

JETAA INTERNATIONAL

BI-ANNUAL

COMBINED COUNTRY REPORT

(FEBRUARY 2006)

This is the first combined Country Report of 2006 submitted by Country Representatives of JETAA-I every six months as directed at the New York Conference February 2004.

This report covers the period September 2005 – February 2006. The previous report covered March 2005 – August 2005. These bi-annual reports are sent out via the “aadelegates” Yahoo! Group and are also made available online at www.jetalumni.org. The next report will be published at the end of August 2006.

This report has submissions from:

Australia
Brazil
Canada
France
Germany
Ireland
Jamaica
New Zealand
Scotland
United Kingdom
United States

No submission from:

Japan
Russia
South Korea

Compiled by Cindy Pitkin
Executive Secretary JETAA International

AUSTRALIA

2006 is the Australia-Japan Year of Exchange so here Down Under we have been gearing up for a busy year and are looking forward to forging some long lasting ties with members of the Japanese communities in our respective States.

In addition, this year Australia is the Southern Hemisphere's first country to host a JETAA International Meeting, and we look forward to welcoming delegates to Australia in November 2006. All the Chapters are very proud and are offering their support to Sydney.

Michelle Morita

Country Representative
Australia

Sydney [AU1]

JETAA Sydney has a very active and set schedule of events which we hold each year. We try to maintain a variety of social events, which includes our big Christmas bash at the end of each year. We thank the Japanese Consulate and CLAIR Sydney for their active involvement with JETAA Sydney and for the great relationship we have built.

This year has been excellent. Social events have all been a success, and our preparation for the Pre-Departure Orientation and JETAA-I International Meeting amongst the other events are all coming along very well.

Our Chapter has approximately 300 members whom we stay in contact with via e-mail and have this year implemented a quarterly Newsletter system. Previously we published two bi-annual Newsletters. The additional quarterly newsletters will be sent via e-mail.

The majority of last year's Committee retain their positions, with the addition of two new Year of Exchange (YOE) Members. In one word, our Committee this year is best described as "excellent".

April 2005

- Osaka Prefectural Office (Sydney) hosted an *Okonomiyaki* Picnic held at Lane Cove. Executive Committee members were invited and enjoyed a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

May 2005

- Social *Yakiniku* night at Korean Choga Restaurant was a true success as we had 40 JETAA members and other Japanese government staff attend.
- Japan Films at The Japan Foundation, Chiffley Tower

June 2005

- Michelle Morita, our magnificent Social Co-ordinator, attended the JETAA-I Conference in Japan. She has come back with stunning ideas and an added vigour for events. Sydney now is proposed to host the 2006 JETAA-I Conference.
- Late June - The JET Pre-Departure Orientation

July 2005

- Newsletter – Bi-annual published.
- Pre-Departure Yum-Cha event held 3 weeks after Orientation as a follow-up for further questions and a social event for those leaving Sydney.
- Formal farewell party for new JETs hosted by the Consul-General

August

- Rest!

September

- Natalie Miller, our Newsletter Editor, left Committee to move to the USA. Khoan Adams takes her place.
- Careers Night Held, returnee numbers were small this year so this event was very personalised and provided an excellent opportunity for all attendees to speak with the speakers.
- Consul-General Tsukasa Kawada arrives.

October

- *Hanami* Party held at Centennial Park
- JETAA Oceana Regional Conference in Brisbane. Sam Ishizuka and Michelle Morita attended.
- CLAIR dinner on 20 October for JETAA Sydney Executive.

November

- Christmas Party on 17 November. Fantastic turnout as usual. CLAIR and Consular officials also in attendance, held at the Westin Hotel Sydney.

December

- Welcome to Ms Arai, our Consul in charge of JET from the Consul-General of Japan.

February

- First of our Quarterly Newsletters sent to members via e-mail.
- 4 February – Japan Festival at Darling Harbour. Michael, Sharon and Michelle all performed a short skit with actress Yoshino Kimura on stage!
- 6 February – Film, “Semishigure” at the Japan Foundation with special guest, actress Yoshino Kimura. Turnout was fantastic, the movie was great.
- Annual General Meeting and Executive Election:

President	Michael Adams
Secretary	Sam Ishizuka
Treasurer	Sharon Van Etten
Membership Officer	No nominations
Social Coordinator	Michelle Morita
Newsletter Editor	Yvonne Adams
Webmaster	David Boyd
Year of Exchange Helpers	Sasha Anderson and Tammie Lee

March

- 9 March – CLAIR dinner for all JETAA Sydney members, at Westin Hotel Sydney. We had a fantastic turnout and all enjoyed the night.
- 12 March – Social Yum-Cha morning tea with newly elected Executive.
- 21 March – Icebreaker vessel, “Shirase” docked at the Sydney Naval Base; Executive invited to attend a truly enjoyable night with the sailors.
- 22 March – Consulate dinner to welcome the Executive at Jordan’s Seafood Restaurant.
- 27 March – NOH Performance at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Event hosted by Consul-General Kawada. The evening was great, and we were all fortunate to have had the opportunity to see a professional NOH performance.

To Come!

22 April	Yakiniku Night
2 May	Dinner with Vice Minister
2-9 June	Photo Exhibition at Customs House (part of YOE events)
24 June	Predeparture Orientation for departing JETs
16 July	Yum-Cha morning tea for departing JETs (informal Q&A session)
30 July	JETs depart for Japan

19 August	<i>Shabu Shabu</i> Trivia Night
September	July 2006 Returnees Reception TBA <i>Yukata</i> Training
7 October	Careers Night
14 October	Japanese Festival
21-22 October	Oceania Regional Conference in Canberra
November	<i>Hanami</i> Party TBA
23-26 November	International Meeting
25 November	Christmas Party
December	Emperor's Birthday TBA
January	TBA
February	AGM

Victoria-Tasmania [AU2]

Building on the previous 6 months, we have just seen probably our most active period ever for our Chapter. JETAA Vic/Tas has joined with other Japan-related organisations, had some really interesting first-time events and enjoyed great attendance by members at those events.

In September we had one of our regular 'Diners Club' restaurant nights with the aim of welcoming back some of the recent returnees. October saw us join with the Australia-Japan Society (Victoria) for the first time to put on a '*Hanami*' party in the Dandenongs, which despite being a little late for most of the blooms was very successful all the same. We had a really good contingent representing JETAA and this looks very much like becoming an annual event.

Around the same time, a bumper issue Spring newsletter was released around the theme 'Careers: Past, Present Future', tying in with our first-ever Japan Careers Seminar held in early November. Working with Japan-related recruitment organisations and drawing on the experience of some accomplished JETAA members, this event was aimed at all members (not just new returnees) and held at the JICC (Consulate General). Taking on feedback from participants, we are looking to improve the Careers Seminar and keep it going annually.

Also in early November, JETAA Vic/Tas held another enjoyable and well attended 'Diners Club' restaurant night at 'Chocolate Buddha' in conjunction with one of the JICC Japan Film Festival evenings.

December as usual saw the event of the year, the '*Bon Enkai*' party. This year we had quite a swanky event in Melbourne followed by a night of dancing... it was great to see a good crowd of more than 40 bolstered by some representatives from the Consulate-General too. Perhaps more exciting this year though was that for the first time a simultaneous '*Bon Enkai*' party was organised for our oft-neglected Tasmanian members in Hobart! A half dozen or so ex-JETs enjoyed a subsidized buffet evening at Mikaku in beautiful Salamanca Place, Hobart... with a new position on our Committee being 'Tasmania Rep', we hope to see more happening for our members in the island state over the coming year.

After a bit of a summer hiatus, we organised a 'Moonlight Cinema' evening in late January which was very nearly washed out. In fact, the heavy rain cleared only a couple of hours before the film and while most members were obviously put off by this, a few lucky ones enjoyed a positively tropical evening (unusual for Melbourne!) under the stars.

