

Japan Exchange & Teaching Program Alumni Association USA

2014-2015 Year in Review

National Capacity Building Project

The JETAA USA Country Representatives (CRs), Executive Advisory Board and members of the Working Group continued their efforts on the multi-year National Capacity Building Project in collaboration with The US-Japan Bridging Foundation (USJBF) and financially supported by the Japan Foundation.

Team members corresponded on important topics throughout the year via email, Google Hangouts and phone calls. In June 2014, the team was invited to gather for a second Focus Group, facilitated by Mary-Jane Atwater, at the Institute for International Education (IIE) in Washington, D.C. Topics of discussion included organizational structure, membership, bylaws and goals. Following the meeting, JETAA USA representatives took part in the Summit of US-Japan Related Organizations hosted by CULCON.

The results of the Focus Group were presented by Laurel Lukaszewski and Paige Cottingham-Streater of USJBF at the JETAA USA National Conference in September 2014. Through a workshop facilitated by the CRs, Chapter Representatives had the opportunity to discuss the Focus Group results and offer more feedback from the perspective of local chapters.



CRs, Working Group members and representatives of USJBF at IIE in Washington, D.C. for the Focus Group and CULCON Summit in June 2014.

Chapter Communication

In an effort to create better lines of communication between national-level and chapter-level leadership, and our partners at CLAIR and MoFA, the CRs worked with Chapter Representatives to launch more standardized email addresses. These email-boxes create information archives and easier transition of executive positions within each chapter. Almost all chapters now have a specific President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary email account.

Additionally, Google Groups were created for Treasurers, for correspondence regarding chapter budgeting, and for Executive Officers, for leadership-related correspondence.

2014 National Conference

In September 2014, the Pacific Northwest Chapter hosted the National Conference in Seattle, WA. Representatives from all 19 chapters were joined by the 3 CRs, members of the Executive Advisory Board and organizational partners for productive presentations, workshops and networking.

The keynote speaker was Yukio Tada of Keizai Doyukai.

The conference was sponsored by the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle, the Japanese Embassy and CLAIR.



The CRs pose with Yukio Tada, 2015 keynote speaker. Tada-san presented on the Revitalization of JET.

Yasuo Tatsuta, Keisuke Matsuura and Matt Gillam of CLAIR "enjoy" Seattle's famous Gum Wall with chapter representatives.



JETs Rally for Tohoku

For the 2nd year, JETAA USA organized a donation drive in support of the Taylor Anderson Memorial Fund (TAMF), created in memory of one of two JETs who lost her life during the triple disaster of 3.11.11.

Starting a midnight JST on March 11, 2015, Global Giving (GG) matched personal donations to three TAMF projects:

#Remember311

Donations matched
3/11 JST (11am EST/8am PST)
[globalgiving.org/fundraisers/
jets-rally-for-tohoku](http://globalgiving.org/fundraisers/jets-rally-for-tohoku)

Taylor Anderson Memorial Fund

- Help Students, Families and Schools Recover
- Scholarships to Live Dreams and Move Forward
- Smile Together Ishinomaki

JET alumni, participants, families and friends from all over the world showed their ongoing support for Tohoku by contributing. Over \$25,000 was raised thanks to JET efforts exhausting the GG USA matching funds and dipping into the GG UK matching funds.

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