



Our Activities 2025

The Japan Council of Local Authorities for International Relations, Singapore

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

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

Main Activities

J.CLAIR Singapore was set up in October 1990 and conducts activities in the 10 ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam), India as well as Sri Lanka.

1. Promoting local government level exchange and international cooperation
2. Conducting research on local administration and finance systems as well as the various policies
3. Supporting Japanese local governments' overseas activities

Organizational Structure

Our office consists of 20 staff dispatched from Japan and 5 local staff.

Title	No.	Dispatched from
Executive Director	1	Ministry of Internal Affairs & Communication
Deputy Executive Director	1	Tottori
Senior Deputy Director	1	Hyogo
Deputy Director	14	Tochigi, Sano City (Tochigi), Tsumagoi Village (Gunma), Tokyo, Toyama, Uozu City (Toyama), Aichi, Ichinomiya City (Aichi), Kyoto, Yamaguchi, Kitakyushu City (Fukuoka), Miyazaki, Kagoshima, Ichikikushikino City (Kagoshima)
Division Director	3	Nagano, Kochi, Kumamoto
Local Staff	5	





Promoting local government level exchange

◎Regional Exchange Promotion Programme

*Scheduled to be held in India (Delhi and Mumbai) in FY2025

【Objectives】

To enable Japanese local governments to achieve the following:

- Fostering closer understanding of the current situation and challenges pertaining to relations between Japan and foreign countries.
- Building capacity in leaders who will assume the responsibilities of internationalization of the local area.
- Creating opportunities for the promotion of future regional exchange between Japan and foreign countries.

【Targeted Participants from Japan】

- Local government officials
- Staff of recognized local international exchange associations
- Staff of NPOs referred by local governments



【Participants Receiving an Explanation from Hanoi City, Vietnam (Hanoi People's Committee)】

【Programmes in previous years】

FY	City
2024	Hanoi (Vietnam) /Bangkok (Thailand)
2023	Singapore / Jakarta, Bekasi (Indonesia)
2022	Singapore
2019	Singapore / Kuala Lumpur, Petaling Jaya (Malaysia)

◎Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar

【Seminar Participants in Previous Years】

The purpose of the seminar is to increase participants' knowledge of local administration systems in other countries and build a network of contacts. Overseas local government officials etc. are invited to Japan to discuss and exchange information on the current situation and various issues of local Administration facing local governments in both Japan and their home countries.

In 2024, eleven participants from seven countries visited Tokyo and Yabu City in Hyogo Prefecture and attended the Tokyo seminar and the Local Government Exchange Programme (Theme: At the Forefront of Local Revitalization: The Initiatives of Hyogo Prefecture's Yabu City, in becoming a Sustainable City).



【Courtesy visit to Yabu City Hall】

Country	Number of Participants				Total
	'95-'21	'22	'23	'24	
Thailand	39	1	-	2	42
Malaysia	36	-	1	2	39
Philippines	31	1	2	-	34
Indonesia	26	1	3	3	33
Vietnam	25	1	1	1	28
Cambodia	21	1	1	1	24
Laos	23	1	-	-	24
Myanmar	15	-	-	-	15
India	11	1	-	1	13
Singapore	6	-	-	-	6
Sri Lanka	3	1	1	1	6
Brunei	5	-	-	-	5
Total	241	8	9	11	269

◎The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme

【Objective】

To improve foreign language education as well as promote international exchange at the local level

【How It Works】

The JET Programme is administered through the collaboration of Japan's local government authorities, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and CLAIR.

The JET Programme enables local authorities (prefectures, designated cities and other municipalities) to employ foreign youths from all over the world as ALTs for schools nationwide or as CIRs and SEAs for local governments.