Finally, February this year was a very busy time for JETAA Vic/Tas. Not only did we team up with the JICC to staff a tent at the 2nd (now annual) Osaka Twilight Festival in Melbourne, but we also had a very special day trip to a real ONSEN! Yes, that's right... there is now a hot spring just an hour and a half out of Melbourne on the Mornington Peninsula. We thought we'd make a big day of it and hired a bus which to our delight was completely filled. The trip included a few interesting sights on the way including the McClelland Gallery sculpture park in Langwarrin and the famous 'Arthurs Seat'. We also meandered from cellar door to door amongst some of Australia's best

wineries and of course topped it off with a soak in the mineral baths. Returning from a long and very enjoyable day, there were many tired voices heard saying that this trip must happen again next year if not earlier.

Glen Clark

President

JETAA Victoria/Tasmania

Western Australia / Northern Territory [AU4]

JETAA WANT has ramped up its activity to concentrate on increasing participation of community and alumni in its events. The results have been fabulous, with increased turnouts and a growing community atmosphere.

Some of the events we held over the past six months have been:

- The *NabeRama*...a massive turnout that crammed tables of hungry JETs in for a night of feasting and fun
- Hyogo Cultural Centre Careers Night...President Dave Byatt joined a panel of presenters to spread the word on the JET Programme, speaking to a full house of interested Japanophiles
- JET Returnees Sundowner...loads of yummy nibbles and a loaded bar to welcome our returned JETs and new Alumni
- Japan Festival JETAA stall...Dave and Jen Byatt set up a swanky JETAA stall at the Japanese School of Perth's Cultural Festival, adding a JET flavour to the afternoon of performances, food and PET bottle rocket launches
- JETAA Quiz Night...our annual JETAA Quiz was a sell out. Held at the residence of Consul-General Ariyoshi, the night's prizes included a joy ride donated by JETAA Treasurer, Tony Ridders, Manager of Flight Club.
- Annual foreshore picnic...our annual celebration of spring, held on the banks of the beautiful Swan River
- A "Memoirs of a Geisha" dress-up movie night, with all proceeds donated to charity. Well attended by many well-dressed members!
- Annual AGM...well-attended event bring much new talent to our Committee
- Networking Night...another well-attended event that saw new faces attend and many new connections put in place
- University info sessions...a number of JET info sessions held across Western Australia and well attended by uni students interested in finding out more about the Programme
- Our annual newsletter...stuffed full of great stories, colour images, and more

Also lined up for the near future is

- April: A farewell lunch for Koji and Tomomi Koseki, our fantastic Vice-Consul
- May: Our Children's Day Picnic, which will feature organised games and activities for children of JETAA members, students from Perth's weekend Japanese schools, and interested children from the community
- TBA: A massive public exhibition of JETAA photos to celebrate the Year of Exchange

Cristy Burne

President

JETAA WANT

Canberra [AU5]

JETAA Canberra has been quite busy since August and will continue to be very active throughout the Year of Exchange.

Some of the events we held over the past 6 months have been

- Welcome back drinks for returning JETs
- A monthly '*oshaberika*' which is well-attended by both returned JETs and Japanese ALTs working in Canberra
- Our annual *Hanami* picnic. A relaxing afternoon with a pot luck feast, some cricket, a frisbee and even some sunshine!
- Participation in the AJS – JETAA Softball Competition with our team placing 2nd
- A beer and *gyoza* stall at the annual Canberra Nara Candle festival. It was a huge amount of work but thanks to great participation from our JETAA members and some wonderful Japanese volunteers it was a huge success and we are looking to do the same this year.
- Our *Bonenkai* – a BBQ held in conjunction with AJS
- A *Shinnenkai* held at Wasabi Teppanyaki. Great chefs, great people, great food, great night!

A busy year so far and we are now gearing up for the challenge of our Year of Exchange events and hosting the Oceania Regional Conference later in the year.

Christie Harvey

Social Coordinator
JETAA Canberra

Queensland [AU6]

Membership:

Committee: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor (vacant), Membership Coordinator, Consulate Liaison, General Committee Members
The introduction of a Vice President position is under discussion

Activities:

September	Preparation for Oceania Regional Conference and follow-up from Photo Exhibition
October	Hosted Oceania Regional Conference, attended by delegates from Australian and New Zealand JETAA Chapters <i>Hanami</i>
November	No activities
December	No activities
January	No activities
February	Assisted in JET Programme interviews New Year Get Together for members

Oceania Regional Conference

Workshops included::

- Roles and Responsibilities within Chapters
- Fundraising For Volunteer Organisations
- Chapter Events

- Country Representative Issues
- CMS (Content Management System)
- Incorporation
- Links with the Japanese Community

Decisions/Actions for JETAA Queensland:

- Meeting is now held on the second Thursday of the month (for the past couple of years, we have set the date for subsequent meetings at the end of each meeting), in an effort to encourage non-Committee members to attend from time to time
- Decision to revamp our logo to reflect the fact that we are now an incorporated association
- Intention of planning an event of some kind once a month
- Establishment of an Operational Calendar to be passed from one Committee to the next; includes key dates such as grant application close dates, reporting dates, meeting dates, insurance renewal and so on
- Decision that the monthly meeting minutes would become the posted Newsletter to keep the membership informed of events and decisions (Newsletters have been infrequent due to the fact that there is no Newsletter Editor at present)

Ongoing Projects:

- Searching for a Newsletter Editor to continue producing our online Newsletter
- Tracking down e-mail addresses for all of our members
- Updating our website
- Recruiting new returnees to join the Committee (possibly as General Committee members initially)
- Deciding on an event or project to celebrate the Australia Japan Year of Exchange (2006)

Brendon Lutwyche
Acting President
JETAA Queensland

BRAZIL

* **October/November**

- Orientation about JET Programme at *nikkei* associations, Japanese
- Government Scholarship Program participants association
- Brazilian former JET list up with Consulates and Embassy all over the country

* **December/January**

- Support to Consulates and Embassy in recruitment process (application period for Brazilians)
- Orientation for pre-candidates
- JET Programme pamphlet draw up (Portuguese version) with SP Japanese Consulate

* **February**

- Orientation for new JETs

Cristina Izumi Sagara
Country Representative
Brazil

CANADA

Ottawa [CN1]

The Ottawa Chapter of JETAA has had a relatively busy last six months. In addition to our monthly events which are held traditionally on the 3rd Friday of each month, we have participated in other events like the 1st Annual Ottawa *Natsu Matsuri* picnic. The *Natsu Matsuri* boasted a turn-out of well over 100 people, including his Excellency Ambassador Numata, as well as other Japan-related groups in Ottawa. We are now in the midst of planning our events for the 2006 year with the new Ottawa Executive.

August 2005

In August, we hosted the 1st Annual Ottawa *Natsu Matsuri*. We hosted 150 people for a picnic/BBQ with performances (musical and martial arts) and presentations (*kimono* and tea ceremony). We had team quiz competition and games for children. We brought together many of the various Japanese-related groups in the city, including JETAA, the Canada-Japan Society of Ottawa, the Ottawa Japanese Community Association, Japanese exchange students, Embassy staff (local and Japanese), as well as a number of cultural groups. We were fortunate to have a musical performance by Ambassador Numata himself. It was a great success and we hope that it will become an annual event. We also raised \$160.00 for the OJLS (Ottawa Japanese Language Society), and hope to continue the fundraising aspect next year for local Japanese groups.

September 2005

In September we had a *karaoke* night at a local Japan-style *karaoke* place. We had 15 attendees. There was no cost to JETAA.

October 2005

We had a number of events in October.

- JETAA started the fall session of Japanese classes for returned JETs. The Classes ran for 5 weeks at no cost to JETAA members. There were between 5-8 students in this class.
- The Members of the JETAA Ottawa Executive also met with CLAIR Tokyo delegates visiting Ottawa to discuss our chapter with them.
- Some JETAA members and newly returning JETs were invited to the Embassy for the Welcome back Reception.

