Hello! Welcome to the 2005 edition of the JET Streams newsletter. JET Streams is sent out once a year to all alumni who request it. It is a forum that allows people whose lives have been touched by Japan and the JET Programme to stay in contact with the development of both the JET Programme and the JET Alumni Association. On behalf of CLAIR, I would like to send out a big otsukaresama to the participants just finishing the Programme this summer. Thank you for your hard work and good luck in your future endeavours. Also, thank you to all of the JETAA chapters and members who have contributed articles for this issue. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Steve Shipley - CLAIR JETAA Liaison (jet-aa@clair.or.jp)

Membership Count and Developments

Membership in the JET Alumni Association currently stands at 18,300 out of a total of 36,000 former JET Programme participants, according to the CLAIR database. A total of 1,710 JETs who completed their tenure on the Programme in 2003 have joined JETAA, with another 2,780 set to leave the Programme this summer.

In order to maintain strong connections between former JETs and Japan, CLAIR encourages former JETs to become active at the local chapter level. JETAA chapters around the world hold events in connection with their local Japanese communities, and as such, it is an excellent way to continue enjoying a connection with Japan and its culture. If you would like to find out more about your local JETAA chapter and become more involved, please contact your regional chapter representatives. A list of representative contact information can be found on pages 15-16 in this issue and links to chapter homepages can be found by accessing the JETAA website at www.jetalumni.org.

Updating Your Contact Information

At CLAIR, we would like to keep the most current contact information for all former JET Programme participants in order to encourage continued communication between JETs and Japan for the purpose of increasing the impact the Programme has on improving internationalisation in Japan. Providing us with your most recent contact information will allow us to notify you in the event that any JET-related events are held in your area. CLAIR treats the confidentiality of personal information very seriously, and any information provided will not be disseminated outside of CLAIR without permission.

You can send profile and address updates directly to CLAIR through the JET Programme homepage at www.jetprogramme.org. The JETAA Membership and Entry Update Form is located under the “Information for Former JETs” section of the website. Just click on the “JETAA Member/Update” link and you will be directed to the address update form.

Resources for New JET Alumni

There are many resources that JET alumni can take advantage of after their tenure on the programme. First, all alumni should check the JETAA International homepage at www.jetalumni.org. This page contains important information that can help former JETs with their transition back to life in their home countries or to life in other parts of the world. Resources that can be found here include employment and teaching resources, information about Japan, links to all chapter homepages, chapter event information and newsletters, and reports of the current changes occurring organisationally within JETAA International. In addition, be sure to check out the JETAA Job Guide at http://cheno.com/job/ for more information on career planning and employment.

Pension and Tax Refund Information for Former JETs

Every year, CLAIR receives numerous calls from former JETs regarding the process by which they can file for and obtain refunds of the money they paid into the Japanese national pension fund over the course of their time in Japan. In order to provide the most up-to-date information about how to apply for the pension and tax refunds, CLAIR has included a page on the JET Programme website detailing the refund procedures and associated contact information. This page can be accessed by going to www.jetprogramme.org and clicking on the Pension and Tax Refund link under the “Information for Former JETs” section. Please keep in mind that there are time limits on pension and tax refund applications of 2 and 5 years respectively. We encourage you to access this information and apply for your refunds early in order to avoid the possibility of being denied funds to which you are entitled.

Kintetsu International Sponsored JETAA Essay Contest

JETAA USA will host its second annual essay contest from June until August this year. Fifteen winners will received round trip airfare and accommodations for three nights in Tokyo plus a one-week JR rail pass, courtesy of Kintetsu International. Interested writers should write an essay about project or idea that promotes grassroots exchange between Japan and the United States. All former JETs living in the United States during the contest period are eligible to enter.

For complete details, please visit www.jetalumni.org.
The Fifth Annual JETAA International Conference was held in Japan from June 10th through 15th. One delegate from each Chapter was invited to attend the conference, along with JETAA International Country Representatives, the Executive Officers and representatives from CLAIR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In all, 14 countries were represented at the Conference – Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, France, Germany, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Russia, Scotland and the United States. In addition, the conference was attended by two members of the Content Management System (CMS) project team and members of the Western Japan Chapter, who organised the Conference.

I am also pleased to announce that South Africa was welcomed in to the JETAA International family and we hope that a representative from this new and thriving Chapter will be able to join us at the International Meeting next year.

This conference marked a significant change in the structure and development of JETAA International. From 2006, International Conferences for all Chapter and Country Representatives will take place only once every five years. Meetings of the JETAA-I Executive will continue to be held on an annual basis. This change, although a challenge for JETAA-I, is an unavoidable one and one we must prepare ourselves to embrace.

The theme of the conference, Connection, was therefore important in many ways. The conference was to be the forum to forge new Partnerships and to strengthen existing ones, Partnerships such as those between:

- JETAA International and the Japanese community
- JETAA and the current JET Programme
- JETAA International, CLAIR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Chapter to Chapter within JETAA International
- Chapter Representatives and Country Representatives

These Partnerships are crucial to the long-term future of JETAA International.

The Conference began in Nagoya on Saturday 11th June with a meeting for all Country Representatives, the Executive Officers and the CMS team. This was the opportunity for delegates to review progress made since the Portland International Meeting in November 2004 and to discuss the important role Country Representatives would play throughout the Conference and in the future.

The full conference was held from Sunday until Tuesday and covered some very important areas including:

- The development and implementation of the new Content Management System
- The role of the Country Representatives as the link between JETAA International and Chapters
- The long-term future of JETAA International and ways of establishing stability
- A promotional strategy and marketing tools for JETAA International

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- A promotional strategy and marketing tools for JETAA International

Support for the development of new chapters
The sharing of resources for existing and new Chapters

In addition to this, Chapters also had the opportunity to work in smaller groups to share common issues at the Chapter level.

The conference concluded on Tuesday with the Parliamentary session and election of Executive Officers. The key decisions made at this session were:

- That Country Representatives would be responsible for representing the views of their Chapters in any decisions relating to changes in JETAA International by-laws and that Chapter Representatives would no longer vote on these changes.
- That Country Representatives would decide the venue for forthcoming International Meetings and Conferences.
- That new Chapters in countries where there is no existing Chapter, but where membership is less than twenty, would be granted Associate Membership of JETAA International.

I would like to thank delegates for supporting these necessary changes. I would also like to thank all of those people who volunteered to contribute to the development of the Small Chapter Committee, the PR Committee, the CMS and other areas of development.

So much was achieved at this Conference but let us not forget that it was also an opportunity for friendships, for fun and for fabulous food! Courtesy of the Eastern and Western Japan Chapters, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CLAIR, delegates were treated to an afternoon at Expo, an excellent afternoon of creativity with High School students and some amazing evening receptions. The visit to the Kobe Earthquake Museum was also a momentous and emotional occasion for us.

In addition to this, we should also acknowledge the fact that this Conference gave so many of us the wonderful opportunity to re-establish our friendships with friends and former colleagues from our ‘second homes’ in Japan.

Two people missing from the Conference this year were the JETAA-I Treasurer, JF Mannina and the New Zealand Country Representative Peter de Valda, both of whom had had recent surgery. I would like to thank JF for the significant contribution he made to JETAA International this year and I would like to welcome Peter as the new Chair of JETAA International. I would also like to welcome Michael Barrett and Cindy Pitkin to the Executive Committee. I feel excited that we have such a strong team this year.

Next year marks the Twentieth Anniversary of the JET Programme. Having participated in the Programme in 1988, I know what a significant and worthwhile achievement this is. Thank you to everyone who continues to make the JET Programme, the Alumni Association and JETAA International a success.

Ali Bond
2005-2006 JETAA international Executive Vice-Chair
The first time that I realized I was speaking English with my Japanese coworkers on the JET Program yet speaking entirely different languages occurred about three weeks after arriving in Japan. I approached a fellow English teacher about our upcoming team-taught lesson and proposed using a music video. I was aware that he preferred using textbooks only, but I was encouraged when he smiled and replied, “That might be a little difficult.” I had heard that Japanese teachers feared the unpredictable and preferred detailed lesson plans, so I created one, thinking that my colleague was telling me that the project would be difficult but was achievable with some extra effort. I spent the rest of the afternoon writing, so you can imagine my surprise when my boss looked dismissively at my proposal, gave a terse apology, and excused himself!

It wasn’t until years later that I encountered Edward Hall’s writings and realized that this type of misadventure, as well as hundreds of others that I had experienced with the Japanese, had all been described and predicted by differences in what Hall called high and low context communication styles. In fact, as I discovered the field of intercultural communication, I realized that most of the friction that I had experienced in Japan was due to well-documented cultural differences that could be avoided or overcome with proper training. Galvanized by this discovery, I pursued and earned a master’s degree in intercultural communication, and today I conduct workshops and consultations for corporate executives and government employees, including clients such as Citicorp, Sony, and of course, the JET Program.