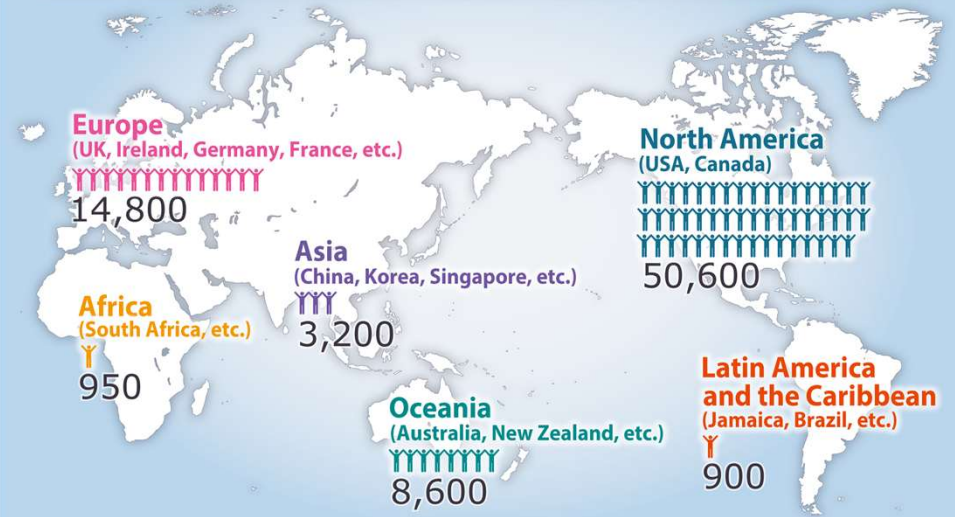
Currently, more than 5,800 participants are employed. More than 79,000 people from 80 countries around the world have participated in the JET Programme so far. After returning home, many JET alumni continue to contribute towards Japan-related activities through the JET Alumni Association (JETAA).

ALT: Assistant Language Teachers who provide language lessons in elementary, junior and senior high schools in Japan

CIR: Coordinators for International Relations who work for Japanese local governments to promote international exchange activities

SEA: Sports Exchange Advisors who promote international exchange through sports

Over 79,000 participants from 80 countries



Approximate numbers as of July 2024

【JET Participants in FY2024】

Country	ALT	CIR	SEA	Total
Singapore	51	8	0	59
Indonesia	0	4	2	6
Philippines	334	5	0	339
Malaysia	0	2	0	2
Thailand	0	6	0	6
Vietnam	0	28	0	28
Myanmar	0	3	0	3
India	0	4	0	4
Total	385	60	2	447



◎Support for Sister City Affiliation and Exchange

The first sister city agreement between Japan and this region was signed by Yokohama and Mumbai in 1965. At present, 59 affiliations have been concluded.

CLAIR facilitates sister city affiliation 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 affiliation. Please contact J.CLAIR Singapore if you wish to establish an affiliation with a Japanese local government.

◎Seminars and Exchange Sessions on Local Administration

With an aim to enhance cooperation and exchange in the area of local administration, J.CLAIR Singapore actively conducts seminars and exchange sessions with local government officials and related organizations in ASEAN countries, India as well as Sri Lanka. These initiatives provide a platform for academics and practitioners of local governance from both sides to discuss best practices and exchange new insights on local administration.

○Local Administration Seminars Organized by J.CLAIR Singapore

FY	Country	Name of Seminar
2024	Thailand (online)	DLA-CLAIR-MIC Joint Hybrid Seminar
	Indonesia (hybrid)	Indonesia-Japan Knowledge Exchange Seminar 2024
	Philippines (hybrid)	Japan-Philippines Local Administration Seminar

○Local Administration Seminar Series Organized by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

FY	Country (City)	Themes
2024	Vietnam (Hanoi)	Reforming Frontyard and Backyard Operations with Administrative Data Utilization / Initiatives Aimed at Regional Economic Growth

○Seminar on Best Practices of Japan

FY	Country	Venue
2024	Philippines	The University of the Philippines Los Baños
	Malaysia	University Utara Malaysia
	Brunei Darussalam	Universiti Brunei Darusalam



【Indonesia-Japan Knowledge Exchange Seminar in Indonesia】



◎Local Government Officials Training Programme (LGOTP)

LGOTP provides trainees with the know-how and technical skills of Japanese local governments and thereafter, contribute to the development of the trainees' respective local governments.

【Details】

Jointly organized by CLAIR and Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, overseas local government officials are hosted as trainees in Japanese local governments, where they will attend lectures and acquire the know-how and skills in various fields such as general administration, environment, agriculture, education, tourism, economic development and so on. 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 and traditions.