November 2005

In November we held the 1st Annual Networking Wine and Cheese event in conjunction with the Re-entry seminars for returning JETs. The events took place at a local hotel and included the Re-entry seminar from 5-7pm, and the Wine and Cheese from 7-9pm.

The Re-entry seminar, which has in the past been hosted at the Embassy, was added to the Networking Wine and Cheese as a logical link from the resume writing workshops, to networking in person. We had speakers on resume writing and reverse culture shock. We had 10-15 attendees for this portion.

The 1st Annual Networking Wine and Cheese was a very successful event with over 50 people in attendance. JETAA Ottawa invited 15-20 mentors (both former JETs and non-former JETs) to attend the wine and cheese to help JET Alumni members to connect with key contacts in various industries including: Government, computer technology, non-profit groups, and Japan-related work.) This CLAIR-funded event was a great opportunity to connect newly returned and under-employed JETAA members with Ottawa employers. There were approximately 50-60 people in attendance for this event.

December 2005

There were a number of events held in December.

- On 2 December, we hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for those JETAA members who volunteered at our 2005 events, including: the Tulip Festival, Natsu Matsuri, JET Orientations, and Wine and Cheese. This event had 10 people in attendance, and took place at Hino Japanese Restaurant.
- In December each year we have our JETAA Ottawa AGM, which was on 7 December. At the AGM, we meet to discuss the events from the year, and vote for our new Executive. The 2006 Executive is:

President	Jessica Sellars
Co-Vice Presidents	Steve Tennant and Geoff Reid
Secretary	Christa Amyot
Webmaster	Andy Keyworth
Treasurer	Holly Melanson
Co-Social Coordinators	Maeva Vidal and Emma Bedlington
Co-Communications	Jill Swam (Website) and Maeva Vidal (Newsletter)

January 2006

- On 8 January, JETAA held the Executive Changeover meeting, and new and old Executive members shared information and resources.
- In January, Counsellor Yanagi from the Embassy of Japan hosted a dinner for the new and former Presidents and Vice Presidents as well as local JET staff.
- In January, our monthly event was held at Le Nordic Spa in Old Chelsea, Quebec near Ottawa. Le Nordic spa is an outdoor spa with a real *onsen* feel, hot and cold spa pools, steam rooms, all outdoors! This event had 10-12 attendees and was at no cost to JETAA.

February 2006

Our February event was a Skating/Dinner and *Karaoke* night. The skating was on the famous Ottawa River Canal, and due to bad ice conditions only included 2 *genki* JETAA members. The Dinner and *Karaoke* Night brought in more members to a total of between 10 and 15.

In the upcoming months, we are set to continue our yearly events, and create some new monthly events. In March we are planning an *izakaya* night, April a pottery event, May *Hanami*, and between May to August the Tulip Festival, JET Orientation, and the *Natsu Matsuri*. In June, two Executive members will go to Vancouver for the National JETAA Conference.

This year we are focussing on updating our Website (<http://www.ottawa.jetaa.ca>)

Toronto [CN2]

JETAA Toronto had a busy year. We held a number of successful activities for our membership and organized a re-entry seminar for returning JETs.

Chapter events are as follows:

August – Toronto Blue Jays baseball game

The August event was in partnership with the Japanese Visitors' Association (JAVA) in Toronto. The game we attended was the Toronto Blue Jays vs. the New York Yankees with their all-star Japanese player, Hideki Matsui.

About 30 JET Alumni members attended and it was an exciting event that everyone enjoyed.

September – Toronto Film Festival

The Toronto film festival is a world class event and attending some films has become an annual JETAA Toronto event. Every year, JETAA Toronto gets 30 tickets.

October – Re-Entry Seminar

In October, we held the annual Re-Entry Seminar for returning JETs at the Japan Information Centre in the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. About 30 newly returned JETs came out for the day to participate in seminars with a similar theme – finding a job.

A number of seminars were offered including ones on reverse culture shock, resume writing, interviewing and networking skills.

After the seminars, most of the attendees went out for a *sushi* dinner.

November – Toronto Raptors NBA game

In November, JETAA Toronto members attended a Toronto Raptors NBA game. More than 30 tickets were sold, with JETAA Toronto subsidizing the event for members. We also invited members of Toronto's Japanese community to attend.

December – Family skating at Harbourfront Centre

For the December event, JETAA Toronto wanted to have an event that members with families could attend. We thought that a Sunday afternoon of outdoor skating was a perfect way for that to happen.

Although not as successful as some of our other events, it was a good event to hold especially as winter is setting in and the weather is getting colder.

January – Shinnenkai and Annual General Meeting

The *Shinnenkai* and Annual General Meeting took place at the end of January this year at a *sushi* and *karaoke* restaurant in Toronto.

About 30 Alumni members came out for the event and the new Executive Council was voted in. Afterwards, *sushi* was served and *karaoke* was available.

February – Toronto Raptors NBA game

In February, JETAA Toronto members attended a Toronto Raptors NBA game. More than 30 tickets were sold, with JETAA Toronto subsidizing the event for members. We also invited members of Toronto's Japanese community to attend.

Northern Alberta [CN5]

September

- 16 September – NAJETAA & the University of Alberta International Centre co-hosted a campfire party to give international students from Japan & Korea the chance to meet Canadians and learn the art of making smores (marshmallow, chocolate, & graham crackers). This event brought some newly returned Alumni out – 9 Alumni, 30 students
- 20 September – Monthly meeting (open to all members) – 9 Alumni
- 26 September – Dinner hosted by CLAIR delegation visiting Edmonton – 10 Alumni
- Fall Newsletter (Senseition) – sent to out to approximately 200 members

October

- 14 October – Welcome Back Dinner at local Thai restaurant – 15 Alumni
- 18 October – Monthly meeting (open to all members) – 11 Alumni
- 29 October – Alberta JET Retreat & Re-Entry Weekend – hosted this year in Calgary by SAJETAA in cooperation with the Consulate. Unfortunately, there were very few returnees to the Edmonton area so no NAJETAA members participated.

November

- 15 November – Monthly meeting (open to all members) – 6 Alumni
- 21 November – NAJETAA AGM / potluck / Japanese Community Association information evening (results officially announced in December – new Executive assumes roles January 1)
- AGM – new Executive elected – 12 Alumni present
 - President: David Sulz (president@najetaa.jetaa.ca)
***resigned March '06 – Interim President: Gretchen Phillips*
 - Vice President: Jennifer Beamer (vp@najetaa.jetaa.ca)
 - Treasurer: Kirk Beasse (treasurer@najetaa.jetaa.ca)
 - Webmaster & Database Coordinator: Bruce Clarke (webmaster@najetaa.jetaa.ca)
 - Events Coordinator: Meryl Roberts (rsvp@najetaa.jetaa.ca)
 - Orientation Coordinator: Genevieve Carolan (orientation@najetaa.jetaa.ca)
 - Newsletter Editor: Nikki Van Dusen (newsletter@najetaa.jetaa.ca)
 - Community Group Liaison: Monica Johnson (community@najetaa.jetaa.ca)
 - Resource Coordinator: Amy Sutley (resource@najetaa.jetaa.ca)
- Representatives of the Japanese Community Association invited to give brief presentation to the Alumni regarding events, programs, sports that are offered by the community association
- Potluck dinner

December

- December 3rd – 6th Annual Bonenkai – 20 alumni & guests

January

- January 9th - monthly meeting (open to all members) – 4 alumni
- January 13th – 6th Annual Cooking Party – 21 alumni & guests
Everyone gathered and cooked nabe (sukiyaki & kim chee) & gyoza –cost was \$10 per person

February

- February 9th - monthly meeting (open to all members) – 8 alumni
- JET Interviews in cooperation with the consulate – 1 NAJETAA member participated in process

Questions?

Gretchen Phillips president@najetaa.jetaa.ca

British Columbia [CN6]

Number of Members 520+

Committee Positions

JETAABC has a ten-member Board of Directors that meet monthly. This Board is selected each year at our Annual General Meeting, usually held at the end of January. All JETAABC members are invited to attend our AGM, vote and join the Board.