My academic research has been largely an attempt to make sense of my JET experience, focusing on the question, “To what extent can non-Japanese become members of Japanese society and organizations?” I have published several articles with the answers that I have come up with so far, which I would be glad to forward to any interested readers. Furthermore, those interested in learning more about intercultural communication are encouraged to contact the Intercultural Communication Institute (they can be found easily with a Yahoo website search), which runs a master’s program as well as individual summer courses for newcomers who are interested in learning more about the field.

In addition to such training and consulting, I also teach at a Japanese university. This is extremely rewarding work—both in terms of working with older students and pursuing my own research. In order to break into this field, it is best to think in terms of a two-step process: first, working part time at several universities to piece together an adequate salary, and after a lengthy, intensely-competitive search, landing a full-time position, which may be permanent or contract-based. The key to gaining part-time work is a master’s degree, which is most commonly in TESOL or TEFL, literature, or intercultural communication. In order to obtain a full-time job, usually 3-5 publications are required, and factors which will “sweeten” your application include Japanese fluency (at least Level 2 on the Japanese Proficiency Exam entitled 日本語能力試験) and a PhD.

My post-JET life has been rather complicated: I participated in the JET Program from 1990-92 after which I relocated to the United States from 1993-98. I subsequently returned to Japan from 1998 to the present. During these comings and goings, my experiences of traveling on a shoestring budget, teaching Japanese in the U.S., and earning a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship to further my Japanese study may of interest to readers. After JET, I backpacked across Asia for 6 months—from China to Southeast Asia, Nepal, and finally the Middle East. Although the world seems far more dangerous now, this opportunity to experience nonpareil cultural diversity and witness historical and natural wonders around the globe was a formative experience that I would highly recommend. With a backpack and the courage to sleep in less than 5 star hotels (far less!), you can stretch your savings a long way and see a broad swath of the world.

When I returned to the U.S., I was able to secure a post at a K-12 private school teaching Japanese in the middle and elementary schools. The keys to gaining such a position were applying to both public and private schools (private schools in the U.S. pay less but only require a bachelor’s degree, as opposed to a master’s), and flexibility (I was also teaching French, Asian Studies, and EFL, as well as working in the dormitory). For those interested in teaching Japanese, I recommend sending out as many resumes as you can to geographic areas where you’d like to work (I chose the Pacific Northwest), and consulting the National Directory of Independent Schools (which can be found at most libraries) or the equivalent in your country for private schools in your preferred region. Although passing the Japanese Proficiency Test Level 2 is preferable, I was shocked to find some people teaching Japanese who were just keeping a few pages ahead of their students in the textbook.

Finally, what got me back to Japan was a scholarship from the Rotary Foundation to study Japanese at Keio University—full time for one year. The fellowships available depend upon the applicant’s citizenship, so I cannot provide an exhaustive list, but Rotary International provides scholarships from dozens of countries. Beyond that, it is best to check with the Japanese Embassy in your home country.

In conclusion, I never expected to have devoted my career to Japan and lived here so long (8 years and counting!). When I first arrived on JET, I told myself 2 years maximum, and I scoffed at people who spent their lives here. However, it has been an immensely fulfilling journey, and the JET Program undoubtedly sent me off on this most unexpected path.

Adam Komisarof served as an ALT in Omiya, Saitama from 1990-1992. He is currently a tenured assistant professor at Shobi University and a corporate trainer/consultant in intercultural communication. He can be contacted at komisarof.adam@mailcity.com for questions regarding this article. Adam hopes in this article to share his post-JET experiences and give advice to readers with interests in intercultural communication, university teaching in Japan, scholarships to study Japanese, Japanese teaching careers abroad, and traveling Asia on a shoestring budget.
Elizabeth Falconer didn’t start off intending to be a storyteller. Nor a musician. In fact, she’s surprised. Not that her career has come to this—a master koto player with nine award-winning CDs. But that her career didn’t happen much sooner, like it was merely because she hadn’t thought of it before.

In fact, as Falconer—so well versed in Japanese folklore and gifted at the koto—told me her story, she could very well have said: It’s an unusual tale. One of hardship, of travel, adventure, surprise and joy, and of course, a tale of love, because that’s what I heard. Her own story could be one of the folk tales she is so fond of telling.

Her story might begin when she was in high school, when Falconer’s first trip to Japan was by default; a study abroad in France just didn’t work out. And struck by the Japanese people and culture, she majored in Japanese studies at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Ore. Then, there was a second trip well intentioned, a junior-year abroad at Waseda University. But instead of shodo (Japanese calligraphy) or ikebana (flower arrangement), she spent time in the discos, in the coffeehouses, and with John. “I was twenty,” she said like it was an excuse. She had met John at the University of Oregon and fallen in love.

Falconer is tall, taller than me—probably five foot nine or ten—and very slim. I’m listening to her play songs from her newest release, Island Dreams, at Masalisa, a tea shop in Ballard. The CD won a 2004 NAPPA Gold Award, an iParenting Media Award and a Parents’ Choice Approved Award. Mako plays with nine award-winning CDs. But that her career has come to this—a master koto player with nine award-winning CDs. However, the irony immediately. Here she was, a white woman dressed in a haori—a jacket worn over a kimono—playing Japanese music on a koto. Yet, this meeting inspired their first collaboration—Oyasumi.

After Falconer graduated from university, she moved to Japan with John, and stayed. When an adult student in an English class she was teaching suggested the koto, she gave it a try. The rest might be history, but a unique one. Falconer studied koto in Japan under two different masters for a total of twelve years.

She told me that her older son, Brian, learned the koto chords when he was six and just learning to count. Still more, by the age of 11, he had accompanied his mother in Chocolate Suites, a CD they produced together.

Brian was five and Jesse, the younger brother, just three when they were adopted. Could they have been the catalyst to change her life? The Oba-san and Oji-san of Japanese stories often do not have children. In Plum Boy, a child is floating down the stream in a plum, and when the old woman brings him home, he brings with him not only happiness but miraculous changes. With Brian and Jesse, the idea of storytelling and accompanying the tales with her koto blossomed. Japanese stories, to be more exact, that Falconer tells in English—with a few Japanese words thrown in—and her koto played like a second personality.

In November, 2004, when her name is announced at the Just Plain Folks awards in Hollywood—where Falconer has been nominated for two awards—is her story still only beginning? Or has it come to a fairy tale close?

Be sure to check out her CDs at:
http://www.kotoworld.com/
A total of 178 entries from current and past JETs were received for the 13th Annual JET Programme Essay Competition. After careful consideration a total of 8 prizes were awarded to the following entrants by a Judging Panel made up of representatives from a number of foreign embassies and CLAIR directors and staff.

This year two essays received Grand Jury Prize status, one each in English and Japanese. They are included below. All 8 winning essays will also be published in the 2005 JET Journal and will also appear on the JET Programme homepage (www.jetprogramme.org). Congratulations to the prize winners and many thanks to everyone who submitted entries. A special thanks is also extended to the number of entrants that took the time and effort to write in a language that is not their native tongue:

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**Foreign Language Category**

**Grand Jury Prize:**
Melanie de Leon (ALT, Nagano)

**Prize for Excellence:**
Scott Arenstein (ALT, Kagoshima)

**Special Prizes:**
- Rebekah Hill (CIR, Oita)
- Peter Ryan (ALT, Shizuoka)

**Honorary Prizes:**
- Evonne Yiu (ALT, Miyazaki)

**Japanese Language Category**

**Grand Jury Prize:**
Dougal Phillips (CIR, Gifu)

**Prize for Excellence:**
- Pannee Saelim (CIR, Shimane)

**Special Prizes:**
- Naho Matsumura (CIR, Ishikawa)
- Dougal Phillips (CIR, Gifu)

**Honorary Prizes:**
- Evonne Yiu (ALT, Miyazaki)

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**Building a New History**

By Melanie de Leon

It was in the Canadian Rockies that I first came in to contact with Japanese people. Every summer while I was a university student, I joined the mass exodus of students who headed to the mountains to earn their next year’s tuition fees. The Japanese tourists I interacted with were full of energy, polite and curious. This friendly nature aside, what impressed me most were the old women and men who came to hike the mountains. I thought they were exceptional. Later on as I hiked the Japan Alps I learned the Japanese elderly I met in the Rockies certainly represented the healthy lifestyle that even young Canadians wish they could replicate. From this interaction, my interest in Japan and Japanese culture started.

Every fall when I returned to Winnipeg, I would explore the library, seeking out books on Japan. I would run my fingers over their spines, randomly opening them, and reading whatever page jumped out at me. Before my eyes, a new world appeared, and in a corner of the library I got lost in a world I wanted to enter. The bright lights of Tokyo intrigued me. Kyoto and its temples allured me, and Japan’s people fascinated me. With every passing year my interest in Japan grew, such that books and movies would no longer satisfy my appetite. I was no longer content to read others’ experiences. Japan had become a place that could not be fulfilled by either libraries or video stores. I wanted to see her with my own eyes, taste her flavours, and inhale her scent, and yet, my preoccupation with Japan was something I held secret. I had to hide my interest for an important person in my life viewed Japan in a negative light.

My mother was only a young girl when the Japanese army invaded the Philippines during the Second World War. Her uncle and father – my great uncle and grandfather– died fighting Japanese soldiers. My mother, grandmother and many relatives, lived underground when the Japanese army took control of Luzon. So I hid my interest from my mother. I didn’t want the wounds of the past to be opened again.

Those events from my mother’s life were a history I inherited. Such historical inheritance is an advantage because it gives us foresight and sensitivity, but it can also be a disadvantage if we allow it to hinder the present. History is constantly being made. I told my mother that a position with the JET Programme would allow me to make personal history. My mother didn’t take my words well. Her face revealed that I had wounded her. I sat across from her in our living room. I waited for her to respond but there was just silence.

For days she didn’t speak to me. I tiptoed around our house. I didn’t want to aggravate the situation further. I started entertaining the idea that going to Japan was a selfish act that would hurt my mother, and that it would be best if I abandon it. Then during a family Sunday brunch my mother began talking about how her children were ungrateful. She said that her children did not respect the sacrifice her father and uncle made for us. She highlighted the fact that even though we lived in Canada and that we were Canadians, we have a duty to remember our Filipino heritage. In our dining room table my brothers and sisters kept looking at me. I felt guilty for causing my mother pain, guilty for placing my siblings in an awkward situation.

My mother’s emotions about the past spilled out when she said, “The Japanese are hard people. They are cruel.” I knew that my decision to live and work in Japan would be a difficult sell but I had no idea how tough it was going to be. My brothers and sisters, one by one wriggled out of the dining room. All the while I remained seated. I listened to my mother recall childhood stories. I listened to her describe how during the war she constantly felt afraid especially when my grandmother left the safety of their underground home to get food. After she finished speaking, I remained seated unable to speak. I was unkind for hurting my mother, but the fact remained I wanted to go to Japan.
I didn't approach my mother for weeks. I walked on eggshells. I was torn between pleasing her and following my dream. My oldest brother saw me sitting on our stoop weighed down by my situation. I remember him saying, “You have to talk to mom again. This time explain why you want to go to Japan.”

I took his advice and the next day approached my mother while she was sitting in our backyard. I told her that I was sorry for being insensitive. I told her that I should have informed her my plans sooner. Then, I explained the reasons why I wanted to go to Japan: I wanted to experience a new culture, take part in an international exchange of ideas, and take part in a process of creating a global language. I wanted to show the beauty of being able to manoeuvre between two languages, the way I had done with English and Tagalog. I also reminded her that it was her who had taught me to have an open mind. It was her who had given me an adventurous personality. I brought up how she had taught my siblings and I to forgive and to let go when one of us had done the other wrong. In her own words from my childhood lessons, I explained how the events of the past shouldn’t hinder personal growth, and how people shouldn’t dwell on vengeance. Still, she remained unconvinced. My words were simply blowing in the wind, seemingly unable to reach her. As my departure date drew nearer, our discussions intensified. With each traded word, we tried to convince each other. In the end it was my mother who yielded. In her willingness to let me go, she showed that she respected my decision, however much she disagreed with it.

After months of preparation my departure date came. It was an exciting time. I was embarking on a whole new journey of culture, language, and geography. But there were also anxiety and fear. I was unable to sleep on the flight to Narita. My mother’s voice stirred in me, repeating what she had told me: “The Japanese are hard people. They are cruel.” When I landed, I was a wreck, and the nervous energy exuded by the other JET participants certainly didn’t help. However, the Tokyo orientation helped alleviate some of my anxieties. It was a soft easy transition from the life I just left in Canada to the one I was about to enter.

After our orientation, in 30-degree heat of the Tokyo morning, we were herded onto a bus in front of the Keio Plaza Hotel, and again nervous energy surrounded me. As soon as I got on the bus I started practicing the Japanese introduction I had planned for my supervisors, who were to meet me in Matsumoto. My palms sweated even in the air-conditioned bus. I kept fumbling my lines. Eventually, my friend Devin, sporting his own armpit sweat stains in his summer suit jacket noticed my anxiousness. “Relax, will you. You’re making me nervous,” he said. “They don’t expect you to speak perfect Japanese,” he added. We spent the rest of the drive talking, and thanks to him I had completely relaxed by the time we arrived in Matsumoto.

When the Nagano Prefectural Advisors introduced me to my supervisors, Yamada-sensei and Shimaoka-sensei, they were both dressed casually. Shimaoka-sensei spoke first – in perfect English. I heaved a sigh of relief. As Yamada-sensei took my bags, and I followed Shimaoka-sensei to the jeep, my anxiety subsided. As we drove, I learned that Shimaoka-sensei had done her degree in Indianapolis, and that Yamada-sensei had a sister who lived in Vancouver. The rigid Japanese formality I was warned by some JETs was utterly absent. It was simply a pleasant conversation amongst people getting to know each other.

When we reached my new apartment, Shimaoka-sensei apologized. She apologized for not doing enough. I couldn’t understand why. When we entered, she pointed to the gifts that the other English teachers had collected. I was the first ALT in the history of Tokai Daisan High School, and naturally I would not be inheriting any household furnishings. But there in the kitchen were pots, cutlery, toiletries and a blanket. I was immensely touched by the teachers’ consideration and generosity. Shimaoka-sensei added, “We know that you need more things, but I hope these small gifts will help make your living transition easier.” Immediately I understood what she was saying – she and the other teachers had wanted to do much more. This generous act was my first experience in my new home.

The first time I called home, my sister told me that our mother had gone to church everyday to pray for my safety. When I finally got my mother on the line, I told her about my school and the Japanese teachers I worked with. I told her about the welcome gifts I had received. At first, she hesitated. She had a hard time believing it. “Wait awhile,” she said, “You can’t judge a book by its cover.” I understood her. Admittedly, there is something exhilarating about being in a new country, and sometimes this can blind you to the real picture. I acknowledged her advice, and as the first couple of months unfolded, I admitted to her that my experience took on a dreamlike quality. I found myself harvesting rice in the small village of Mizo hu in Iiyama with farmers that seemed ninja-like in their conical straw hats. Kiyomizu Temple took my breath away, posing behind a backdrop of verdant hills covered in mist. In Tokyo, I felt a part of its great energy.

Over the course of my first year on the JET Programme my reports of Japan poured back home to my mother. When she mentioned that my stories had become less dreamlike, more anchored, I realized she had begun to see Japan and her people through my experience. Her concept of Japan was changing. Through letters and expensive phone calls, my mother became intimate with the Yatsugatake Mountains which I saw each morning from my living room window. She learned pottery from my weekly lessons in the town of Fujimi. She encouraged me to continue my lessons even though she received lumpy unbalanced pottery from my weekly lessons in the town of Fujimi. She became fascinated with Japan, her temples, festivals and ceremonies. Each phone call she inquired if I did my fortnightly visit to Suwa Taisha. She even became friends with teachers at work. My mother was relieved to hear that Yanagidaira-sensei took care of me when I was sick. She was also glad that my co-workers and downstairs neighbours the Miyasakas ensured I had great company to combat loneliness. It was wonderful when she fell in love with my students. She knew how brilliant Yoshiki was, and how he loved Franz Kafka. She admired Jun for her insistence on speaking only English when most of her friends just muttered over and over how difficult English was. My mother liked hearing about how Haruka held my hand as we walked in the corridor, saying, “I hope my homework is good. I work hard Marani-sensei.” My mother saw how happy I was in my new community and she expressed the value of reciprocating people’s generosity. She became an integral factor in my holiday lesson plans; she would send decorations, costumes, stickers and candies. I remember one particular package I received from her. Excited, I ripped it open but then I became jealous when the contents that spilled out were for my students and not for me.

On my first trip home I learned from my aunts and siblings that my mother no longer spoke of the Japanese as hard and unkind people. Instead she had started saying that war was just... misguided.
She had decided that time and circumstances shape the events that surround us. Time surges ahead and people must be able to change with it. Through pictures I’ve sent and through my eyes she has newfound images of Japan and her people. These images allowed the wounds of the past to heal while opening doors to a whole new world.

