



# The Exchange Event with JET Programme Participants

Co-Hosted by  
Nagasaki Keizai Doyukai  
(Nagasaki Association of Corporate Executives)  
and Keizai Doyukai  
(Japan Association of Corporate Executives)



January 2015

# Contents

1. Introduction .....	1
2. Agenda .....	2
3. Guests and participants .....	3
4. Welcome remark .....	6
5. Opening remark .....	8
6. Remarks .....	9
Susumu Satomi .....	9
Francesca Discenza .....	11
Yuriy Fedkiw .....	13
7. Photos at the reception .....	16

## Note:

1. This report contains the outline and proceedings of the exchange event between the JET programme participants and corporate executives, co-hosted by Nagasaki Keizai Doyukai and Keizai Doyukai on 28 November 2014, in cooperation with KEIRINKAI.
2. You can find the photos at the reception on page 16.
3. All the titles and positions referred to in this report are as of the date.
4. The responsibility for the wording and contents of this report lies with Keizai Doyukai secretariat.

## 1. Introduction

By bringing young people from around the world to Japan to support grassroots internationalization including language education, the JET Programme helps to foster individuals who come to know and love Japan during their stay here. The Programme furthermore encourages globalization and enhances foreign language education in rural areas of Japan. In recognition of these contributions, the Project Team for Empowerment of Japan Hands is working to increase their momentum through efforts such as raising awareness of the JET Programme and making use of its alumni.

On May 16 Keizai Doyukai held an Exchange Event with JET Participants. Our honored guests included Akie Abe, First Lady of Japan, Spouse of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Among the outcomes of this event, some member companies have decided to hire JETs. Meanwhile, agencies and groups in charge of the Programme have indicated their desire to have similar events throughout Japan, given that most JET participants worked in elementary and junior and senior high schools outside of the Tokyo and Osaka regions or in the international relations departments of various prefectures and cities. Nationwide, Nagasaki Prefecture has had the third-largest number of JET participants. This is where we held the first regional Exchange Event with JET Participants. The Nagasaki Keizai Doyukai co-hosted the event on behalf of the local business community.<sup>1</sup>

Nagasaki was also where the Nagasaki City Management Strategy Promotion Council was launched in 2010, aimed at strengthening and facilitating industry-academia-government partnerships for regional economic revitalization. That group is producing positive results in the fields of basic manufacturing, tourism, marine products, and education (university). Keizai Doyukai delegates held talks with the Vice-Governor of Nagasaki Prefecture and the Mayor of Nagasaki City to learn about the issues, the council is tackling from a governmental perspective. Keizai Doyukai also participated in the Nagasaki Regional Internationalization Forum and exchanged views with the local business community as part of a first case study in using outsider perspectives and observations to discover and promote the attractiveness of the region.

---

<sup>1</sup> The event also received significant support from KEIRINKAI, a public interest incorporated association whose members are from the alumni associations of the Nagasaki Higher Commercial School, Nagasaki College of Economics, and Nagasaki University Faculty of Economics.

## 2. Agenda

**The Exchange Event with JET Programme Participants  
Hosted by  
Nagasaki Keizai Doyukai (Nagasaki Association of Corporate Executives)  
and Keizai Doyukai (Japan Association of Corporate Executives)**

18:30 ~ 20:30, Friday 28th November, 2014

Premier Hall, 3rd Floor,  
Best Western Premier Hotel Nagasaki

### Agenda

#### 1. Welcome remark

Mr. Masatoshi Miyawaki      Chairman, Nagasaki Keizai Doyukai  
Representative Executive Officer Chairman,  
The Eighteenth Bank, Limited

#### 2. