

Mike Shu

*JET Program ALT 2005 – 2008

*National AJET Chair 2007 – 2008

*JETAA Northern California (US-13)

Member since 2008, Vice President 2011 – Present



My vision for JETAA USA is to build on recent successes and identify growth areas, by helping to facilitate our 19 chapters to focus on national initiatives that show the strength of our organization and further develop the relationship between USA and Japan.

With the combination of my past participation on National AJET, my current role with JETAANC and my professional background, I hope to make a meaningful contribution to JETAA USA in my role as Country Representative.

If I were to take on the role as USA CR, my plan would be to first assess the short and long-term needs of JETAA. Some areas of particular note would be:

- Responding to the evolving needs of the Japan Relief Fundraising efforts of JETAA USA. I would want to continue the due diligence with fund recipient(s), and assure that there is follow up and accountability on all sides.
- Develop a network between JETAA USA and researchers who are examining the long-term quantitative/qualitative effects of the JET Programme. As the JET Programme is approaching its 25th year, the ability and need to access and understand this data is becoming a forefront issue in its evaluation process.
- Identify opportunities to foster inter-chapter collaboration and areas where JETAA USA can be utilized as a liaison for these kind of large-scale initiatives.

I have been an active member with JETAANC since 2008. My current role as Vice President started at the beginning of this year, and my duties that are relevant to the CR role are as follows:

- Develop more local inter-chapter collaboration and communication: I have been in touch with JETAA Southern California in regard to improving their alumni networking and career building events and aim to build out a California-specific resource system that both chapters can access.
- Expanding and diversifying the types of JETAANC events, so that we can address personal, social, and professional needs of our members. As a result, I've also been able to cultivate new relationships with Japan-related organizations in our area, which have been incorporated in a variety of programs.
- Coordinating the Career Networking Forum (CNF), which was designed to help returning JETs utilize their JET experiences in their job search. In 2008, I was worked with Rod McLeod (outgoing USA CR and past JETAANC President) in monetizing the CNF to help contribute funds toward the JETAANC High School Scholarship.

The past executive committees have laid some impressive groundwork, and I feel that I can most contribute as Vice President to build upon our past success. It is a priority for me that JETAANC keeps on delivering quality events, partnerships, and services for our members and affiliates so that they will stay active and involved.

During my tenure on the JET Programme, I was fortunate to be elected the Chair of National AJET. I had the pleasure of managing an extremely talented committee, and we were able to accomplish the following during my tenure as Chair:

- Launched a new team-teaching handbook, *Planet Eigo*.
- Collaborated with CLAIR to revamp the MEXT/MOFA Opinion Exchange reports and discussions.
- Continued to recruit, train, staff, and fund the after-hours Peer Support Group helpline, in collaboration with CLAIR's JET Line.
- Created the "JET Effect," a monthly report on JETs that were making positive impacts to their local Japanese schools and communities.
- Developed and strengthened new and existing partnerships with our Group Associate Member Sponsorship program to create additional revenue streams.

Our council inherited several projects, such as *Planet Eigo*, that we wanted nurture to fruition. We were very successful with the first press, distribution, marketing, and sales of the new book. It was exciting to be a part of a process that so many former JETs and JTEs had poured so much work into.

Regarding the bi-annual Opinion Exchange meetings, we shifted positions as to work closer with CLAIR to identify, research, and report on issues that were affecting the JET community and Japanese educational system. We also adjusted the format of the meetings to foster an atmosphere of discussion and collaborative problem solving between the attending officials from MEXT/MOFA/CLAIR and NAJET. Personally, I find it very rewarding to see some of the solutions that we suggested 4 years ago being implemented today by JET Programme officials and the continuation of projects that our council had developed.

Finally, I have over 8 years of experience in marketing and business development, with a focus on client-centric solutions. The skills of analyzing client needs and building strategic plans based on those needs, along with follow up and execution, are directly transferable to my role as USA CR. My career skills have taught me the value of teamwork and the importance of understanding the needs of all those involved before determining a course of action.

Thank you for reviewing my platform. With the combination of my past participation with National AJET, my current leadership role on JETAANC, and my vision for JETAA USA, I would like to be considered for JETAA USA Country Representative.

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