Through my experience on the JET Programme, I have come to terms with my inherited past. This reconciliation has transformed the present into a new beginning, filled with cultural understanding. At times as I lay on my tatami-mat floor watching the light on Yatsugatake Mountains change from sapphire to crimson, I am awash in emotions and questions. Living in Japan has given me an opportunity to live amongst the Japanese and learn about their amazing culture. I often ask myself what the JET Programme means to me. It means the laughter I share with my students, the time I spend working, socializing and gradually becoming friends with my co-workers. It means learning and beginning to understand a culture that is completely different from my own. Most importantly, it means beginning to build a new history, both for my mother, and for me.
**Australia**

The six JETAA Chapters in Australia have continued with their endeavours to assist outgoing and returning JET Programme participants through pre-departure and welcome back receptions and promote Japan and Japanese culture in their local communities through varied activities including movie nights, dinners, hanami get-togethers and photography exhibitions. JETAA Canberra joins JETAA Queensland as the second Australian Chapter to become incorporated, a move which allows greater access to Government assistance with various activities. If you’re about to return home to Australia after the JET Programme, look up your local JETAA Chapter and get involved! You’ll be glad you did.

**AU1 - Sydney Chapter**

Our association is more than 10 years old and currently numbers over 360 members and growing! Most of our members live in New South Wales, the majority of who reside in Sydney. Sydney JETAA plays a major role in a wide-range of Japan-related activities. Working with the local Consulate of Japan and CLAIR, Sydney, we both promote and foster Japanese/Australian cultural exchange, assist with and facilitate personnel recruitment for the JET Programme and provide support and assistance to new JET returnees.

**AU2 - Victoria/Tasmania Chapter**

We're a small chapter since we are divided over 2 states and the Tasman Sea. Our committee and activities are located in Melbourne. Apart from the usual events of welcoming and farewelling JET participants, most recently we've enjoyed a trivia night for our AGM. We have dinners bi-monthly.

**AU3 - Adelaide Chapter**

JETAA WANT has a committee of nine and is extremely active in the Perth community, recently collaborating with Friends of Japan to hold a Japan Festival at the University of Western Australia. We are also active in promoting JET to potential participants, and hold a number of information nights at local universities and libraries. Our members have some mean okonomiyaki skills, tight karaoke numbers and a solid knowledge of Japanese trivia, so we're also a socially active chapter.

**AU4 - WANT (W. Australia/N. Territory) Chapter**

JETAA WANT has a committee of nine and is extremely active in the Perth community, recently collaborating with Friends of Japan to hold a Japan Festival at the University of Western Australia. We are also active in promoting JET to potential Participants, and hold a number of information nights at local universities and libraries. Our members have some mean okonomiyaki skills, tight karaoke numbers and a solid knowledge of Japanese trivia, so we’re also a socially active chapter.

Last was a big one for JETAA WANT. We increased our numbers, held more events, and had lots of fun while at it. Events included a karaoke night, movie night, photographic exhibition, BBQ, shinnenkai, and a Quiz Night at the Consul-General’s residence, attended by about 60 people. We also welcomed the JET Returnees with a formal reception (and less formal sundowner at the infamous Brass Monkey), and worked with new JETs in orientation, information nights, and a farewell dinner. We ran a series of promotional events, hosting JET information nights at the universities, and a public event at the Alexander Library attended by over 80 people. We distributed 2000 business card flyers, conducted radio interviews, and undertook newspaper advertising.

This year we plan more of the same, but with an increased involvement with the Japan Festival to mark the Year of Exchange between Australia and Japan. For contact details, event announcements, and perhaps a good time, check out http://want.jetalumni.org/

**AU5 - Canberra Chapter**

This year has seen our association move towards incorporation, which has been very significant for us as it improves our legal standing, and permits us to participate more freely in large public events such as the annual Canberra-Nara Candle Festival etc. We have an enthusiastic committee who implement at least four social events each year, in addition to the support that we provide the Japanese Embassy in Canberra by selecting JET candidates and facilitating information and orientation sessions.

**AU6 - Queensland Chapter**

The past financial year has been particularly successful for the Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association (Qld) Inc. With a strong Committee, we were able to make a considerable difference this year, undertaking a number of key activities, which contributed to our objectives of promoting the JET Programme - supporting new and returnee JETs and creating links between the Australian and Japanese communities in Queensland.

A number of key achievements were realised, with many being the first time we had embarked upon such an activity:

- Re-development of website and creation of an online Newsletter
- Anniversary of the first year of Incorporation – October 2004
- Hanami under the jacaranda blossoms – combined for the first time with other Queensland-based Japan societies
- Japan Week: re-exhibition of the 2002 Photography Exhibition at a unique and popular café in the trendy “Valley” area in Brisbane
- Inaugural combined dinner with Asia Link organisation
- Christmas Celebration: Belgian Beer Café & Karaoke
- Free Sushi-Making Course at Riverbend Café

JETAA Queensland also continued to be involved with the recruitment of new JETs through interview panels, Q&A desks, pre-departure seminars, and in the support of returning JETs through welcome back functions and its returnees’ information booklet. In 2004, JETAA Queensland also supported the Consulate-General of Japan, Brisbane, by joining them in the promotion of the JET Programme at Griffith University Gold Coast.

Already, the Committee’s plans for April 2005 to March 2006 are taking shape. The Committee has committed to hosting the next JETAA Regional Conference in Brisbane in late October. This is a first for the Queensland Committee, and all Australian and New Zealand Chapters are excited about the opportunity to visit and share ideas at this forum in the Sunshine State.

Our membership continues to be strong and we look forward to a fantastic 2005/06.

**Brazil**

**BR 1 - Brazil Chapter**

43 members including former CIRs and SEAs (no Brazilian ALTs in JET Programme yet) - participating in nikkei community and institutions activities, giving assistance to consulates and embassy in recruitment and selection process of new participants.

**Canada**

**CN 1 - Ottawa Chapter**

JETAA Ottawa is a relatively small (300 member) chapter that is working on re-energizing itself. The number of executive members has increased from 2 (2003) to 8 (2005). Our two priorities this year are increasing our active membership numbers and strengthening ties with the Japanese-related community in the city. We have monthly social events, work closely with the Japanese embassy regarding departing and returning JETs and have had a fair amount of success presenting Japanese toys and writing people’s names in Katakana at festivals throughout the city.

**CN 2 - Toronto Chapter**

Toronto has had a particularly busy year.

We started the year off hosting a photo exhibit. “Found In Translation” where we contrasted photos taken by Toronto JETs while there where in Japan and compared them with photos taken by Japanese visitors here in Toronto. We hosted a reception at the Japanese Cultural Center and they exhibited the photos for a month.

Also this year we revamped our website to make it more user friendly and updated the information on the site. We have currently halted our look for new members but we have had some success, and are now a full-time chapter.

In conjunction with two other Japanese related organisations we initiated a boat cruise for Alumni and Japanese visitors that was so successful we did it again this year and was sold out again. We intend on having another one next spring. JETAA Toronto in conjunction with the Japanese consulate of Toronto continues to provide Japanese Lessons three times a year for Alumni. Although we experimented with adding a lower level class but it suffered from low attendance. We hosted a film night during the Toronto film festival, A baseball night where we went to see Ichiro and the Mariners take on the Toronto Blue Jays and a basketball night in the fall.
JETAA Toronto continues to strongly support two Japan related organizations, JAVA (The Japan Visitors Association) and OIST (The Canadian Japan Society of Toronto) by holding events in conjunction with these two organizations and having them participate in our Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO or P-Dot) for new JETS. In our PDO we have attempted to reduce duplication with the Tokyo orientation and focus on issues that have been suggested by recent returnees. For example we have given time for parents to network. New this year, in conjunction with our Pre-Departure orientation for new JETS, the highlight of our activities has been the couple of trips that we have made to a local onsen. We have combined the onsen visit with hiking in fall and with tubing in the winter. We are pleased to have had a nicely mixed turnout of alumni and Japanese students studying here in Montreal.

CN4-Manitoba-Saskatchewan Chapter

As mostly new incoming executive, we look forward to organizing many fun events for the alumni in our area. Throughout the year, we hold cuisine nights, movie nights, Japanese conversation nights and many other shindigs to allow alumni to network. Now this year, in conjunction with our Pre-Departure orientation for new JETS, 2005 JET Orientation & Natsu Matsuri Photo/Art exhibition at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre on June 4 and 5. In our usual August tradition, we will be entering a boat in the Canadian Cancer society Dragon Boat races, email mansaskjetaa@hotmail.com for more information on current events.

CN5-Northern Alberta Chapter

The Northern Alberta Japan Exchange and Teaching Program Alumni Association (NAJETAA) is for former JET participants living in and around Edmonton and is supported by the Japanese community locally and nationally, including the Consulate General of Japan in Calgary, Alberta. The mission of NAJETAA is to help past, present, and future JET participants with their involvement in the JET Programme. Currently NAJETAA has 276 members. NAJETAA produces two newsletters which keep our members in touch with Japan, the JET Programme, and the local Japanese community. NAJETAA members enjoy 10 annual events. These include, a Japanese cooking party, Volunteer Appreciation Theme night, Curling Bonspiel, Weekend Orientation & Sayonara BBQ for new JETs, Japanese Spring Festival, Welcome back dinner, AGM, and honenkai. In conjunction with the Southern Alberta chapter we conduct a Re-entry Conference for newly returned JET participants to Canada’s prairie region. NAJETAA is compiling a photographic collection, which represents brief moments in the larger experience of JET participants. We currently have 40 images and hope that the collection will continue to grow and become a valuable documentation of the JET Programme.