【Duration】 The training typically lasts for 6-12 months.

【LGOTP Participants in Previous Years】

Country	Number of Participants					Total
	1996-2018	2019	2022	2023	2024	
Indonesia	54	2	1	1	—	58
Thailand	47	—	—	—	—	47
Philippines	45	—	1	—	—	46
Vietnam	34	1	—	1	—	36
Myanmar	31	1	—	—	—	32
Malaysia	22	—	1	—	1	24
Laos	9	—	—	—	—	9
Cambodia	8	—	—	—	—	8
Sri Lanka	1	—	—	—	—	1
Total	251	4	3	2	—	260

◎Specialist Dispatch Project

- To improve the quality of local administration, technical expertise and human resources in foreign local governments.
- To increase friendly ties between Japanese and foreign local governments

Since 2000, J.CLAIR Singapore has been dispatching Japanese local government officials (including retirees), with knowledge or technical skills related to international cooperation as specialists to foreign local government etc. in response to their requests.

FY	Country	Specialists	Area of Expertise
2024	Malaysia	1	Road Maintenance and Management
	Cambodia	1	Public Service Management
	India	1	Fire Fighting and Disaster Prevention
	Laos	1	Public Service Management
2023	Malaysia	2	Public housing, Nursing home
	Thailand	1	Preventing long-term care
	India (Online)	1	Air pollution



【On-site training on firefighting and disaster prevention】



◎Research and Publications

Research on Local Autonomy Systems and Policies in ASEAN countries, India as well as Sri Lanka

J.CLAIR Singapore currently conducts research on the various policies of local administration and finance systems in ASEAN countries and India, and then compiles them into reports or publications in Japanese to disseminate the results of our research to Japanese local governments.

These publications can be found on CLAIR's website (<https://www.clair.or.jp/j/forum/pub/index.html>) and J.CLAIR Singapore's website (<https://www.clair.org.sg/j/localautonomyofeachcountry/clairreport/>).

*Both websites are only available in Japanese.

【CLAIR's website】

The screenshot shows the CLAIR website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and language options (English, Japanese). Below the search bar is a navigation menu with categories like 'プログラム', '多文化共生', '経済活動', '国際協力', '自治体間交流', '自治体の海外活動支援・依頼調査', and '海外事務所'. The main content area is titled 'CLAIR刊行物' (CLAIR Publications). It includes a section for 'CLAIR REPORT' with a list of reports, a section for '各国の地方自治シリーズ' (Local Autonomy Series of Various Countries), and a section for '比較地方自治シリーズ' (Comparative Local Autonomy Series). A red box highlights the 'CLAIR REPORT' and '各国の地方自治シリーズ' sections, with a red arrow pointing to the text 'CLAIR Report'.

【J.CLAIR Singapore's website】

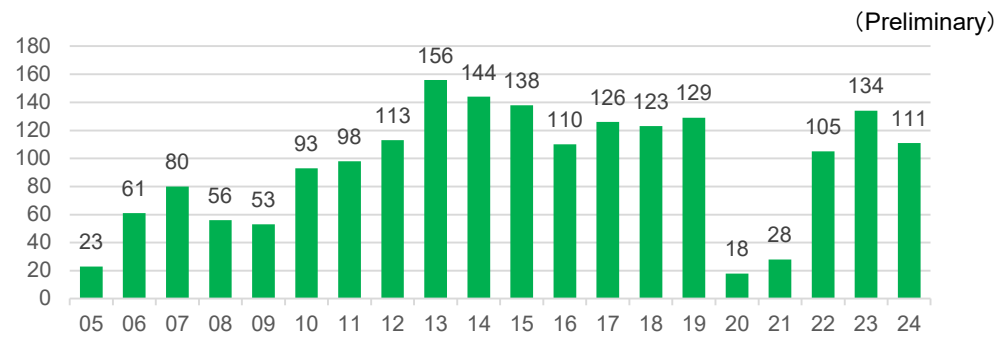
The screenshot shows the J.CLAIR Singapore website. The header includes 'J.CLAIR SINGAPORE' and navigation menus for '各国の状況', '海外の活動支援', '海外での観光PR', '海外販路の開拓支援', '国際交流支援', and '国際協力支援'. A search bar is also present. The main content area features a large banner with the text '自治体と世界をつなぐ プロフェッショナル' (Connecting Local Governments and the World - Professionals). Below the banner, there is a list of services: '各国の地方自治', 'その他の各国情報', 'クリアレポート', '本部メルマガ', and 'その他事業等'. A red box highlights the '各国の地方自治' and 'クリアレポート' items, with red arrows pointing to the text 'Local Autonomy' and 'CLAIR Report' respectively. Below the banner, there is a '最新情報' (Latest Information) section with several news items, including one about '群馬県嬬恋村' and another about '北九州市'.



