

Visit to Japan's Local Government by our Friends from ASEAN

10 Participants from ASEAN countries namely, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia have gathered in Japan to participate in the "Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar2006" which commenced on 23 July and came to a successful close on 30 July 2006.

This seminar has been conducted by CLAIR since 1995. It provides participants with the opportunity to learn about the local autonomy system in Japan, visit Japanese local governments and also expose themselves to the rich Japanese culture during their stay. Participants started their journey with a seminar in Tokyo followed by a series of exchange events in Chiba prefecture.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION SEMINAR



Participants paying full attention at their "Local Autonomy System in Japan" lecture in Tokyo

DATE	MAIN ACTIVITIES	VENUE
23 July (Sun.)	Arrival	Tokyo
24 July (Mon.)	Tokyo Seminar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture on Japanese Administration and Finance System Lecture on Japanese Local Autonomy System 	Tokyo
25 July (Tue.)	Tour of Government Facilities in Tokyo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Diet of Japan Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department Edo Tokyo Museum 	Tokyo
26 July (Wed.)	Exchange events in hosted by Chiba Prefectural Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit to Chiba Prefectural Government Office Lecture on the development of local industries in Chiba Prefecture Experience of Hot Spring at Japanese Ryokan 	Chiba
27 July (Thu.)	Exchange events in hosted by Chiba Prefectural Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit to Kazusa DNA Research Institute Visit to Kisarazu City office Kazusa Clean Centre 	Chiba
28 July (Fri.)	Exchange events in hosted by Chiba Prefectural Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting and Opinion Exchange Workshop Introduction and tour of Makuhari New City 	Chiba
29 July (Sat.)	Free Time	Tokyo
30 July (Sun.)	Departure	



Participants at the Metropolitan Police Department



Participants taking time off at a traditional Ryokan in Chiba Prefecture

Comments of Friends from ASEAN

Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar is a good programme, especially for improving the knowledge of civil servants from developing countries. We realized that in order to improve the quality of human resources, we need trainings, seminars and other courses and this seminar was appropriate for our needs. CLAIR Tokyo, as a venue for the Seminar, was a good choice because all participants had the opportunity to see the spectacular Capital City of Japan, Tokyo.

Tokyo represents a modern city and has many tourist destinations. The city is very clean and has a very comprehensive transportation system.

I had a good impression of not only the Seminar at CLAIR Tokyo, but also of the excursions to the Metropolitan Police Department, the Chiba Prefectural Government Office, Kazusa DNA Research Institute, Kazusa Cleaning System, and Makuhari New City. I also had an unforgettable experience spending a night at the Takemi-En Traditional Inn and taking a bath in the "Onsen". Further, CLAIR Staff (Tokyo and Singapore) were very helpful and friendly. Hopefully, next year, one of the civil servants of Central Java could also take part in this programme.

"Arigato Gozaimasu" ("Thank you")

Tri Iriani,

Staff Of Central Java Regional Economic Bureau, Central Java Province, Indonesia



Lecture on "Local Administration System in Malaysia" Staff Training Conducted by Dr. Phang

CLAIR Singapore engages with research and international exchange activities in ASEAN countries. It is therefore paramount for us to conduct internal staff trainings periodically to enhance our knowledge about local administration in the region. As part of this continual training, we have conducted one of such programmes on 25 August 2006. We invited Dr. Phang Siew Nooi to be our guest lecturer. Dr. Phang is a professor who is currently the Department Head of the Department of Administrative Studies & Politics, Faculty of Economics & Administration of the University of Malaya. Besides her normal duties as a lecturer, Dr. Phang is often involved in conducting research and presenting papers in local and international conferences. Dr. Phang is also consulted by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for input into the administration of local government in Malaysia.



Clair staff attentive at lecture

Dr. Phang has always been an active supporter of CLAIR's activities since 1998. She has kindly acted as the coordinator of ASEAN speakers for our ASEAN Regional Local Administration Forum in Myanmar in 2004. She has also hosted visits when our staff carried out internship programmes in Malaysia. Further strengthening this tie, she had graciously agreed to give CLAIR Singapore's staff a lecture on the "Local Administration System of Malaysia".

It was a very meaningful lecture given by Dr Phang. Being a veteran in her field, Dr. Phang gave us a comprehensive lecture on the fundamental theories of local administration systems and also generously shared her experiences in dealings with developments of local administration in Malaysia. The training session came to a close with discussions that helped us deepen our understanding of how the local administration system of Malaysia works.



Comments from Dr. Phang:

It has been a great experience for me to lecture at CLAIR Singapore. I think it gave both parties a chance to enhance their knowledge of local administration. These exchanges are paramount for future developments and I hope that we could continue to foster greater ties.

NEW STAFF

FROM The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

“ In October 2006, I joined CLAIR Singapore as a new staff. I was born in Okinawa but grew up in many different places in Japan such as Tochigi, Chiba, Shizuoka, Fukuoka and Tokyo, thus coming into contact with diverse and interesting cultures and lifestyles with the good friends I've made in each place. CLAIR Singapore's activities involve ASEAN 10 countries. Needless to say, each country has its original language, religion, culture, political system and so on. I'm so excited that I can experience all these and broaden my mind.



I'll endeavour to become a good bridge for mutual understanding and relations between ASEAN countries and Japan. I look forward to meeting you through CLAIR's activities! ”

Deputy Director, Mr. Horii Fumihiko

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

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

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