CN6-British Columbia Chapter

JETABC is one of Canada's largest and most active JET alumni chapters, with more than 600 members. In addition to offering a preparation seminar for departing JETS and a returnee's seminar for those coming home, JETABC develops Japan-related courses, organizes frequent social and cultural events, and supports an enthusiastic Dragon Boat team ('Ready, JET, Go!'). In the recent past we have hosted our first JET alumni photo exhibition, restructured our Board of Directors, and launched an online discussion forum for the JET community (www.bc.jetaa.ca/bb/index.php).

France

FR1-France Chapter

The group became an official non-profit organization in 2000 and since then we have been working on 3 main issues: 1) promoting the JET Programme to students 2)promoting this unique experience to French firms and local authorities 3) organizing cultural activities. Our latest achievements have been on the internal level to increase our independence in financing our activities (paid translation for the CLAIR newsletter for example) and on the external one to organize the first European Regional conference, including countries non 'officially' represented and a photo exhibition part of the official programme of the EU-Japan Year by the European Commission.

Germany

GRI-Germany Chapter

GR1 Berlin welcomes home all non-renewing JETS. The National Representative for JETAA in Germany is Frank Bender. If you want to get involved in our work, please contact the German National Representative. To join the mailing-list, please contact the German National Rep (E-mail: genki-sport@gmx.de). For more information, check out our website at www.jetaagermany.de. Don’t forget to contact us as soon as you arrive in Germany (or before you leave the JET Programme) with a contact address, phone-number, fax-number and e-mail-address.

Ireland

IR1-Ireland Chapter

Northern Ireland is a new chapter in UK. There are opportunities to meet up with ex-JETS and friends at pub nights and restaurants as well as a variety of other Japan-related cultural activities going on throughout the year. Get in touch with us to see what is going on back in Northern Ireland in JETAA.

Jamaica

JMI-Jamaica Chapter

Due to the success of the previous School Visit, plans will be put in place so that the JJETAA can visit at least one School each quarter, with special consideration given to Schools in rural areas. We also plan to:

* Participate in Events at UTECH and UWI which showcase Japanese and Japanese Culture, namely International day (November) and Japanese Day (March /April)
* Collaborate with JOCV on their upcoming MATSURI to be held on Saturday the 2nd of July.
* Host an enkai and a Hanami for the benefit of students studying or have interest in Japanese, with the assistance and support of the Japanese Community.
* Liaise with CLAIR so as to ensure that an annual list of departing Jamaican JETS is sent to the JJETAA.
* Assist in the Cultural Activities sponsored by the Embassy of Japan. This year’s activity will be to participate in the welcoming of a Classical Music Group visiting the Island in November (bunkasai).

We have done the following in the past year:

* Participated in international conferences and meetings
* Coordinate pre-departure orientation for new JETS
* Provided translation and interpretive skills for visiting Japanese group with the assistance from the Language Training Center.
* Visited Maxfield Park Children’s Home.

Fundraising events proposed include:

* Pre-departure Orientation Manual.
* Japanese Skill Workshop.

Japan

JP2-Eastern Japan Chapter

The JETAA Eastern Japan regional chapter covers all of central, eastern, and northern Japan including major cities such as Nagoya, Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagano, Sendai, and Sapporo.

Our chapter's members, working in a variety of jobs, including with major Japanese and non-Japanese companies, as well as freelance and independent businesses, remain active in many international exchange activities. The chapter serves as a valuable professional and social network for former JET Participants. We always welcome current JETS to attend. Some of our activities include receptions related to government-sponsored Japan language and international exchange programs, informal evening get-togethers, promotion and participation in events hosted by other groups and embassies such as an Independence Day celebration sponsored the American Embassy, distribution of employment opportunity information and co-sponsoring events related to employment, and communication with local press on the JET Program and JET Alumni. Our chapter also...
provided planning support to JETAA Western Japan for this year’s International JET Alumni Conference in Nagoya and Kobe.

For more information about our chapter, its activities, and related information, please visit www.jetaa.com.

**JP2-Western Japan Chapter**

In the past year, the JETAA Western Japan Chapter has been involved in various events. In March 2004, we held a career forum in Osaka for JETAA members and active JETs to provide information for all those interested in finding a job in Japan. This forum was a huge success and helped many JETS decide future career paths. Events following the forum included sponsoring a charity run in Tokushima and participation in the JETAA Far East Conference in Khabarovsk, Russia in September. For the next 9 months, we were busy organizing the JETAA International Conference and Far East Meeting held in Aichi & Kobe in June, where we hosted over 50 JETAA representatives from chapters around the world. We also frequently send job postings and other useful information to the members of our Yahoo Group e-mail list. We still found time to have a few get-togethers in Osaka and made an excursion to the Sakahan museum, where a fellow ex-JET explained and demonstrated the secrets of fine sake making and consumption. In the future, we hope to expand both our social and charitable activities while continuing to help our members survive and thrive in Western Japan.

http://www.jetaa.com/westjapan/eng/

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**Korea**

**KRI-Korea Chapter**

2004年度JETAA大韓民国支部の活動報告

1. JETAA大韓民国支部主催事業

- 「日韓地方自治団体交流の現状と課題」シンポジウム開催
  （韓日社会文化フォーラム共同主催）
  場所: 2004年3月20日 国際交流基金ソウル文化センター
- 2004年度JET会員手帳製作（ダイアリーモー）
- 2004年度JET新規参加者ハンドブック製作
- JETニュースレター7号発行（日本語、韓国語）
- JETパネル展示会及び説明会、交流会
  期間: 10月6日~8日 場所: 日本大使館広報文化院シルクギャラリー

2. 通訳支援事業

- 2004年10月19日 大阪プロモーション通訳(大阪観光協会)総16名
- 2004年11月1日 岡山行事通訳 総3名
- 2004年11月17日 青森行事通訳 総3名
- 2004年11月17日 「秋田県フォトコン」行事通訳 総3名
- 2004年11月22日 「日韓の夕べ」行事通訳 総3名
- 2004年11月23日「北見北条新北慶地方文化祭」通訳 総16名

3. 関連機関への協力事業

- JET新規参加者オリエンテーション（日本大使館広報文化院）
- HIソウルフェスティバルソウル日本会行事参加（5月ソウル日本会）
- JNTO観光説明会通訳支援（20名）（6月JNTO主催）
- JETAA帰国者歓迎会（日本大使館広報文化院）
- 日韓カクオケ大会予選及び本選通訳及び行事支援（ソウル日本会）
- JETNTO懇親会（日本大使館広報文化院）
- JET説明会（日本大使館広報文化院）
- 日韓カクオケ大会予選（7月3日、8月1日）及び本選（9月11日）通訳及び行事支援（ソウル日本会）
- JET説明会参加（ウィンカーズ大学、日大使館広報文化院）
- 文化院行事通訳支援「十の夏」映画試写会（日本大使館広報文化院）
- JIC新規参加者説明会（ソウル日本会）
- JIC新規参加者通訳支援（ソウル日本会）
- 年末クリスマス慈善コンサートリハーサル（12月6日及び本選行事）
- 日韓カクオケ大会予選（日本大使館広報文化院）
- 2005年度JET説明会関連（日本大使館広報文化院）

2005年度JETAA大韓民国支部の予定事

1. JETAA大韓民国支部主催事業

- 2005年2月ニュースレター8号発行
- ソウル日本大使館韓国語研究所開所
- 2005年度JET会員手帳製作（ダイアリーモー）
- 2005年度JET新規参加者ハンドブック製作
- JETパネル展示会及び説明会、交流会（9月頃）

- 2005年日韓友好年委員会活動及び関連事業の企画

（案）日韓スピーチコンテスト（日本大使館、クレアソウル、ソウル日本会、国際交流基金）

2. 関連機関への協力事

- 2005年2月22日JETAA支部会員とクレアソウル職員との交流会（クレアソウル事務所）
- JET新規参加者オリエンテーション（日本大使館広報文化院）
- HIソウルフェスティバルソウル日本会行事参加（5月ソウル日本会）
- JNTO観光説明会通訳支援（20名）（6月JNTO主催）
- JETAA帰国者歓迎会（日本大使館広報文化院）
- 日韓カクオケ大会予選及び本選通訳及び行事支援（ソウル日本会）
- JET説明会参加（日本大使館広報文化院）
- JIC新規参加者通訳支援（ソウル日本会）
- 年末クリスマス慈善コンサートリハーサル（ソウル日本会）
- 2005年度JET説明会関連（日本大使館広報文化院）

韓国で開催される各種の行事への協力・支援

- 2005年6月 NHKの音楽祭
- 2005年7月 「日韓友好の出火点」
- 日韓文化シンポジウム
- 日韓文化交流展
- 2005年9月 日韓友情の体験（日韓のお祭り交流）
- 2005年12月 日韓友情の未来
- 日韓文化交流祭
- 日韓友好年委員会

New Zealand

NZ1-Wellington Chapter

JETAA Wellington has approximately 160 members in the lower North Island, with the majority living in Wellington. We have a committee consisting of four elected positions, together with a large social committee. As well as organising social and cultural activities for former JET Programme participants, we work to promote the JET Programme to schools and university students, assist newly selected JET Programme participants with pre-departure preparations, and liaise with local Japan-related community groups to promote Japan in the Wellington region. In the last year, for instance, we have given two presentations on the JET Programme at public forums on Japan-New Zealand relations.