◎Support for Japanese local government officials and related personnel overseas

To support Japanese local government officials and related personnel in their various activities (events, research, field trips etc.) in the 10 ASEAN countries, India and Sri Lanka, J.CLAIR Singapore helps to liaise with the appropriate organizations and individuals. We assist in arranging appointments with government agencies, accompany them on these site visits, conduct briefings where applicable, and provide related reference materials for the officials.

【Achievement】



【Support for Toyama Prefecture's booth operation in Thailand (Toyama Prefecture)】

【Some activities supported by J.CLAIR Singapore in FY2024】

Japanese Local Government	Content of Support
Kyoto Prefecture	Accompanied the Governor for his meetings with government officials (Indonesia)
Yamaguchi Prefecture	Accompanied the Governor for his meetings with government officials (Vietnam)
Fukushima City	Accompanied the Mayor for his meetings with government officials (Vietnam)
Hamamatsu City	Accompanied the Mayor for his meetings with government officials (Singapore)
Miyazaki City	Accompanied the Mayor for his meetings with government officials (Singapore, Malaysia)
Aichi Prefecture	Accompanied the Chairperson of the Prefectural Assembly for meetings with government officials (Singapore, Indonesia)
Kanagawa Prefecture	Accompanied the Delegation for his meetings with government officials (Singapore)
Yamagata Prefecture	Appointments made for their travel of the Prefectural Assembly delegation(Singapore)
Saitama Prefecture	Co-organized online tours for High school students (Singapore)
Akita Prefecture	Operational support for their booth in The Japan Rail Cafe 2024 (Singapore)
Koriyama City	Operational support for their booth in Japan Vietnam Festival 2024 (Vietnam)
Tokyo	Operational support for their booth in SWITCH 2024 (Singapore)
Himeji City	Operational support for their booth in Food Japan 2024 (Singapore)

◎ Tourism Promotion at International Travel Fairs

At international travel fairs and other events, J.CLAIR Singapore works with local governments to set up booths to promote the charm of the various regions of Japan. We engage in activities to attract tourists and raise the profiles of the local regions. In addition, J.CLAIR Singapore provides information that is considered useful to local governments, such as the types of inquiries and travel concerns from visitors.

【Travel Fairs in FY2024】

Fair	Country (City)	Month
Japan Travel Fair 2024	Indonesia (Jakarta)	August
Japan Travel Fair	India (Delhi)	September
Visit Japan FIT Fair #16	Thailand (Bangkok)	November
Japan Travel Fair 2024	Cambodia (Phnom Penh)	December
Japan Travel Fair 2025	Philippine (Manila)	February
Japan Travel Fair 2024	Indonesia (Jakarta)	August



【Japan Travel Fair 2024 (Indonesia)】

◎ Inbound Promotion Project using Japanese Pop Culture

In order to stimulate new demand for visiting Japan, J.CLAIR Singapore provides local governments with PR opportunities that target people who are interested in Japanese anime, manga and games.

In 2023, J.CLAIR Singapore cooperated with JNTO to set up a ‘Visit Japan’ promotional booth at Anime Festival Asia Singapore 2024 (AFASG24). The aim was to introduce various anime and manga themed initiatives and events organized by the local governments, as well as the real-life locations where these anime and manga were based. Visitors could learn more through PR pamphlets and promotional videos.



【AFASG 2024 (Singapore)】



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