The ten available positions are: President, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Advisor, Newsletter Editor, Membership Coordinator, Social Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, and Career and Personal Development Coordinator.

Mission

JETAABC's mission is to:

- Provide a community for Alumni returned from Japan
- Foster a connection between Japan and the BC/Yukon community
- Support and promote the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme

Activities

JETAABC's major yearly activities include involving in the Consulate of Japan's annual JET Preparation Seminar, hosting an active online discussion forum, publishing newsletters, and participating in local Japanese culture festivals. We also organized/sponsored numerous social events throughout the year; past examples are tea tasting, summer barbeque, social dine-outs, and *taiko* workshop, etc for our members.

Cultural/Sporting Groups

JETAABC is the proud sponsor of two Alumni dragon boat teams, 'Ready, JET, Go!' and 'JET Ai'. Both teams trained weekly from March to September, and participate in races in and out of Vancouver.

JETAABC also has an active relationship with other local Japan-related cultural organizations, and offers joint events such as *Hanami* in March.

Finding a Job

JETAABC hosted an autumn re-entry networking/career development event, which we publicized on our website, and in our newsletter.

Our large member base and association with other Japan-related organizations have facilitated networking opportunities at our social and cultural events.

Contacts

Website <http://www.jetaabc.ca>

E-mail The Board of Directors at bod@jetaabc.ca

FRANCE

September 2005:

- Photo Exhibition organized as part of the Japan-European Union “Citizen to Citizen Exchange Year” and JETAA joint project with several European chapters.
 - Location: Movie theater in Paris

October 2005:

- Photo Exhibition organized as part of the Japan-European Union “Citizen to Citizen Exchange Year” and JETAA joint project with several European Chapters.
 - Location: Cultural Center in Bordeaux.
- Meeting with CLAIR Tokyo representatives during their PR visit to Paris.
- Welcome Back Reception for returnees

November 2005

- Article published in CLAIR Paris quarterly newsletter

January 2006:

- Cultural Conference on “Tea and Zen in Japan” by guest speaker. Paris (Japan House).

February 2006:

- Board member participated in selection of new JETs at the Embassy
- Get-together dinner for members (make-up for *shinnenkai* party). Japanese restaurant in Paris.

Yvonne Chu-Kit

Country Representative

France (as of 31.03.2006)

GERMANY

General

Communication shall be primarily via the website and the JETAA mailing list.

On 22 October, 2005, following the Returners' Meeting, the JETAA EU Photo Exhibition was opened in the Japanese German Center in Berlin. About 40 guests attended the opening by delegate Mizutani (Japanese Embassy in Berlin) and Frank Bender (JETAA Germany National Representative). This is a great success for the first exhibition of its kind. The idea to repeat such an exhibition in the following year came up immediately.

A Photo Contest is arranged every year for the participants in the JET Programme. This year, contributions of former European participants are touring their countries of origin for the first time. This Exhibition was staged in Paris, Bordeaux, Northern Ireland and Scotland prior to Berlin and will then move on to Portugal and Italy. The initiators were the EU-countries of JETAA and for Germany the JETAA Germany.

'Japan - rural, urban, present' is the German title. Among other EU-JETAA-participants, a JET soccer instructor from Germany is represented with several photos (see www.jetalumni.org).

For the German JETAA website we are still looking for a new webmaster.

We started a "JETAA Deutschland (Germany) Alumni" - Group on www.open-bc in October 2005.

About Germany JETAA

Current membership:	Approximately 200 members
Contact:	nationalrep@jetaagermany.de
Website:	www.jetaagermany.de

Frank Bender

Country Representative
Germany
12 April 2006

IRELAND

Irish JET Alumni Association

Activities July 2005 - 31 March 2006

July

Officially reform Irish JET Alumni with Committee consisting of Neil Maher, Tara Madden and the 2005 JET Coordinator, Damien Kellegher. The previous IJET Alumni had fallen into complete inactivity in the past 2 years. Application for Grant in Aid (GiA) is made.

August

Application for GiA is approved by CLAIR Office in London based on the current active membership (4).

September

Damien Kellegher's tenure on the IJET Committee ended as he finished his year as JET Programme Coordinator. Damien is replaced on the Committee by the new JET Programme Coordinator for Ireland, Charis Hughes.

October

IJET attend the Returning JETs' Reception held at the Ambassador of Japan's residence in Dublin. This event is the first formal event by the new IJET and its existence is publicised to the attending former JETs and the attending Japanese community. Andre O'Connell joins the IJET Committee.

November

Regular meetings of the Committee are held to plan the coming events.

December

IJET books 20 tickets for the Kodo Taiko group concert to be held in Dublin in February. IJET are able to offer the tickets at a discount to IJET members.

January

The IJET Committee meet with Mr Naiki and Mr Iwao of CLAIR in London as they visit Dublin. The first IJET newsletter is published and sent to a number of former JETs, budget constrictions prevent it being sent to all former JETs. IJET is involved in the screening applicants for the 2006 JET Programme.

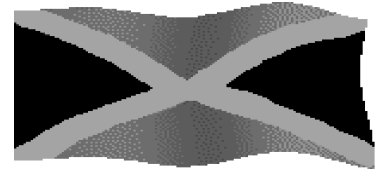
February

All available tickets for Kodo were snapped up by former JETs for the sold-out Kodo concert in the National Concert Hall in Dublin. The event was very successful and generated strong interest in the new IJET. IJET is also involved in the interviewing of JET applicants for 2006.

March

IJET sponsored a prize for the best Japanese speech by a former JET at the 4th JLTJ speech contest. The prize of a book of Hokusai prints was won by Tim Cooke, who also came in second place overall. In late March IJET held an IJET meeting and film night. A number of JETs, local Japanese people and students of Japanese attended the successful night.

JAMAICA



Jamaican JET Alumni Association

P.O. Box 5447, Kingston 6: E-mail: jjetaa03@yahoo.co.uk

Meetings

The Association continues to have its monthly meetings to discuss new plans and review former plans. The meeting dates are set for the fourth Saturday in each month. There was an Annual General Meeting where the new Executive Body was selected. The members are:

President	Shawn Aarons
Vice President	Tamara Myrie-Jones
Treasurer	Kay Dunkley
Secretary	Janet Crick
Activities Coordinator	Bennie Watson

JET Promotions Recruitment and Selection

The Association continues to be an integral partner in promoting the JET Programme in Jamaica. Last year we visited two universities to promote the JET Programme. These were the University of Technology, Jamaica and Northern Caribbean University. The Association was integral in the recruitment and selection of new JETs this year. We participated in the document screening as well as the interview process.

School visits

We continue to share our experiences with students at the primary and high school level. Through our Japan Awareness Programme, we visited several schools over the period. To improve our delivery we have developed a CD (approved by the Embassy) that has enhanced our presentations on school visits. Initially, we took the lead role in school visits once per month; however, at a recent meeting a motion was moved to have the Embassy assuming the lead role from April 2006 to March 2007. The Association will play a supporting role during this period.

ON THE SOCIAL SCENE...

Bonenkai

We had our first *Bonenkai* in December at the Hilton, New Kingston. It was wonderful to enjoy a great Japanese setting with former JETs as well as Japanese living in Jamaica.

Japanese Classical Music Concert

The Embassy of Japan had its annual cultural event in November. For this concert, we acted as Videographer and Stewards. The three-day event was a great success with over 600 school children attending the second day. The first day saw the Governor-General and a host of dignitaries attending as well as representatives from various embassies in Jamaica.

Other activities

- Creation of letterhead for correspondence
- New PO Box (formerly the Association used the Embassy's address)
- Initiate the publication of Newsletter (to be circulated in April)
- Preparing for an Essay Contest and Business Etiquette Seminar later this year
- Making plans for Pre-Departure Orientation
- Completing the handbook for new JETs

NEW ZEALAND

As usual, the New Zealand Chapters had a busy few months in the build up to Christmas and then AGM meeting time, a testament to our members' enthusiasm and commitment! All three Chapters celebrated the appearance of cherry blossoms and the southern spring with a *hanami* event, and the annual *bonenkai* dinner finished the year with a bang. Notably, a lot of effort went into promoting Japan, Japanese language and the JET Programme, and fostering good relations with Japanese in our local communities. Over to the Chapter Presidents!