In recent years, we have made efforts to involve the local Japanese community in our social activities – this has seen us undertake quiz nights with a distinctly Japanese feel, and take groups of Japanese students on trips to places such as Kapiti Island (protected by the Department of Conservation), and Kaitoke Regional Park for a barbeque and impromptu Lord of the Rings tour. We have also had Japanese conversation evenings with teacher trainees visiting from Japan, and several large events such as our Halloween party last October, and a winter dinner with the Japan Society of Wellington and the Wellington Sakai Association.

Upcoming social activities for this year include another quiz night, a car rally, a sake tasting event, and a sakura/hanami picnic in Palmerston North – the first time we will be holding a JETAA-Wellington activity outside of Wellington. We will also have our annual honenkai dinner for JETAA members, and will undertake some JET Programme promotional activities with schools and with Victoria University of Wellington.

For more information about JETAA Wellington, feel free to visit our website (www.jetaawgtn.org.nz) or email us at jetaawgtn@hotmail.com. We look forward to hearing from former JET Programme participants who find themselves in the Wellington region.

NZ2-Christchurch Chapter

Chapter of around 140 members spread over the South Island of New Zealand, though the majority are in Christchurch. We will also have our annual honenkai dinner for JETAA members, and will undertake some JET Programme promotional activities with schools and with Victoria University of Wellington.

For more information about JETAA Wellington, feel free to visit our website (www.jetaawgtn.org.nz) or email us at jetaawgtn@hotmail.com. We look forward to hearing from former JET Programme participants who find themselves in the Wellington region.

NZ2-Auckland Chapter

JETAA Auckland has over 200 members, with an executive committee of 11 working closely with the Japanese consulate to coordinate the year's activities and events. Annual events include: conducting pre-departure Q&A and orientation seminars and Japanese language lessons for new JET participants; roll-your-own sushi evening; Japanese cooking class; Hanami; Japanese language lessons and a Japanese video competition for NZ high school students, as well as social events throughout the year.
United Kingdom

UK1—London Chapter
JETAA London is probably the largest chapter in the UK. Our chapter has close links with JETAA UK, the Japan Society and JLGJC. We are hoping that in the future, we can develop these links and further develop our links with other chapters in Europe. We will be hosting the European JETAA Conference this year in London which we are planning with JETAA UK. Other events that are or have been on our calendar are: karaoke nights, regular JETAA London get-togethers at a Japanese themed bar, restaurant evenings and joint events with the Japan Society (the London Treasure Hunt and Summer Ball). In the near future, JETAA London will be hosting our first Q&A day for soon to be departing to Japan JET Programme participants and their parents.

UK2—Midlands Chapter
UK2 has been around for the last seven years and has approximately 350 members. We cover an area from Wales to the east of England! Our group is small but active and committed. Every year we have about six to eight events including a Pre-departure talk at the parents’ party, a cookery day, restaurant nights, cinema events and a Taiko workshop.

UK3—Northwest Chapter
The North West Chapter formed about 3 years ago. Since then it has gone from strength to strength. We have formed links with the local Japan Centre and together we hold regular Japanese conversation evenings. Samsi, our local Japanese restaurant, is a regular meeting place for alumni get-togethers. The Cornerhouse regularly has Japanese movies to which we organise group trips. Finally this year we held our first event in Leeds at a Japanese restaurant opened by an ex-JET which was a great success.

UK5—Scotland and Northern England Chapter
JETAA Scotland has around 500 members with an active core of around 20. Our activities include hiking and camping trips in the beautiful Scottish countryside as well as meals and pub nights. Joint events with the Edinburgh University Japan Society have been a great success and the Chapter is currently spearheading the EU-Japan 2005 project.

United States

US 1—Washington DC Chapter
JETAA D.C. provides a social and professional network for JET alumni and supports the Embassy of Japan in their administration of the JET Program. JETAA D.C. has about 480 members, and each year we have a variety of events including social activities, receptions at the Embassy of Japan, career nights, business meetings and networking events. We particularly reach out to new arrivals to the D.C. area and to recently returned JET alumni. JETAA D.C. participates annually in the Greater D.C. Cares Servathon and the Japan-America Society's Sakura Matsuri.

US 2—New York Chapter
Our organization's mission includes assisting returning JETs with acclimation to life and work in NYC, fostering education and understanding of Japanese culture, and strengthening the ties between the NY JET Alumni and the Japanese community. Currently, our chapter has 800 members and we are always looking for ways to work with Japanese-related organizations in NY. Highlights: working towards becoming a not-for-profit organization, hosting events such as pre-departure orientation, welcome back forum in collaboration with the NY-based Japanese Consulate, annual softball tournament with NY-based Japanese communities, sending out quarterly newsletters and experimenting with new programming such as cultural and educational geared events such as Urasanke tea ceremony demonstrations and opening up our quarterly meetings with a guest speaker. To kick-off our last meeting, we invited Beard Papa's manager to talk about the business culture of their famous cream puff company and their new found success in the NY metropolitan area.

US 3—New England Chapter
New England JETAA covers Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Most activities take place in Boston where the chapter meetings are held, but activities outside of Boston have included hiking trips in the mountains of New Hampshire and the annual Blackship Festival in Newport. Rhode Island celebrating Commodore Perry's breakthrough visit to Meiji era Japan. This past year, NEJETAA activities included putting on a “shamisen” concert, visits to a weekend Japanese school to practice speaking Japanese with parents, organizing talks at the pre-departure orientation and reception, putting on the returnee BBQ as well as educating school kids about Japan through Japan-in-a-suitcase visits. For the coming year, we hope to strengthen member participation by diversifying the activities. Some planned activities include a photo contest, an Iron Chef’s cooking competition, and more announcements of spontaneous outings on the list serve. All JET Alumni returning to New England are encouraged to join this chapter. Contact chanh.phan@gmail.com for more info.

US 4—Southeast Chapter
The SE chapter covers a broad area, but includes a weak 'active membership'. In 2005, we intend to (in order of importance) 1)strengthen the membership and increase the number of 'active' members. 2) Create more resources for our membership 3) solidify the website so that it is an important resource for both former JETs & prospective JETs. Also make it more appealing for members to visit on a more regular basis by keeping updated info, job postings, and news of Japan-related events. We again plan to have an event with Japanese related organizations in the area in order to provide the membership with the ability to meet more Japanese in the area. 5) Continue to create & encourage subchapters by offering them support and offering events that branch out in their areas 6) Incorporation 7)Encourage the participation/attendance of non-JET members to our events in order to offer a more diverse crowd for our membership.

US 6—Florida Chapter
The Florida JET Alumni Association acts a support network for its members and as a partner to many Japan-related organizations in the state of Florida. We are a small association of almost 150 members, but only 30-40 are regularly active. We provide help to the Consulate in Miami for JET Program functions-Q&A sessions, interviews and pre-departure orientation. Thanks to a membership with diverse expertise and interests, we additionally take part in educational programs that teach about Japan, both organized by us and in association with other groups: the Japan Society of Miami and South Florida (cultural festivals), Asian American Friends of FL Teachers, JET Alumni of FL, and Japanese related organizations (high school and college campus immersion days), and the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens (special cultural programming and festivals). We also organize opportunities for our members to get together for regional social events that allow us to network.

US 7—Chicago Chapter
JETAA Chicago was established in 1994 to strengthen the bonds of cross-cultural friendships developed by former JET Program participants acting as ALTs and CIRs. The group continually strives to promote community, professional, and social relationships for alumni members in the area. We annually host a shinnenkai in January, a White Day Yakiniku and Karaoke Party, a Welcome Back BBQ, a Career Fair, and several language practice/social dinners.

