

About CLAIR



The Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) was established in July 1988 in response to rising concern for local-level internationalization in Japan. CLAIR was created as a joint organization of local governments to promote and provide support for local internationalization.

CLAIR's headquarters are located in Tokyo with seven overseas offices set up in Singapore, New York, London, Paris, Seoul, Sydney and Beijing.

CLAIR SINGAPORE

CLAIR Singapore was set up in October 1990 and conducts activities in the 10 ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) and India (since April 2007).

Our Activities

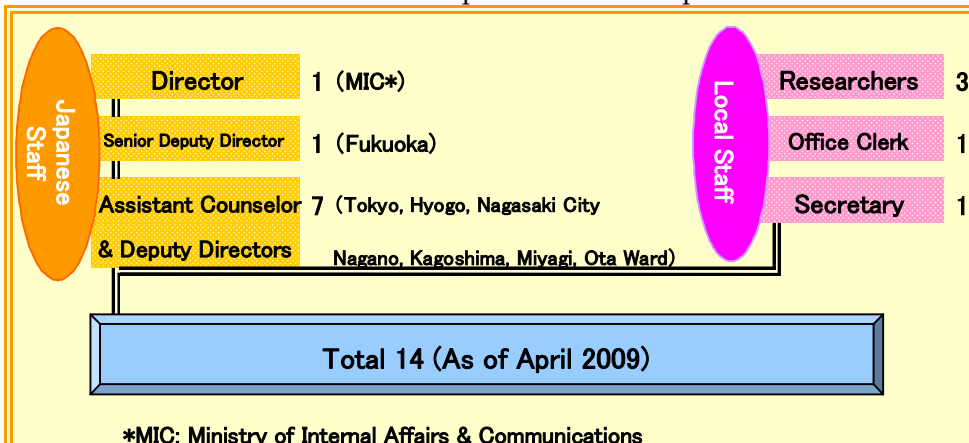
1. Promote exchange between Japan and ASEAN and India at the local level
2. Support Japanese local governments' activities in ASEAN and India
3. Conduct research on local administration and finance systems in ASEAN and India
4. Introduce Japan's local administration and finance systems to ASEAN and India



※ Not drawn to scale

Profile

Our office consists of 9 staff dispatched from Japan and 5 local staff.



Scenery around our office

Our Activities

Support for Overseas Activities of Japanese Local Authorities

To support Japanese local officials in their overseas research activities and field trips in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and India, we provide introduction to the appropriate organizations and individuals, arrange appointments with government agencies, accompany them on these site visits, assist in interpretation, conduct briefings on administrative systems and provide related materials.

To date, we have assisted more than 10,000 local officials in their overseas activities.

Year	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
No. of cases	30	60	90	57	75	81	85	64	80	41	49	37	27	17	29	23	61	80	56	1,042
No. of people	256	756	1,008	620	667	1,324	687	603	519	296	657	300	903	173	800	279	846	535	838	12,067

Regional Alliances Promotion Program (Former ASEAN Region Local Administration Forum)

With the aim of exchanging local administrative experience and know-how of Japan and ASEAN countries, improving the efficiency and quality of administrative management, and promoting interaction between administrative officials, CLAIR Singapore has organized the ASEAN Region Local Administrative Forum in each of the ASEAN countries since 1995. In FY 2007, this event was renamed Regional Alliances Promotion Program to promote regional mutual exchange between Japan and the host country while encouraging broader participation from Japan's administrative officials.

Regional Alliances Promotion Program: A program that targets Japanese local officials and aims to introduce them to the local administration systems and recent business trends in ASEAN countries and India. It allows participants to build networks of contacts through opinion exchange sessions arranged with local administrative officials and Japanese firms that have established themselves in the respective countries.



Regional Alliances Promotion Program being held in Vietnam (FY 2007)

FY	Country	Theme
2007	Vietnam	Japan-Vietnam Regional Alliance Opportunities
	Brunei	Seminar on Brunei-Japan Local Administration
2005	Cambodia	Human Resource Development for Local Administration Officers
2004	Myanmar	Human Resource Development for Local Administration Officers in ASEAN
2003	Lao PDR	The Roles of Local Administration: Present and Future
2002	Cambodia	Local Governance and Decentralization
2001	Singapore	E-Government - A Strategic Transformation of the Delivery of Public Services
2000	Singapore	Raising the Professional Ethical Standards in the New Millennium
1999	Vietnam	Restructuring the Local Government Organization Toward the 21st Century
1998	Philippines	Trends and Issues Toward Decentralization in the ASEAN Region and Japan
1997	Thailand	Local Administrative Activities and its Financial Basis
1996	Indonesia	Capacity Building and Privatization in Local Government
1995	Malaysia	Seminar on Local Government through the Japanese Experience of Local Government

Tourism Promotion

In order to support Japanese local governments' attempts to attract foreign tourists to vitalize the local areas, we attend travel fairs in countries like Singapore and Thailand to promote the local areas using posters and pamphlets provided by the local governments. We also conduct surveys on visitors' attitudes toward visiting Japan.