Marie-Louise Siddle

Country Representative
New Zealand

Wellington [NZ1]

In September, JETAA Wellington had a *karaoke* night that was attended by about 40 people, including some Japanese teacher trainees studying at Victoria University. In the same month, a group of JETAA Wellington members visited a *sakura* festival in Palmerston North (a city north of Wellington), that was hosted by the International Pacific College there. This was a good opportunity to re-acquaint ourselves with some aspects of Japan. In the following months, we had monthly drinks for members, and the year was rounded off with a very successful *bonenkai* dinner in December, attended by about 30 former JET Programme participants and Embassy staff.

This year, we started things off grandly with a weekend away to walk the Tongariro mountain Crossing – one of the world's greatest day walks. We made a shared dinner the night before, and got up early the next morning to do the walk which had its challenging moments but, with stunning scenery and clear weather, was greatly enjoyed by all. This was one of few JETAA Wellington activities held outside of Wellington and it proved to be very successful. We have high hopes of doing another great walk next year, and Queen Charlotte Sound has been put forward as a possible destination.

More recently, we had our AGM and a change in Executive Committee, and we have begun to form relationships with this year's intake of Japanese teacher trainees and the Monbukagakushou study scholarship Alumni Association.

Gary Blick is our new Wellington Chapter President, and we are looking forward to a new year of activities with Gary at the helm.

Samantha Oakley

Outgoing President
JETAA Wellington

South Island [NZ2]

JETAA South Island had a very busy final quarter of 2005 and has started off its 2006 year with involvement in the selection of new JET Programme participants.

In brief, we made various high school visits around Christchurch city to promote Japan and JET, and in October, gathered for both a *hanami* event and our monthly casual drinks. November saw us visit Christchurch Teachers College to promote the JET Programme there, and we finished the year with a *bonenkai* dinner with a presentation from a guest speaker. So far in 2005, we have participated in the selection of new JET participants, sitting on interview panels at the Consulate in Christchurch.

Sean Lowry

President
JETAA South Island

Auckland [NZ3]

JETAAA has had a busy time since late last year. In September, we held the NCEA workshop, a study workshop for NZ high school students taking Japanese who are approaching their exams, which was well attended. We held our *hanami* picnic in October, as well as judging entries into our high school video competition, where New Zealand high school students make a video about an aspect of their lives, speaking only in Japanese. We had entries from around the country – and it looks like we'll even have one from Japan this year, as one of the current JET participants works with her students to make a video in English to send back to the students in NZ. Our *Bonenkai* in November was a huge success, with many new members coming along for the first time and who have since become more heavily involved with JETAAA.

In 2006 we have held our AGM dinner and are in the midst of planning our next event, a Japanese cooking class.

Hannah Grace

President

JETAA Auckland

All the best for a wonderful year in 2006, from JETAA New Zealand,
Marie-Louise

Marie-Louise Siddle

Country Representative

New Zealand

SCOTLAND

General News

JETAA Scotland succeeded in extending the Committee geographically in a move to be less Edinburgh-centric. However, this made it more difficult to hold Committee meetings and plan events. The “rolling” Events Co-ordinator role, whereby people can volunteer to organise specific events so would not have to commit for a whole year, did not go as well as expected. Generally, the other Committee members filled in this gap.

General Information:

Scotland (Sc1)

Quynh Luong (Chair)

Address:

Flat 1F1, 7 Spottiswoode Road
Edinburgh
EH9 1BH

Telephone:

0131 477 6890

Fax:

0131 650 3911

Website:

www.jetaauk.org.uk

E-mail address:

kurayoshiq@yahoo.co.uk

Committee:

Chair / "Jetlag" Liaison	Quynh Luong
Treasurer	Joanne O'Donnell
Communications Officer	Anne Grieve
Events Co-ordinator (West)	Adam Fyffe
Events Co-ordinator (North)	David Robinson

Membership

Approximately 500

Activities for the period August 2005-February 2006

Events

August

Discounted tickets were offered to members and non-members to see the *taiko* group “TAO” perform during the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The tickets were taken very quickly and the performance went well, with a standing ovation at the end. Tickets were also offered for “Mirrorball made in Japan” during the Film Festival. A small group went, including members of the University Japanese Society.

The EU-Japan touring Photo Exhibition was on display in Fort William at the beginning of August. The Exhibition was a success and raised a lot of local interest.

November

Around a dozen people went along to Ceilidh which was held at the Assembly Rooms this year. The turnout was relatively poor in comparison to recent years and the size of the venue made it difficult for people to stick together as a group. A more intimate venue may be sought for next year.

December

The JETAA Returners' Reception organised by the Japanese Consulate in Edinburgh was well attended by both recent returnees and "older" JETAA members.

13 January

Several JETAA members were involved as judges in an essay competition held in Scotland as part of the Japan-EU Year. The entries were from various schools and were split into different age categories. The judges said that the standard of the essays had been impressive making it difficult to choose a clear winner in some of the categories. A presentation ceremony hosted by the Consulate and various sponsors, at one of the many castles in Scotland, was attended by the judges.

31 January

Shinnenkai/Chinese New Year dinner was held at a local Chinese restaurant.

February 3rd -5th

Ski Weekend. There was a great turnout for this event – some new faces along with the familiar faces and some non-JETAA members to preach the delights of JET to! Despite the bunkhouse being Baltic, sadly there was too little snow to go skiing or snowboarding! However, the time was wisely used for walking/cycling and watching the Six Nations rugby tournament. Evenings were spent trying to keep warm and socialising.

16 February

JETAA Scotland offered discount tickets to see Kodo at the Festival Theatre in Edinburgh. The tickets were quickly snapped up. The spectacular performance was a contrast to the more contemporary performance given by TAO during the summer.

Other

Lessons in Japanese conversation and culture have been offered in Glasgow since September 2005. Similar classes are to start in Edinburgh in spring 2006.

Future Events

JapanSoc Ceilidh, AGM at Inversnaid Bunkhouse

Information

Details of all our events can be found on the JETAA website. Electronic mailshots are sent out to those who choose to receive them when they subscribe to **jetaascotland**.

JETAA-I related

A delegate from JETAA Scotland was scheduled to attend a JETAA EU meeting in London in September 2005. The meeting was unfortunately postponed but should take place in March 2006.

Quynh Luong

Country Representative
Scotland
April 2006

UNITED KINGDOM

UK currently has three established Chapters – London, Midlands and North West, as well as working closely together with Northern Ireland and Scotland, who share the National Executive Committee (please see below).

This report concerns the National Executive and the three established UK Chapters.

National Executive Committee

In May 2004, UK1 organised a meeting of all National Reps, to create a National Executive, with a view to both alleviate some of the burden felt by London in running national projects, and to more equitably represent all chapters in those projects. The National Chair acts as the UK Country Rep in international meetings.

The National Executive is now almost two years old, and is responsible for the website, database and national newsletter. It also prepared and co-hosted the 2nd EU Regional Conference, held in London from 10 to 12 March, 2006. .

National Chair:	Liz Aveling
Chapter Reps:	Alison Bond (Midlands), Helen Coulson (North West), Dave Giddings (London), Cathy Bateson/ Suzanne McMillan (N.Ireland) Quynh Luong/Anne Grieve (Scotland)
Treasurer (interim):	Donna Tooth
"Jetlag" Editor:	Alasdair Gillon
CID Coordinator:	Dave Giddings and Charlie Fisher
Webteam:	Nick Rooke and Lynne Donaldson

Contact Liz at : ela@lizaveling.com

London [UK1]

Committee members for 2005/2006:

Chair:	David Giddings
Vice Chair:	Charlie Fisher
Treasurer:	Ivan Chan
Events Coordinator:	Sarah Dingwell
Communications:	Stuart Butchers

Contact David at: london@jetaa.org.uk

Membership:

London currently has 2500 members, due to the fact that it serves any member not registered in one of the other Chapters. London has continued to operate local activities and, whilst all national activities and responsibilities have been co-ordinated by the National Executive, it also runs national events such as the Careers Information Day (CID). As well as its central Committee, London has a number of sub-committees which look after specific events (CID, annual ball etc).