US 8—Heartland Chapter
Having lost our Consulate General we are the first chapter without local support. Heartland JETAA covers the same 6 states in the US Midwest but now receives Consular support from the Chicago Consulate. We are a chapter in transition from years of relative inactivity to becoming very involved in local Japan-related activities and JET Program support. We are involved in 2 major ethnic festivals, several minor ones and one major Japanese language contest. Our Chapter Rep is also the Secretary of the Greater Kansas City Japan Council and we have members on the Board of the Japan-America Society. Chapter headquarters in Kansas City, MO holds monthly meetings and 5 Sub-chapters hold quarterly meetings. We publish a quarterly newsletter and are involved in the School Visit program. Our website is heartlandjetaa.org.

US10—Rocky Mountain Chapter
The JETAA chapter of the Rocky Mountains is based in Denver, Colorado and has members spread across Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico as well. This past year several JET Alumni in New Mexico got together with support from the alumni in Denver. Our last event was a photo exhibit that was displayed throughout the month of May in a gallery just north of downtown Denver. We displayed over 40 photos taken by JET alumni from our region during their sojourn in Japan. It was a big success, attended by the Consul-General in Denver, Ota-san, along with outgoing JETs, JET alumni, and friends and family members. We had over 80 people at the gallery making this event the most attended in our chapter's history. We also held a shinnenkai in January which 40 people attended to participate in a career discussion before hand and a taiko performance during. In June we will volunteer to promote the JET Program alongside the Japanese Consulate at Denver's annual Sakura Matsuri that takes place the 18th and 19th. The last weekend of June is the Q&A Session in which 6-8 alumni will assist in preparing outgoing JETs. This fall we will continue with our tradition of organizing a welcome back, sushi-making party to welcome the JET returning to the Rocky Mountain region.

US11—Pacific Northwest Chapter
President: Shannon Quinn
E-mail: pnwofficers@jet.org
Membership: 300 members in Washington, Northern Idaho, and Montana
Greetings from the Pacific Northwest chapter of the JET Alumni Association (PNW-JETAA). The PNW-JETAA chapter operates out of Seattle and serves over three hundred members across Washington, Northern Idaho, and Montana. The goals of the chapter include supporting JET alumni in the region and offering social, cultural, and educational activities that allow members to stay connected to Japan.
Pacific Northwest JETAA Activities—Highlights from 2004-2005


Winter 2005: Shinnenkai happy hour, PNW JETAA Photo Contest, Annual meeting and elections, Newsletter published in March, JETAA Japanese class (January-early March), Assistance with JET Program interviews at the Consulate of Japan Seattle

Spring 2005: Hanami picnic, Monthly steering council meetings, JETAA Japanese class (late March-May), Taiko lessons with Seattle’s Tsunami Taiko, Preparation of PNW JETAA photo contest display, Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival

Our goals for 2005-2006 include improving the chapter’s website, continuing Japanese language classes, and building stronger ties with the Pacific Northwest’s Japanese community.

If you are relocating to the Pacific Northwest, contact the listserv moderator <pnwjetaa@yahoo.groups.com> to join the chapter’s listserv. PNW JETAA’s listserv is a great resource for information on Japan-related events, career and networking information, job listings, and much more. For more details on PNW-JETAA membership, please contact the JET Program Coordinator at pnwmembership@jet.org.

US12-Portland Chapter
We are about 220 members strong, and a very active chapter. We also have a Eugene liaison who works with us to pull in JETAA from other cities in Oregon and help them stay connected. Our activities include: The Annual Iron Chef cooking competitions, Sayonara BBQ for departing JETS, Hanamikai, Shinnenkai, Bonenkai, JETAA job panel, Quarterly newsletter and fantastic website, Japanese lessons for outbound JETS, J-Kaiwa monthly Japanese only nights for JETAA members and Japanese community, Mochitsuki, Mini golf tournaments, Japanese Film Nights.

US13-Northern California Chapter
JETAA NC Mission/Objectives: The JET Alumni Association of Northern California is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization open to current and returning participants of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program. The organization serves as a support network and resource for returning participants in their transition to the Northern California area, and also provides assistance in the recruitment and orientation for the JET Program to the Consulate General of Japan, San Francisco. Most of our events occur in and around the Northern California Bay Area, although they are often located in further-reaching areas, from the Central Valley to Nevada and abroad.

US14-Southern California Chapter
Konnichiwa. The Southern California Chapter consists of over 600 members and encompasses all of So Cal (Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Diego) and Arizona. We’re a very active and genki group in which we do something every month. Our monthly events, called Second Weekend Socials, can be anything from hiking in Pasadena, to salsa dancing, to dinner parties. We also do a Nihongo Dake Dinner bi-monthly for us alumni who want to keep up with our Japanese or at least try to. But it’s not all socials that we do. We like to help the community out at times as well. In the past, we helped out with cleaning Little Tokyo (Pika Pika), dealing cards at the Kaban Casino Night, serving food at The Japanese Restaurant Association’s Food Fair, and working the booths at the Tofu Festival, to name a few. We also have our Networking Events to help alumni seek for a new job or connect with people in their own or other professions. The Japan America Society was a big part in our last one. Here’s a list of events past and future:

2004
September: Second Weekend Social: JETAA NC Fall Golf Classic and Installation Dinner
October: SWS: Little Tokyo Mural Painting Welcome Back Reception Little Tokyo Sparkle Clean up (Pika Pika) Nihongo Dake Dinner (NDD) Halloween Party JRA Food Festival
November: SWS: Annual Member Retreat in Oceanside Little Tokyo Kaban Fundraiser – Casino Night
December: SWS: Bonenkai

2005
January: SWS: Shinnenkai
February: SWS: JETAA NC Tsunami Relief Fundraiser/Free Bowling NDD
March: JET Interviews in Los Angeles and Phoenix, Arizona SWS: Dinner and Salsa Night
April: JETAA NC Professional Networking Event SWS: Rock Wall Climbing
May: SWS: Hiking
June: SWS: Miniature Golf Tournament Miyazaki’s Howl’s Moving Castle viewing at El Capitan Pre-Departure Seminar

Coming up
July: SWS: JETAA NC Annual Picnic Various Coffee Talks Bon Voyage Reception
August: SWS: TBD Tofu Festival
September: SWS: JETAA NC Fall Golf Classic and Installation Dinner
November: JETAA NC Members Retreat December: Bonenkai
January: Shinnenkai

So that’s a taste of what we do, but that’s not all of it. Our sub chapters, Arizona and San Diego, also do their own thing at times. Oh, one last thing, we have our own article in a monthly newsletter called Sushi & Tofu Magazine in which we have a different alumni each month write a small article about their time in Japan or how it effected them.

So, are we active or what? If you’re completing your term in Japan and returning to So Cal, we want to hear from you. Go to our web site, www.jetaasc.org and register. For more info, same web site, www.jetaasc.org. You can check out our monthly newsletter, upcoming events, pictures, and such. You can also contact the officers at officers@jetaasc.org. Hope to hear from you soon.

US15-Hawaii Chapter
The JETAA Hawaii chapter strives to promote Japan and the JET Program, and be a resource to future, present and past JET participants. Much of our activities are focused around promoting and supporting the program. Many of the events are focused on preparing the newly accepted JET participants prepared for what awaits them in Japan. We also host a variety of events to help those former participants as they transition into their lives in Hawaii.

US17-Great Lakes Chapter
Coming Events include happy hours in different cities spread throughout GL17’s two-state region of Michigan and Ohio; more involvement in the JET pre-departure orientation; returnees reception in fall; Career Fair and workshops; and joining with other groups such as JAS and other international groups to host events.

US18-Minnesota Chapter
Although JETAA Minnesota is a small, “Consulate Free” Chapter, we enjoy cultural events throughout the year in addition to monthly sushi dinners. We partner with the Japan-America Society every June for a Yaki-Niku Picnic; the event allows us to network with Japanese professionals who are new to Minneapolis, [hopefully] offering friendly advice to ease their transitions to American life. We also take part in a St. Paul Lantern Lighting Festival every August, where we enjoy promoting the JET Program to guests. In the coming year we will continue to sponsor a sushi-making class in April and annual “Send-off” and “Welcome Back” dinners. In addition, in Sept., we will resume having our monthly get together at Fuji-Ya in Minneapolis for sushi and drinks, an informal gathering for JETAA and anyone else interested in our association. We hope to add a Tea Ceremony to our calendar, as well as a bath night (a few of our members have oharo in their homes). While disrobing and bathing publicly has more appeal in Japan, winter here just may be cold enough to prompt even our most reserved members to take a dip...’

If you are interested in getting involved in your local JETAA chapter or would like more information about JETAA events in your area, please access the JETAA International homepage at www.jetaalumni.org for links to your local chapter homepage or contact the chapter representatives as listed on pages 15-16.


