

tion of 170,000.

At the meeting, the Mayor of Misaki Town, Mr. Tadao Okumura proposed 3 types of exchanges, namely youth exchange, cultural exchange and economic exchange between the two cities. He also invited My Tho City's staff to visit Misaki Town in the near future.

The Chairman of the People's Committee of My Tho City, Mr. Tran Van Ket mentioned that he would work hard to create cooperative ties with Misaki Town, and both cities should have regular meetings after this in order to deepen the discussion concerning the kind of activities they

could cooperate on.

Later that day, the delegation of Misaki Town visited a maternity hospital and an elementary school in My Tho City, which offer insights into the best practices of the city's health-care and educational administration.



## New Staff Introduction

**Harumichi Kondo**  
(Shizuoka City Government)

It is an honour to introduce myself here. I am from Shizuoka city which is located to the west of Mt. Fuji. It has mild climate all through the year and is famous for its agricultural products such as green tea, mandarin orange, strawberry and wasabi.

And it has also one of the biggest international trade ports, "Shimizu Port", with the largest catch of tuna in Japan. I will work in this tropical island, Singapore, for the next two years and will be able to experience the various facets of life in Asian countries and India. I hope that I can contribute to establish good relationships between ASEAN countries and Japan including my hometown through this experience.



**Junko Kasama**  
(Sendai City Government)

Since my first visit to Singapore 10 years ago, I have been to ASEAN countries many times for pleasure. I have been impressed by the diversity and vitality of the societies.

I'm glad to work with people in ASEAN, a place which I have become familiarised.

Now, international exchange has entered a new phase. Many local governments in Japan are focusing on economic issues of an international scope, and ASEAN and India have been gaining a lot of attention. Thus, CLAIR will increase its support for such projects.

I think these activities can inspire me because I am very interested in the revitalisation of regional economies.

I hope to make full use of my time here for the next 2 years and contribute what I have learnt back to my hometown, Sendai.



**Hironori Anzai**  
(Fukushima Prefecture)

It is my great honour and pleasure to be given this opportunity to work in CLAIR Singapore, which promotes mutual exchange and cooperation between Japanese local authorities and their counterparts in not only ASEAN countries but also India. Originally I have worked for Fukushima Prefecture Government of Tohoku region in Japan, where I had spent most of my youth.

This is my first time living abroad, as well as working in a country where everything is so unique that you can have fresh experiences everyday. I am looking forward to visiting as many ASEAN countries as possible, in order to get better insights of each country.



CLAIR is a joint organisation founded in 1988 by 47 prefectures and 12 major cities in Japan in order to assist Japanese local authorities with the implementation of their international exchange policies. With its headquarters in Tokyo, CLAIR has seven overseas offices in New York, London, Paris, Singapore, Seoul, Sydney and Beijing.

CLAIR SINGAPORE office was set up in April 1990. It supports and promotes international activities and friendly relations between local authorities in Japan and their counterparts in Singapore and the ASEAN countries.

For further information on our activities or Japanese Local Authorities, please contact CLAIR Singapore office.

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# CLAIR

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## CLAIR Singapore Covers India

Since its establishment in October 1990, CLAIR Singapore has conducted activities such as promoting international exchange between Japanese local authorities and their ASEAN counterparts, research on administration systems in each country and support of the international activities conducted by officials of Japanese local authorities.

At the time of CLAIR Singapore's establishment, international activities conducted by Japanese local authorities were mainly focused on cultural exchanges. But recently, Japanese local authorities are paying more attention to international exchanges which benefit direct local development. Particularly, more emphasis has been put on economic exchanges that promote business expansion, investments, technological partnerships and human resource exchanges with countries of continuous rapid economic development, for example, India.

Until recently, the Indian government did not authorise international exchange conducted by the Indian state governments. But strong needs from both Japanese and Indian sides motivated the Indian Government. When Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Japan last December,



the two prime ministers announced in a joint statement that understandings for twinning relationships has been reached between Fukuoka Prefecture and Delhi State as well as between Okayama Prefecture and Maharashtra State. Encouraging further expansion of such twinning arrangements enhances people-to-people relations and closer economic ties.

CLAIR took this event as a good and timely chance to review the

frame of the area where CLAIR Singapore would be responsible for. And now CLAIR Singapore also covers India.

It is expected that the international exchanges in India conducted by Japanese local authorities will increase rapidly in the near future. We would also greatly appreciate your cooperation in the event of requests for visits to your organisations.



## CLAIR Singapore to hold Administration Seminar in Brunei



In early June this year, the Director of CLAIR Singapore, Mr. Yoshihiro Chiba and his delegation paid a courtesy call on the Vice Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Dani in Brunei. In addition, the delegation also had a chance to meet other officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, which includes the Deputy Permanent Secretary, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Adnan. During the meetings, delegations from the respective organisations had a constructive exchange of ideas and knowledge, which further enhanced the mutual understanding on the administrations of both Brunei and Japan.

