



JETAA ACTIVITIES

JETAA Annual Conference

International Gathering in Atlanta, Georgia



The fourth International Conference of the Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association (JETAA) was held on October 31 of this year. All details for the conference, hosted by the Japan Local Government Center, New York (JLGC, NY) and the Consulate General of Japan in Atlanta, were arranged by the local JETAA Atlanta Chapter, headed by President Yvette Pharo. Chapters from around the world sent regional representatives, presidents, co-chairmen, treasurers and other delegates for what was a constructive and successful meeting.

The conference opened with speeches by Katsutoshi Ohta, Senior Managing Director of the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR, Tokyo) and the Honorable Yasuo Saito, Consul General of Japan in Atlanta. Naohiro Ishida, Director of JLGC, NY, and Rumi Ugaki from Gaimusho (Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs) took part in the proceedings as well.



JETAA delegates enjoy CLAIR's reception on Saturday night after the working sessions of the JETAA International Conference.

The 31 representatives in attendance worked diligently to create a structure for a new, formal JETAA International. They met both in the morning and again in the afternoon to deal with issues largely centered on creating a more coherent, single, collective identity for the various chapters that have been formed around the world.

During the morning session, delegates heard reports from Michael Levy (US), Tom Robles (Canada), Catherine Wallace (Australia), Paula Kelly (Ireland) and Daniel Lintz (Japan) about the state of their individual chapters. Their presentations described activities, funding, newsletters and the importance of staying active in local Japanese communities, among other issues.

In the afternoon, Anita Chandan (Montreal) moderated an open discussion on the questions of developing a mission statement, bylaws, interim committees and a logo for JETAA International, as well as choosing a venue for the 1999 annual meeting. Representatives then had the chance to talk about many of the challenges facing their chapters, as well as their achievements and successes.

Social events and meals provided a chance for much informal discussion among the attendees. Among such events was a

Friday night welcome reception the evening before the conference opened held by Mr. Saito at his residence, and a dinner on Saturday night hosted by CLAIR. Delegates to the conference also had a chance to sample many of the sights and delights of Atlanta as well as the night life of suburban Buckhead.

Ms. Pharo of JETAA Atlanta will report in more detail on the substance and accomplishments of the conference in the next issue of the JLGC Newsletter. Anyone who wishes to have more information about JETAA International can contact interim co-chairwoman Anita Chandan, by telephone at (514) 481-2516 or by e-mail at atsumaru@netcom.ca, or JLGC, NY, by telephone at (212) 246-5542, e-mail info@jlgc.org.

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Masthead: The sakura, or cherry blossom, is Japan's cherished national flower. Special hanami parties and excursions are held during blossom time each year.

