activities that would promote membership and interaction with the local and Japanese communities in their areas.

Funds

The final workshop issues related to funding, presented by, Jean Stutsman of The Royal Victoria Hospital Foundation, offered a step by step approach to successful ways to attain funds for our association. This was of further significance in light of the announcement that funding would not be available for future conferences of this nature.

A panel discussion was last on the agenda for Day Two. Panelists included Mr. Naozane Útada of Yomiuri Shinbun America; Ms. Satoko Ingram of the Japanese Cultural Committee of Montréal; Mr. Consul General Inomata; and Mr. Fumiaki Kuraishi, Director of JETRO Montréal. Each briefly expressed their opinion on the future direction and role of JETAA from a press, cultural, government and business perspective.

Chapter representatives then participated in an open

Mike Levy from Houston Texas JETAA speaking during “Globalization” Session on membership
forum discussion where the following goals and objectives were identified:

1. Establish an open communication structure (Each chapter must have at least one e-mail contact and a web page)
2. Create an international identity for JETAA (through a logo and brochure)
3. Create a mission statement and a mandate
4. Increase cultural activities (JETAA International Travelling Photo Show - to start in Philadelphia in 1998)
5. Find new sources of funding for promotion of the organization and the 1998 Conference
6. Create a sempai-kohai relationship between chapters to assist each other
7. Encourage greater interaction with the overseas Japanese communities
8. Continue to support and promote the JET Program

Aside from the hard work, representatives were treated to a wonderful buffet dinner at the residence of the Consul General of Montréal on Friday evening. Saturday evening's activities included a caleche (horse drawn carriage) ride through Old Montréal to dinner at restaurant Le Vieux Port, hosted by the JLGC. Montréal's Shokokai (Japanese Chamber of Commerce) and Mayor Bourque's Office sponsored a tour of Montréal which included visits to the Botanical Gardens, Mount Royal, the Biodome, and Old Montréal.

JETAA provides an essential support system for former JET participants who are bonded by their JET experience. JETAA is a valuable tool for Consulates and Embassies world wide in promoting the JET program to potential participants and is also an important resource for the Japanese community based abroad. There is a need to reach into the local communities in an effort to advance interaction, whether on social, cultural, education or business levels. The survival and growth of JETAA is crucial and the challenges that we will face in the approaching 21st century will be ones that we will face together.

Poetry Corner

Aftershock (after the Kobe earthquake)

The stars have all dimmed
As though, shrouded, they burn;
The world has ceased spinning
Its inexorable turns;

The clock beat has suddenly
Struck still, and now waits,
As the motes slowly gather
To disrupt the greyed date.

In the woodland, its tenants
Have ceased their rapport,
And the dull thud of heartbeats
Pounds thund'rously raw.

The breeze bends no grasses
With a whispering wave;
And the stream, lost in shadows,
Hides its roar in a cave.

For the coil of the spring
Has now fled from the clock;
And the form of life's fabric
Has been bent, dented, rocked.

Nature's mode hangs dismantled -
Blasted, shocked, cruelly torqued -
In its grief, locked in sadness,
Yearns for orders return:

Like a knight on fate's steed
Snorting furious fire,
Rearing up, breaks the wave,
And abhorations it sires.

Paddy

I lost the ball -
It bounced away.
Without it now,
I cannot play.
I lost it here,
Amongst the reeds -
The only place
Where darkness feeds.
I dare not reach
To look inside,
To place my hand
Where chaos hides.
I'll watch a while,
Then walk away.
And look again
Another day.

by Nick Rooke
ALT, Gunma '94-96
kibashira@yahoo.com
Every year CLAIR sends out a survey to JETAA Members who left the JET Programme two years ago. This year 142 alumni responded and a selection of the results are given below. Thank you very much to all those who took the time to complete the survey.