In the meetings, an introduction was made on the various activities of CLAIR, for instance the JET Programme, and also the Specialist Dispatch Project. In addition, the delegation from CLAIR Singapore conducted a briefing to a participant of the Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar 2007, to which CLAIR invites local officials from ASEAN countries for a one-week seminar in Japan.



CLAIR Singapore also proposed to hold an administration seminar in Brunei this year. This seminar aims at establishing a platform that facilitates the sharing and exchange of not only experience, but also know-how pertaining to administration between Brunei and Japan. It is hoped that through the mutual exchange of

ideas among the relevant parties, the quality and efficiency of administration in both countries could be leveraged to new heights. The finer details of the seminar will be further discussed and decided between the relevant parties.

Apart from meetings with the Ministry of Home Affairs, CLAIR's delegation also visited the Public Service Department of Prime Minister's Office. After a presentation by Mr. Rahman Husain, the Director of Development and Management, delegates from both organisations actively shared their knowledge pertaining to the civil service systems in both Brunei and Japan.



## CLAIR participated in NATAS Travel 2007 to promote Japanese Tourism

In Japan, each local authority puts a lot of work in attracting foreign tourists as an effective method for local revitalisation. As an organisation that was founded by Japanese local authorities, CLAIR Singapore participated in "NATAS Travel 2007", the biggest international tourism fair in Singapore this March to promote tourist spots in Japan.

and September, whereby many travel agents sell discounted travel packages to the general public.



In its second participation in the NATAS Travel Fair, CLAIR booth displayed and distributed about 15,000 copies of 56 different kinds of tourism pamphlets. Eventually, almost all the pamphlets were handed out before the end of the fair.

In addition, we have also conducted a survey by giving out questionnaires to our booth's visitors in order to grasp the actual needs of



those who are interested in visiting Japan.

We are going to disseminate the results of this survey to the tourism departments of local authorities in Japan, so that they can obtain useful feedback for the formulation of local tourism policies.

Fair Period: From Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th March (three days)  
Venue: Suntec City Convention Centre (Floor area about 10,000 sq.m)  
Number of booths: 122 booths  
Approximately 53,000 visitors

## Friendship Agreement Concluded Between Fukuoka Prefecture and National Capital Territory of Delhi



### Introduction

Until recently, the government of India had never acknowledged twinning arrangements between Indian states and foreign local bodies. However, the visit of Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Japan in December 2006 led to the decision of the Indian government to allow state governments to enter into friendship agreements with foreign authorities.

Until then, Fukuoka prefecture and Okayama prefecture had continued negotiations with Delhi and the state of Maharashtra respectively. After the decision, the first affiliation agreement was signed between Fukuoka and Delhi on 5th March 2007. On that day, Mr. Eguchi, the Treasurer of Fukuoka prefecture exchanged the signed agreement

letter with Delhi's Finance Minister, Mr. A. K. Walia

### Contents of the agreement

The main contents of the agreement are as follows:

\*Creating and expanding mutual exchange in the fields of economy, tourism, medical science, sports, environment, urban development, culture, education, and youth development. Emphasis would be put on economical and cultural exchange.

\*This agreement is valid for five consecutive years, but it can be extended by mutual agreement.

\*Conferences are to be held every year, and hosted by Delhi and Fukuoka alternatively.

### Exchanges hereafter

Regarding the specific exchanges from now on, both regions are planning programmes as follows:

1. Hosting of "India Fair" by Fukuoka prefecture in September. Delhi state will be participating in this event.
2. Hosting of "Fukuoka Fair" in Delhi introducing the culture, tourism, industries of Fukuoka prefecture; the prefecture will also participate in this event.
3. Assisting the exchange between Kyushu National Museum and New Delhi National Museum.
4. Nurturing specialists of environmental issues, two trainees will be dispatched from Delhi state to Fukuoka Prefecture.
5. Delhi state requested Fukuoka prefecture for the dispatch of specialists in order to resolve the pollution problem of Yamuna river.



## Misaki Town's delegation visits My Tho City in Vietnam

Misaki Town in Japan is hoping to form a sister city affiliation with My Tho City in Vietnam. As a result, on 17th April, the Mayor and the Vice

Mayor as well as councilors of Misaki Town visited My Tho City.

Misaki Town is located in the middle of Okayama Prefecture in Japan, with an area of 232.15 square

kilometers and a population of slightly more than 17,000. My Tho City is the capital of Tien Giang Province in Vietnam, located at the Mekong River Delta, with a popula-