Local Activities

As well as our national events, London organises a year long programme of local events. Regular events include monthly pub nights, monthly Japanese restaurant evenings and monthly countryside walks. Some events are aimed specifically at easing JETs' transition to and from Japan. This year we held our first Pre-Departure Q&A Day for new JETs and their parents, as well as a welcome back event and the tenth national annual Careers Information Day.

Other events organised by London Chapter included networking evenings, speed dating, a screening of 'Memoirs of a Geisha' and our annual ball held with the Japan Society of London. Both events organised by our own Committee and those which we promote but are organised by the London Anglo Japanese community appeal to our diverse membership. Future efforts will focus on involving the wider Japanese community on London.

Midlands [UK2]

Ali Bond (Chairperson and JETAA-I Vice Chair)

Address: 20 Eborall Close
Warwick
Warwickshire
CV34 5QA
Tel: 01926 497913
Mob: 07870 969961
Email: abond@jetaamidlands.fsnet.co.uk

Committee

Chairperson:	Ali Bond
Vice Chair:	Clare Anderson
Treasurer:	Jon Inegbedion
Database Coordinator:	Lynne Donaldson
Social events coordinators:	Catherine Ross, Alan Lam
Newsletter Editor	Matthew Young

Membership

We currently have about 400 members in the Midlands area.

Social

Cinema seems to be an extremely popular activity and the Midlands group have had no less than three cinema evenings. Films viewed were 'Hana-Bi', 'Howl's Moving Castle' and 'Spirited Away'. In addition, the group meets regularly in the Imagine Café in Birmingham. This is a Japanese restaurant run by an ex-JET and her Japanese husband. The annual Returners' Christmas party was held here in December.

Some members attended a concert of the Mugenkyo Taiko drummers in November.

Educational

Japanese lessons – our members attend lessons at the University of Warwick and privately in Leicester.

We have a formal Partnership between the Midlands JETAA and the Leicester Japan Society. The Chapter hopes to establish an essay competition in 2006, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the JET Programme.

Information

Many of our members are connected to our e-mail distribution list. The Midlands has a double page input into every edition of the national JETAA newsletter, "Jetlag". Invitations are sent to all members about special events and activities.

To come

Taiko workshop, *Go* workshop, possible *Sake* workshop, visit to Tatton Park Japanese Gardens, Pre-Departure event.

North West [UK3]

North West Committee

Chairperson
Treasurer/Events
Representatives

Helen Coulson (Helen_Coulson@hotmail.com)
Joubin Ghojehvand (joubing@yahoo.co.jp)
Rebecca Roe, Chris Bradshaw

Events

Events since October 2005 (when new Committee formed):

- November meal at Sapporo Teppanyaki to welcome returnees, also met with Japan Society and Asian students at University of Manchester; and
- February Cooking Class at Samsi – distributed calendars sent from CLAIR.

Upcoming event:

May – Conversation Evening at Manchester University’s Japan Centre. Will have some Japanese guest speakers, food and drink.

Also plan to have a mid-May event for newly recruited JETs before they go to Japan.

Information

The North West chapter has a full page in every edition of the national JETAA newsletter, "Jetlag". Invitations are sent to all members about special events and activities, for example screenings of Japanese or Asian films at Cornerhouse cinema.

Membership

Over 300 members on the database.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Country Representatives: Millie Linville and Warren McAllen
Contact: us1@jetalumni.org, us2@jetalumni.org

Washington [US1]

Month	Event
August 2005	<p>JETAA Book Club – Tuesday 30 August, 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About 8 JETs and Friends of JETs (FOJs) gathered for a discussion of the book “Straightjacket Society”
September 2005	<p>Monthly Happy Hour – Tuesday 6 September, 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The September Happy Hour was held at the Circle Bistro on the patio by the pool. Approximately 15 JETs and FOJs attended. <p>Arlington Stream Clean – Saturday 17 September, 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About 6 JET Alumni showed up for this community volunteer event, spending two hours picking up trash along the river trail. <p>Day Hike to Annapolis Rock, MD – Saturday 24 September, 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About 9 JET Alumni and friends joined us for a day hike on a scenic trail to Annapolis Rock out in Maryland. We shared <i>onigiri</i> and Japanese snacks at the lookout point, enjoyed the view, and took a leisurely stroll on the way back. <p>General Meeting – Tuesday 27 September, 2005</p>
October 2005	<p>Ambassador’s Cup Softball Tournament – Sunday 2 October, 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A softball tournament was held with 5 teams: JETAA D.C., Embassy of Japan, Japan America Society of Washington, D.C., Itochu and Senators (a team comprised of employees from various Japanese energy companies). The first Ambassador’s Cup was held in October, 2004. <p>Monthly Happy Hour – Tuesday 4 October, 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The October Happy Hour was held at David Gregory’s. Approximately 20 JET alumni joined us along with 4 CLAIR employees on a study tour from New York and Japan. <p>Volunteer Event at Clagett Farm – Saturday 15 October, 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 JET Alumni and friends attended this event where we harvested vegetables at a farm in Upper Marlboro, MD. Proceeds from the farm are donated to the Capital Area Food Bank. <p>Executive Committee / CLAIR Dinner – Tuesday 25 October, 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Executive Committee was invited to dinner by CLAIR staff who were in town as part of their overseas business trip to promote the JET Program. JET office staff from the Embassy were also in attendance.
November 2005	<p>Monthly Happy Hour – Tuesday 1 November, 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The November Happy Hour was held in Virginia, at Ireland’s Four Courts. Eight JET Alumni and friends joined us for a pint or two.

<p>November 2005 (cont'd)</p>	<p>Career Night – Thursday 3 November, 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 30 JET Alumni gathered for our annual Career Night, which included a panel discussion with JET Alumni from a variety of fields. There was plenty of time for networking while enjoying refreshments after the panel. <p>JETAA Rally – Saturday 5 November, 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual scavenger hunt, held in the Dupont Circle area this year. About 8 teams of JET Alumni and friends raced against each other and the clock to collect points, answer quiz questions, and take group photos with assigned elements to compete for top honors and exciting prizes. The event concluded with a big group dinner at Bucca de Beppo's. <p>JET Welcome Back Reception – Monday 7 November, 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The annual Welcome Back Reception was hosted at the Ambassador's Old Residence at the Embassy. Many newly returned JETs were in attendance as well as many active members.
<p>December 2005</p>	<p>Monthly Happy Hour – Tuesday 6 December, 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The December Happy Hour was held at Café Mozart. Approximately 10 JET Alumni and friends joined us for some authentic German brew and live music. <p>JETAA Bonenkai and Toy Drive – Saturday 10 December, 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 40 JET Alumni and friends gathered for a Japanese dinner at Yosaku Restaurant. We collected toys for Toys for Tots and also had a gift exchange by lottery. About 10 <i>genki</i> party-goers went on to <i>nijikai</i> at a <i>karaoke</i> bar and impressed us with their singing skills.
<p>January 2006</p>	<p>First Happy Hour of the Year – Friday 6 January, 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A special non-Tuesday Happy Hour for those who can't make it to happy hour on Tuesdays. Approximately 10 JET Alumni and friends joined us for drink and appetizer specials at the Capitol City Brewing Company. <p>Executive Committee Meeting – Wednesday 11 January, 2006</p> <p>Farewell Party for Embassy Staff – Friday 20 January, 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We held a farewell party for Kamiyo-san, the JET Program supervisor at the Embassy of Japan. He had worked with JET and JETAA for over 3 years but had to return to Japan. Some of the JET Alumni who had worked with him over the years gathered to send him off and show him our appreciation. <p>JETAA Shinnenkai – Monday 23 January, 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bowling <i>taikai</i> at Lucky Strike, DC's newest and only bowling alley. Teams competed for Japan-themed prizes. <p>Committee Chair Meeting – Monday, January 30, 2006</p>
<p>February 2006</p>	<p>Monthly Happy Hour – Tuesday 7 February, 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The February Happy Hour was held at the Circle Bistro. Approximately 20 JET Alumni and friends joined us, along with the new JET Program supervisor who had just arrived from Japan.