**REGARDING THE JET PROGRAMME**

**Would you recommend the JET Programme to a friend?**

- Yes, absolutely: 449 (85%) 81%
- Probably: 65 (12%) 15%
- Unlikely: 8 (2%) 1%
- Definitely not: 1 (0.2%) 1%
- Not sure: 10 (2%) 2%

**Did you enjoy your experiences on the JET Programme?**

- Yes, very much: 302 (57%) 57%
- Yes, for the most part: 202 (38%) 38%
- It was alright: 17 (3%) 5%
- No, not really: 1 (0.2%) 0.3%

**Do you feel that you contributed to the aims of the JET Programme?**

- Yes, I think my presence made a positive impression: 352 (67%) 71%
- Yes, but with reservations: 137 (26%) 19%
- I'm not sure: 25 (5%) 4%
- I don't feel that I made a significant impact: 11 (2%) 4%

**Have your experiences on the JET Programme contributed anything to your perspective on life?**

- Yes, an increased international outlook: 458 (87%) 82%
- Yes, better personal qualities: 406 (77%) 79%
- Yes, an ability to see beyond stereotypes: 344 (65%) 66%
- Yes, a wider circle of friends and increased social skills: 388 (73%) 74%
- Yes, an interest for life: 229 (42%) 46%
- Other: 31 (6%) 10%
- No: 5 (1%) 1%

**ABOUT YOUR JAPANESE LANGUAGE ABILITY**

**How would you evaluate your Japanese language proficiency prior to coming on the JET Programme?**

**READING**

- Non-existent: 319 (60%) 58%
- Elementary: 100 (19%) 20%
- Intermediate: 53 (10%) 11%
- Semi-advanced: 40 (8%) 9%
- Advanced: 13 (2%) 2%

**WRITING**

- Non-existent: 328 (62%) 60%
- Elementary: 96 (18%) 16%
- Intermediate: 74 (14%) 13%
- Semi-advanced: 25 (5%) 7%
- Advanced: 4 (1%) 1%

**SPEAKING**

- Non-existent: 269 (51%) 49%
- Elementary: 124 (24%) 21%
- Intermediate: 80 (15%) 11%
- Semi-advanced: 37 (7%) 11%
- Advanced: 16 (3%) 4%

**LISTENING**

- Non-existent: 269 (51%) 50%
- Elementary: 113 (21%) 19%
- Intermediate: 87 (16%) 15%
- Semi-advanced: 41 (8%) 10%
- Advanced: 15 (3%) 3%

**How would you evaluate your Japanese language proficiency now?**

**READING**

- Non-existent: 28 (5%) 11%
- Elementary: 219 (41%) 37%
- Intermediate: 171 (24%) 25%
- Semi-advanced: 81 (12%) 12%
- Advanced: 27 (5%) 6%

**WRITING**

- Non-existent: 47 (9%) 13%
- Elementary: 228 (43%) 40%
- Intermediate: 180 (34%) 26%
- Semi-advanced: 58 (11%) 13%
- Advanced: 12 (2%) 2%
### SPEAKING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Last Year %</th>
<th>I'm a homemaker</th>
<th>I'm self-employed</th>
<th>I'm unemployed</th>
<th>I'm employed and also a student</th>
<th>I'm a student</th>
<th>I'm employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>non-existent</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elementary</td>
<td>120%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intermediate</td>
<td>204%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>semi-advanced</td>
<td>151%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>advanced</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LISTENING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Last Year %</th>
<th>I'm a homemaker</th>
<th>I'm self-employed</th>
<th>I'm unemployed</th>
<th>I'm employed and also a student</th>
<th>I'm a student</th>
<th>I'm employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>non-existent</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elementary</td>
<td>120%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intermediate</td>
<td>204%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>semi-advanced</td>
<td>151%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>advanced</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Did you study Japanese while on the JET Programme?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Year %</th>
<th>Yes, through self-study</th>
<th>Yes, through one of the Japanese language courses Provided by CLAIR</th>
<th>Yes, at a Japanese language school</th>
<th>Yes, through a Japanese language exchange</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>363%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>379%</td>
<td>155%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Did you pass any recognized Japanese language tests while on the JET Programme?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Year %</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Has knowledge of the Japanese language helped you in your subsequent endeavours?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Year %</th>
<th>Not particularly, but it’s nice to have</th>
<th>Yes, markedly</th>
<th>No, but I would like to use it in the future</th>
<th>No, studying it was a waste of time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>274%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>110%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### YOUR CURRENT ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Which of the following best describes your current state of employment?</th>
<th>Last Year %</th>
<th>I'm employed</th>
<th>I'm a student</th>
<th>I'm employed and also a student</th>
<th>I'm a student</th>
<th>I'm employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I'm employed</td>
<td>313%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm a student</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm employed and also a student</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm unemployed</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm self-employed</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm a homemaker</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### How long did it take you to find a satisfying job?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Year %</th>
<th>I had it arranged before I completed the Programme</th>
<th>Within a month of job hunting</th>
<th>Up to six months</th>
<th>Six months to one year</th>
<th>I have not yet found a satisfying job</th>
<th>Up to two years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### What did you do in the interim between completing the JET Programme and starting your current occupation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Year %</th>
<th>Travel</th>
<th>Search for a job</th>
<th>Relax</th>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Work part-time</th>
<th>Investigate study opportunities</th>
<th>I started this occupation immediately</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>230%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FOR THOSE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Has your experience on the JET Programme benefited you in finding employment?</th>
<th>Last Year %</th>
<th>I'm a homemaker</th>
<th>I'm self-employed</th>
<th>I'm unemployed</th>
<th>I'm employed and also a student</th>
<th>I'm a student</th>
<th>I'm employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>117%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, extremely</td>
<td>111%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, slightly</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t know</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### In what ways, if any, has the JET Programme assisted you in finding employment?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Year %</th>
<th>By providing me with international experience</th>
<th>By providing to my employers that I have initiative and other life skills</th>
<th>By developing other practical skills</th>
<th>By instilling in me a new confidence and public speaking skills</th>
<th>By developing my Japanese language skills</th>
<th>By providing me with experience in functioning within an actual work environment</th>
<th>By allowing me to time to think and evaluate my options</th>
<th>I do not feel it has helped me</th>
<th>I am not certain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>231%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Do employers look favourably on the JET Programme experience?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Year %</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Partially</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>227%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### How do your current wages compare with that earned as a JET Programme participant?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Year %</th>
<th>It is much lower</th>
<th>It is slightly lower</th>
<th>It is slightly higher</th>
<th>It is much higher</th>
<th>About the same</th>
<th>Worse</th>
<th>Better</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>105%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Do you feel that your standard of living is better or worse than as a JET Programme participant?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Year %</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>111%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### IF YOU ARE SELF-EMPLOYED %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Year %</th>
<th>Is your business related to Japan?</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### IF YOU ARE A STUDENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Year %</th>
<th>Masters</th>
<th>Other professional degree</th>
<th>Other professional diploma</th>
<th>Teaching certification</th>
<th>Doctors</th>
<th>Language School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Are your studies related to Japan?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Year %</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Partially</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>105%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ABOUT THE LUMP-SUM WITHDRAWAL

| Last Year % | I applied and received the payment | I did not apply | I applied and am still waiting | I do not know to what you are referring | I do not know | Within a month of job hunting | Up to two months | Between 4 and 6 months | More than 6 months | Less than 1 month | Between 2 and 4 months | Between 4 and 6 months | More than 6 months | Less than 1 month | Within a month of job hunting | Up to two months | Between 4 and 6 months | More than 6 months | Less than 1 month |
|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
|             | 485%                          | 24%            | 13%                         | 4%                                    | 0.7%          | 36%                           | 15%              | 20%                 | 10%               | 2%             | 34%               | 36%               | 8%                | 8%                | 3%                | 3%                |

### What is your current annual salary (approx. in US dollars)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Year %</th>
<th>Less than 1 month</th>
<th>More than 6 months</th>
<th>Between 4 and 6 months</th>
<th>Between 2 and 4 months</th>
<th>Approximately how long did it take for the lump-sum withdrawal payment to reach you?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(continued on the back page)
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(continued from page 14)

Did you apply for a refund on the tax that was withheld from the lump-sum withdrawal payment?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Last Year %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I applied and received the refund</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I did not apply</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not know to what you are referring</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I applied, but was turned down</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I did not receive the lump-sum withdrawal</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>payment and could not apply</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JETAA
Are you active in your local JETAA chapter?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Last Year %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am a member, but am not involved</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, but I would like to be</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, I’m not interested</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, I am a member and actively involved</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, I am a member of the JETAA chapter committee</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If representatives from your former Host Prefecture/Designated City or Contracting Organisation were to visit your country or city, in which of the following ways would you be interested in meeting with them and/or participating in related events?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Last Year %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I would be willing to participate as an interpreter</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would be willing to help with event planning</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would attend any associated welcome receptions</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am not sure I could participate</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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JET Streams

JET Streams is published once yearly by the Council of Local Authorities for International Relation. It provides information and updates about the JET Programme and its Alumni Association (JETAA) to former Programme participants.

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