Recent Attendances: NATAS Travel 2009 (Singapore) Organizer: NATAS (National Association of Travel Agents Singapore)

27 Feb – 1 March 2009 No. of visitors: around 56,000

MATTA Travel Fair (Malaysia) Organizer: MATTA (Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents)

5 – 7 Sept 2008 No. of visitors: around 73,000



CLAIR booth at NATAS Travel 2009



CLAIR staff attending to visitor enquiries at MATTA Travel Fair 2008

Regional Exchanges

We assist in international exchanges between Japan and other countries such as Japanese local governments' participation in the Chingay Parade organized by the People's Association of Singapore.

Chingay Parade: Held annually since 1973, Chingay Parade is Singapore's largest street parade in celebration of the lunar new year.



Kagoshima "So" Erg dance group participating in the Chingay Parade in February 2008.

Specialist Dispatch Project

Since 2000, CLAIR Singapore has been dispatching Japanese local government officials, both current and retired, who have knowledge or technical skills related to international cooperation, as specialists to foreign local governments in response to their requests. It is hoped that these dispatches will contribute to improving the quality of local administration, technical expertise and human resources in the foreign local governments, as well as increasing friendly ties between Japanese and foreign local governments. The specialists' areas of expertise include firefighting, water systems, social welfare, local administration etc.. In 2008, several specialists were dispatched to Thailand and Brunei to give instruction on advanced firefighting and healthcare etc. This project has been receiving favorable reviews from foreign governments since its inception.

Successful Projects since 2000

Year	Country	Experts	Times	Expertise
2008	Thailand	2	2	Healthcare and welfare
	Thailand	4	1	Firefighting and disaster prevention
	Brunei	1	1	Firefighting and disaster prevention
2007	Thailand	4	1	Firefighting and rescue
2006	Cambodia	1	2	Ceramics
2005	Cambodia	1	1	Ceramics
2003	Lao PDR	2	1	Library Management
2002	Lao PDR	1	1	Local Administration (Local Autonomy Law)
	Indonesia	1	1	Local Administration (Election System)
	Myanmar	1	1	Water Purification
2001	Lao PDR	2	1	Local Administration
	Lao PDR	3	1	Library Management
2000	Vietnam	1	1	Child Welfare
	Cambodia	3	1	Library Management
Total		27	16	



Practicing firefighting and rescue techniques in Thailand (2007)

Local Government Exchange & Cooperation Seminar

Overseas local government officials are invited to Japan to discuss and exchange information on the current situation and issues faced by local governments in both Japan and their home countries. This seminar is an opportunity for participants to gain a better understanding of the respective local administration systems and to develop networks of contacts. During the seminar, participants visit local government offices, exchange opinions and discussions with local representatives, go on field trips in the local areas and experience Japanese culture.



Visit to Kagoshima Prefecture (2008)

Country	No. of participants													Total	
	95	96	97	98	99	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8
Cambodia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Indonesia	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	13
Lao PDR	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	15
Malaysia	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	4	2	1	2	0	25
Myanmar	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	10
Philippines	2	2	2	4	2	3	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	22
Thailand	4	2	3	3	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	23
Vietnam	0	2	2	2	2	1	0	1	2	0	2	1	2	1	18
Brunei	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Total	10	10	11	13	11	9	10	10	8	6	10	10	11	8	137



A briefing before visiting Sengan-en Garden in Kagoshima Prefecture (2008)

Local Government Officials Training Program in Japan

As part of international cooperation efforts, overseas local officials are hosted as trainees in Japanese local governments under this program organized by CLAIR and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. Trainees attend lectures and acquire the know-how and skills in various fields. Their roles are also to further promote internationalization in the local communities.

After an initial introductory training period of about 1 month, trainees are posted to individual host institutions to begin their specialized training and deepen their understanding of Japanese culture. The training typically lasts 6-10 months.

The fields of training available are general administration, environment, agriculture, education, tourism and economy amongst others.

Country	No. of Participants													Total
	96	97	98	99	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Cambodia	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	6
Indonesia	10	8	1	2	3	3	2	4	3	1	2	1	2	42
Lao PDR	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	8
Malaysia	3	2	2	2	1	4	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	20
Myanmar	0	2	3	4	3	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	19
Philippines	6	6	6	1	0	3	5	1	0	1	1	1	1	32
Thailand	6	9	4	3	6	5	3	3	0	2	1	2	0	44
Vietnam	2	4	7	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	21
Total	27	31	23	17	17	17	17	13	7	6	9	5	3	192



Introductory training at Japan Intercultural Academy of Municipalities (JIAM)

Local Government Officials Overseas Study Tour

Organized for Japanese local officials, this program aims to cultivate an international outlook in the participants through the deepening of understanding of local administration and regional planning in ASEAN countries and India.

In 2008, we organized a study tour for 9 officials, consisting of 3 days of training in Japan, followed by 11 days in Thailand.



A training session at Duang Prateep Foundation

JET Program

The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program is administered by local authorities in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; and CLAIR. The Program was created to increase mutual understanding between the people of Japan and of other countries. It aims to promote internationalization in Japan's local communities by helping to improve foreign language education and developing international exchange at the local level.

Participants are selected to be either Assistant Language Teachers (ALT) who provide language instruction in elementary, junior and senior high schools; Coordinators for International Relations (CIR) who work in communities on international exchange activities; or Sports Exchange Advisors (SEA) who promote international exchange through sport. We have had many participants from ASEAN countries and India with 72 youths recruited in FY 2008 who are now active in different parts of Japan.



	CIR	ALT	Total
India	2	17	19
Indonesia	1	0	1
Malaysia	1	0	1
Philippines	1	0	1
Singapore	2	48	50
Total	7	65	72

Support for International Affiliation Exchange

The first sister city agreement between Japan and this region was signed by Yokohama and Mumbai in 1965. Since then, 39 such affiliations have been concluded.

CLAIR facilitates sister city affiliations and exchange in response to requests. We provide support for international exchange corresponding to the needs of the region and also provide consultation on sister city affiliations. Please contact us if you wish to enter into such an affiliation with a Japanese local government.

List of Local Government Affiliations with Japan (by country)

Indonesia

Prefecture	Local Government	Affiliated Counterpart
Yamagata	Yamagata Pref	Papua
Chiba	Ichikawa City	Medan, North Sumatra
Tokyo	Tokyo	Jakarta
Ishikawa	Shika Town	Karawang, Jawa Barat
Kyoto	Kyoto Pref	Yogyakarta
Osaka	Osaka Pref	East Java
Shimane	Misato Town	Mas, Bali
Kochi	Kochi City	Surabaya, Eastern Java

Thailand

Prefecture	Local Government	Affiliated Counterpart
Saitama	Chichibu City	Yasothon, Yasothon
Chiba	Yachiyo City	Bangkok
Toyama	Uozu City	Chiangmai, Chiangmai
Gifu	Ibigawa Town	Thagard, Lamphum, Maetha
Fukuoka	Fukuoka Pref	Bangkok

India

Prefecture	Local Government	Affiliated Counterpart
Kanagawa	Yokohama City	Mumbai, Maharashtra
Okayama	Okayama Pref	Pimpri Chinchwad, Maharashtra
Okayama	Okayama Pref	Pune, Maharashtra
Hiroshima	Miyoshi City	Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
Fukuoka	Fukuoka Pref	Delhi

Malaysia

Prefecture	Local Government	Affiliated Counterpart
Fukuoka	Fukuoka City	Ipoh, Perak

Philippines

Prefecture	Local Government	Affiliated Counterpart
Hokkaido	Wakkanai City	Baguio, Benguet
Aomori	Gonohe Town	Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
Iwate	Miyako City	La Trinidad, Benguet
Yamagata	Sakegawa Village	Kawit
Yamagata	Tozawa Village	General Trias
Ibaraki	Hitachiota City	La Trinidad, Benguet
Gunma	Takasaki City	Muntinlupa
Saitama	Hanyu City	Baguio, Benguet
Chiba	Chiba City	Quezon
Chiba	Choshi City	Legazpi, Albay
Kanagawa	Yokohama city	Manila, Luzon
Shizuoka	Iwata City	Dagupan, Pangasinan
Kyoto	Nantan City	Manila, Luzon
Osaka	Takatsuki City	Manila, Luzon
Hiroshima	Fukuyama City	Tacloban, Leyte
Kagawa	Marugame City	Passig
Kochi	Kochi Pref	Benguet Province
Kagoshima	Amagi Town	Silay, Negros

Vietnam

Prefecture	Local Government	Affiliated Counterpart
Osaka	Osaka Pref	Ho Chi Minh City
Fukuoka	Fukuoka Pref	Hanoi

(As of 1 Apr 2009)

Research on Administrative and Financial Systems of Foreign Local Governments

CLAIR Singapore conducts research on the local administration and financial systems in ASEAN countries and India, which are then compiled into reports or publications. We have issued several publications in Japanese such as Singapore's Policies (2005 ed), Vietnam's Local Administration System (2007 ed) and India's local Government System (2007).

In addition, we also have Japanese publications such as CLAIR REPORT or CLAIR FORUM that provide the latest information on the local administration and financial systems of the respective countries and their various policies.

These publications can be viewed from <http://www.clair.or.jp/j/forum/index.html> (in Japanese only)



Dissemination of Information

In order to disseminate information regarding local administrative and financial systems in Japan, reports such as Local Government in Japan (in English) are available from CLAIR's website and can be downloaded freely by users. We maintain the website in Japanese and English, keeping people informed about our ongoing activities.

CLAIR Singapore also publishes a newsletter that features our activities and sends it to the central and local government institutions in the countries that we cover.



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<http://www.clair.org.sg>