February 2006 (cont'd)	<p>General Meeting (Elections) – Monday 27 February, 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elections were held at the General Meeting. The Vice President and Treasurer were re-elected. Stephanie Chang was elected President. Ethan Schwalbe was elected Secretary. A few new Committee Chairs were elected as well.
March 2006	<p>Monthly Happy Hour – Tuesday 7 March, 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March Happy Hour was held at David Gregory's. Approximately 20 JET Alumni and friends were in attendance. <p>Art Gallery Opening – Wednesday 15 March, 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A few JET Alumni gathered for the opening of an art gallery in which a local JET Alumnus had pieces on display. <p>Sento / Dinner / Karaoke outing – Saturday 18 March, 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Back by popular demand, about 16 JET Alumni gathered in Annandale, VA, for a visit to a Japanese-style <i>sento</i>. Following the <i>sento</i>, we had dinner at a Korean barbecue restaurant and then went to <i>karaoke</i>. The event was a huge success. <p>Executive Officers' Meeting – Thursday 23 March, 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition meeting between outgoing and new officers <p>National Japan Bowl Competition – Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 March, 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The annual Japan Bowl is a high school-level Japanese language competition run by the Japan America Society of Washington, D.C. Although this is not a JETAA-sponsored event, many JET Alumni served as volunteers at the event, including all 4 of our Executive Officers. <p>Nihongo Dake / Hanbun Dinner – Friday 31 March, 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Nihongo Dake Dinner has evolved into a combination <i>Nihongo Dake / Hanbun</i> Dinner, with participants divided into two or three tables of varying Japanese language ability.

New York [US2]

Month	Event	
August 2005	10 August	Volunteer Thank You Dinner
	22 August	English <i>Rakugo</i> Performance
September 2005	18 September	92nd Street Y International Festival
		Fall Quarterly Meeting
October 2005	22 October	Career Forum and Welcome Back Reception
November 2005	9 November	Career Forum Thank You Dinner at Sakagura
	5 November	Big Brother/ Big Sister Event
		JET Recruiting Visits to Campus
December 2005	10 December	<i>Karaoke Bonenkai</i> and Quarterly Meeting

January 2006	21 January Annual <i>Shinnenkai</i>
February 2006	2 February <i>Nihongo Dake</i> Dinner at Shabu-Shabu 70 JET Recruiting Season Interviews
March 2006	10 March St. Pattie's themed <i>Nihongo Dake</i> Dinner 24 March Cultural <i>Meishi</i> Exchange Networking Event featuring artwork of JETs and Friends of JET

New England [US3]

Month	Event
August 2005	No Report
September 2005	No Report
October 2005	No Report
November 2005	No Report
December 2005	No Report
January 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We sent out <i>nengajo</i> cards to various partner organizations as well as to JETs who have recently returned from their experiences in Japan. • Despite a huge winter snow storm, attendees of our annual <i>Shinnenkai</i> had a great time eating <i>shabu-shabu</i> at "Kaze" restaurant, while meeting new members and discussing New Year's resolutions.
February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We began hosting a networking event in partnership with Japan Society (Boston). Participants were able to meet a wide range of individuals from various professions, cultural, etc. backgrounds through an informal setting at a local restaurant. Future networking events are scheduled on monthly basis. • Free <i>kabuki</i> dance lessons event was sponsored by the LEX America/Hippo Family Club, with participation from members of NEJETAA • The first meeting of the Japanese Contemporary Literature Club was held at the Japanese Consulate Office (Boston). Future meetings will occur on a monthly basis.
March 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An event featuring discussion between the Japanese Contemporary Literature Club and Prof. Juliet Winters Carpenter, translator of Shiba's <i>The Last Shogun</i> will be later on this month, through cooperation with the Japan Foundation NY.

Southeast [US4]

Month	Event
August 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Back Picnic • Monthly Exec Meeting
September 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JapanFest JETAA Booth • Room to Read Volunteer Event • Monthly Exec Meeting
October 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Exec Meeting
November 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Exec Meeting
December 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sent <i>Nengajou</i> to all members • Monthly Exec Meeting
January 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual <i>Shinnenkai</i> • Monthly Exec Meeting
February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JET Interviews • Monthly Exec Meeting
March 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iron Chef Pot-Luck • International Luncheon • Monthly Exec Meeting

Mid South [US5]

Month	Event
August 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-South JETAA members had an informal dinner with departing C Group JETs in order to help prepare them for Japan. (No formal Orientation is offered to C Group JETs.)
September 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Activities due to Hurricane Katrina
October 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Activities due to Hurricane Katrina
November 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Activities due to Hurricane Katrina
December 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Activities due to Hurricane Katrina
January 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Activities due to Hurricane Katrina
February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Activities due to Hurricane Katrina
March 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-South JETAA held its first Post-Katrina meeting to regroup and reorganize. Members met over <i>sushi</i> to share evacuation stories and ideas for the next year. An election meeting was planned for May, and several potential officers have been identified.

Florida [US6]

Month	Event
August 2005	No Activities Reported
September 2005	No Activities Reported
October 2005	No Activities Reported
November 2005	No Activities Reported
December 2005	No Activities Reported
January 2006	No Activities Reported
February 2006	No Activities Reported
March 2006	No Activities Reported

Chicago [US7]

Month	Event
August 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Officer Meeting • <i>Obon</i> outing to Mitsuwa Department Store
September 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Officer Meeting • Welcome Back Picnic • Autumn Newsletter Published
October 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Officer Meeting • <i>Yakiniku/Karaoke</i> Night • Career Fair
November 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Officer Meeting • Language Practice Dinner
December 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Officer Meeting • New Returnees Reception at Consul General's Residence (sponsored by Consulate) • Winter Newsletter Published
January 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Officer Meeting • 3rd Annual <i>Shinnenkai</i>
February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Officer Meeting • JET Program Interviews • Steppenwolf Theater Outing • First-time Homebuyers Seminar
March 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Officer Meeting • White Day <i>Yakiniku/Karaoke</i> Night • Financial Strategies Seminar • Spring Newsletter Published

Heartland [US8]

Month	Event
August 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Chapter Meeting
September 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Chapter Meeting
October 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Chapter Meeting
November 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Chapter Meeting
December 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Chapter Meeting
January 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Chapter Meeting
February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Chapter Meeting
March 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-America Japanese Language Contest, JETAA Booth • Monthly Chapter Meeting

Houston [US9]

Month	Event
August 2005	No activities reported
September 2005	No activities reported
October 2005	No activities reported
November 2005	No activities reported
December 2005	3 December <i>Shodo</i> class & <i>Bonenkai</i>
January 2006	27 January 2005 JET Returnee Reception
February 2006	No activities reported
March 2006	No activities reported

Rocky Mountain [US10]

Month	Event
August 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Event Planning Meeting
September 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Event Planning Meeting
October 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Event Planning Meeting
November 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Event Planning Meeting
December 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Event Planning Meeting
January 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Shinnenkai</i> • Monthly Event Planning Meeting

February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JET Interview Participation • Planning meeting with family and friends • Monthly Event Planning Meeting
March 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections • Monthly Event Planning Meeting

Pacific Northwest [US11]

Month	Event
August 2005	No Activities Reported
September 2005	No Activities Reported
October 2005	No Activities Reported
November 2005	No Activities Reported
December 2005	No Activities Reported
January 2006	No Activities Reported
February 2006	No Activities Reported
March 2006	No Activities Reported