'Reverse' Culture Shock
At what times did you experience "reverse" culture shock after leaving Japan?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Within the first two months</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Within two to six months</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Within six months to one year</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*After one year</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*I'm not sure</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*I didn't experience it</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*I'm still in Japan</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employment
How long did it take to find satisfying employment?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*I had it arranged already</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Within a month of starting looking</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Up to six months</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Six months to one year</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Up to two years</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Interim employment until something better comes along</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(no answer provided 2%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How does the salary compare with that as a JET participant?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*It is much higher</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*It is slightly higher</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*It is roughly the same</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*It is slightly lower</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*It is much lower</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In your experience do employers look favourably on the JET Programme?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Yes</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*No</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Only if you use the experience to develop your skills</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*They don't seem to have heard of it</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*I don't know</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JETAA
Are you active in local JETAA?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Yes, I am a member of the committee</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Yes, as a member</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*I am a member but am not involved</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*No, but I'd like to be</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*No, I'm not interested</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Japanese Language Ability - Before and After the Programme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ability</th>
<th>Before</th>
<th>After</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>READING</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-advanced</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRITING</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-advanced</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPEAKING</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-advanced</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LISTENING</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-advanced</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are you studying Japanese now?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Yes</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*No</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did you pass any recognised Japanese Language Test whilst on the JET Programme?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level One</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level Two</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level Three</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level Four</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Other</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*No</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
After the JET Programme

Has participation in the JET Programme contributed anything to your life? %
*Yes, a more open mind/international outlook 39
*Yes, a wider circle of friends, increased social skills 21
*Yes, better personal qualities 24
*Yes a hobby for life 10
*Other 5
*No 1

Would you recommend the JET Programme to a friend? %
*Yes, absolutely 78
*Probably 19
*Unlikely 2
*No, definitely not 1

Pension and Tax

Did you receive the lump-sum withdrawal payment on the pension scheme? %
*I applied and received the payment 92
*I applied but my application was refused 1
*I did not apply 5
*I do not know to what you are referring 1

Did you apply for a refund of the tax that was withheld from the lump-sum withdrawal payment? %
*I applied and received the refund 24
*I applied but was turned down 2
*I did not receive the lump-sum withdrawal payment and so was ineligible to apply 0
*I did not apply 45
*I do not know to what you are applying 29

Have you RECLAIMED your TAX?

Looking at the results from the questionnaire it seems that most people who left the JET Programme two years ago have claimed back the money they paid into the pension fund whilst a JET participant. However 74% of people have not claimed back the 20% tax levied on this sum. Although details of this have been given at JET orientations and already in JET Streams, it seems necessary to outline what this is again.

What is it?
A flat-rate tax of 20% is levied on the Lump-Sum Withdrawal Payment.

A person working for 3 years on the programme who has made 36 months payments into the fund:

Amount of payment of Employees’ Pension Insurance (¥300,000 x 3) = ¥900,000
Income Tax (¥900,000 x 20%) = ¥180,000

Who is eligible?
Once you have received the Lump Sum Withdrawal Receipt you can apply to reclaim the tax. Applications must be made within 5 years of leaving Japan.

How?
You need to choose a tax representative - a person who is a resident in Japan. This person needs to get the 'Nozeikanrinin nodokedesho' (gaikokujin-yo) [Declaration Naming a Person to Administer the Taxpayer's Tax Affairs (for use by aliens)] form. This can be obtained from the local tax office where you were located in Japan. Once you have filled in the form, send it back to your tax representative with the 'Shikyu Kettei Tsuchicho' [Notice of the Lump-sum Withdrawal Payment]. Your tax representative should take these two papers and go to the same tax office as before and file the 'Kakutei Shinkokusho' on your behalf. A bank account in Japan needs to be designated at the time of filing. The refund will be deposited into that account.

so: Your tax representative takes the:
1. Declaration Naming a Person to Administer the Taxpayer’s Tax
2. Notice of Lump-sum Withdrawal Payment
To your local tax office and files the Kakutei Shinkokusho.
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If you notice that any of the above regional representatives are incorrect, please contact the JETAA liaison at CLAIR as soon as possible. It is important that we have a current address for someone in the region.
### JETAA Member Count by Region

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Region</th>
<th>City</th>
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### Haiku

**MATUYAMA (Pine Mountain)**

By Stefan Hall

ALT, Ehime '95-96

**aki (station)**

darkness drinks the town...
pending machines light my way,
a train calls me home

**origami (paper-folding)**

from folds the crane forms;
first flight crushed beneath bus tires...
I mutter, Japan

**gaijin (foreigner/outsider)**

Heaven's pool is still,  
but from beyond the mountains
storm clouds are coming

**aruku (walk)**

solitary crow
the stubble of a rice field
grey ribbon of road

**hayabushi (sky)**

watching her watch me
out of mirror reflections
and corners of eyes

### Contributions

JET Streams is your newsletter, so please send your contributions in to the address on the front page. Articles on any subject that would be of interest to other alumni will be considered for publication.