Portland [US12]

Month	Event
August 2005	10 August <i>Obon</i> Festival at Japanese Gardens 20 August SakeOne Tour of Japanese Brewery
September 2005	17 September JETAA Returnee Party
October 2005	29 October JETAA Halloween Party
November 2005	No Activities Reported
December 2005	10 December <i>Bonenkai</i>
January 2006	7 January Movie Night "Memoirs of a Geisha" 14 January <i>Shinnenkai</i> 29 January <i>Mochitsuki</i>
February 2006	3 February Yearly Planning Meeting, J-Kaiwa at Lucky Lab 4 February JET Alumni Band Plays "Matinee"
March 2006	3 March J-Kaiwa at Lucky Lab 10 March JETAA Elections

Northern California [US13]

Month	Event
Monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Thursday <i>Nomikai</i>: These happy hours are a way for JET Alumni and their guests to connect with old friends and share a drink with new friends. • Third Tuesday Book Circle: Inspired by overwhelming response from book recommendations to new JETs, the Book Circle aims to create an informal forum for discussion of books by contemporary Japanese authors. The interests and experiences of the circle's members shape the direction of the circle. Members choose which books will be discussed at subsequent meetings. • Mid-Peninsula Meetup Group: Japanese language and culture circle that meets every second Tuesday of the month. • JETAANC Book Lists: Members compiled recommended reading lists for departing JETs. Listings are distributed or posted at the Alumni-Led Pre-Departure Orientation, in the newsletter, and on the JETAANC website.
January 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Board of Directors Meeting (7 January) • Mid-Peninsula Meetup Group (10 January) • Book Circle (17 January): Alan Brown's <i>Audrey Hepburn's Neck, San Francisco</i> • <i>Shinnenkai</i> (21 January): Crossing the Bar, <i>San Francisco</i> • Published Calendar of Events • Mid-Peninsula Nomikai (26 January): Hukilau, Palo Alto
February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Thursday <i>Nomikai</i> (2 February): Harrington's Bar & Grill, <i>San Francisco</i> • JET Interviewer Roundtable (8 February) • Mid-Peninsula Meetup Group (14 February) • Book Circle (21 February): Soseki Natsume's, <i>San Francisco</i> • JET Interviews in San Francisco (17-23 February)
March 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Thursday <i>Nomikai</i> (2 March): Pilsner Inn, <i>San Francisco</i> • First Thursday <i>Nomikai</i> (2 March): <i>Mountain View</i> • JETAANC Scholarship Application Deadline (7 March) • Book Circle (21 March): <i>The Inland Sea</i> by Donald Richie • JETAANC <i>Ensoku</i>: 24th San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival- Screening and discussion of Director Nobuhiro Yamashita's <i>Linda Linda Linda</i> (22 March) • JETAANC Event at Kotei, <i>San Francisco</i> (26 March) • JET Interviewer Thank You Dinner Hosted by the Consul-General of Japan at Kotei, <i>San Francisco</i> (30 March) • Newsletter: Spring edition of <i>Pacific Bridge</i> (Mail on 17 March)
April 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JETAANC Scholarship Awardee Event • JETAANC <i>Ensoku</i>: <i>Hanami</i> at Hakone Gardens (1 April) • First Thursday <i>Nomikai</i> (6 April), BluPointe, <i>San Francisco</i>

April 2006 (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Thursday <i>Nomikai</i> (6 April), <i>Peninsula</i> • <i>Icons Amplified</i>, Solo Exhibition of works by Tim Wagner, JETAANC Member, Opening Reception and Exhibition at the Japan Information Center (7 April), <i>San Francisco</i> • Book Circle (18 April): <i>Kappa</i> by Akutagawa Ryunosuke • Asia Society Annual Dinner Volunteer Project (19 April), <i>San Francisco</i>
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Southern California [US14]

Month	Event
August 2005	No Activities Reported
September 2005	No Activities Reported
October 2005	No Activities Reported
November 2005	No Activities Reported
December 2005	No Activities Reported
January 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Weekend Social: Annual <i>Shinnenkai</i> (14 January) <p>Every January, JET Alumni and their friends dress up and celebrate the beginning of the New Year in style. This year about 40 Alumni and their friends enjoyed dinner and dancing at the LAX Marriott.</p>
February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sushi and Sake</i> Blues Night (3 February) <p>JET Alumni are fortunate to have the chance to contribute monthly articles in the local <i>Sushi and Sake</i> magazine. We write about how our experiences in Japan have shaped us, or continue to do so after our return. In appreciation, <i>Sushi and Sake</i> invited the writers and their guests to a special Blues Night event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Board Meeting (9 February) • 2nd Weekend Social: Ice skating and <i>ramen</i> and <i>karaoke</i> (10 February) <p>This month's social event in Orange County paid tribute to the Olympics as sixteen Alumni and friends gathered to enjoy a wintery afternoon ice skating with <i>ramen</i> and <i>karaoke</i> rounding out the evening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JET Program Interviews (15-18 February and 22-24 February) <p>Twenty-five JET Alumni volunteered over seven days in both Los Angeles and Arizona on panels to choose the next new batch of JETs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Diego JETs: Torrey Pines State Reserve (12 February) <p>San Diego looks to become an active sub-chapter with one or two events every month. February started off with 10 JETs and one friend hiking in La Jolla's Torrey Pines State Reserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Diego JETs: Mingei Museum (26 February) <p>A few JETs and their friends took advantage of Museum Month in San Diego's Balboa Park and checked out a special Japanese <i>Ningyo</i> exhibit at the Mingei Museum.</p>

March 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect JETAA: Professional Networking Event (10 March) Connect JETAA was a part job fair, part professional networking event where about forty JETs could talk with representatives of 4 Japanese-American organizations, then mingle and expand their network to incorporate their professional advances with the breadth of experiences available in the JET community. • <i>Nihongo Dake</i> Dinner Julian's place, basketball (18 March) The first quarterly <i>Nihongo Dake</i> Dinner was at Alumnus Julian Ely's place. Thirteen JET Alumni, with their spouses, friends, and kids made for a rather serious game of basketball and a fun afternoon of conversing in Japanese while enjoying a potluck.
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Hawaii [US15]

Month	Event
August 2005	Orientation events for new JETs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enkai Renshuu</i>, Classroom Workshop, Q&A Session • <i>Karaoke</i>, Picnic/BBQ
September 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 92nd Street Y International Festival (18 September) • Fall Quarterly Meeting
October 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Back Reception for Returning JETs at the Consulate-General
November 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JET Programme Information Sessions with Consulate
December 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pau Hana at Mai Tai Bar
January 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer at Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii's New Year's <i>Ohana</i> Festival • <i>Shinnenkai</i> "Iron Chef <i>Nabe Taikai</i>"
February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kujira</i> Hike (Whale watching hike to Makapu'u Point) • Assist with Japan America Society of Hawaii's Japan Wizards Competition • Assist with JET Programme interviews
March 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramen Outing/<i>Karaoke Nijikai</i> • Executive Board Elections

Anchorage [US16]

Month	Event
August 2005	No Activities Reported
September 2005	No Activities Reported
October 2005	No Activities Reported
November 2005	No Activities Reported

December 2005	No Activities Reported
January 2006	No Activities Reported
February 2006	No Activities Reported
March 2006	No Activities Reported

Great Lakes [US17]

Month	Event
August 2005	No Activities Reported
September 2005	No Activities Reported
October 2005	No Activities Reported
November 2005	No Activities Reported
December 2005	No Activities Reported
January 2006	No Activities Reported
February 2006	No Activities Reported
March 2006	No Activities Reported

Minnesota [US18]

Month	Event
August 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Paul Lantern Lighting Festival
September 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Activities Reported
October 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Activities Reported
November 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Activities Reported
December 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Back Party for newly returned JETs
January 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Activities Reported
February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Activities Reported
March 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections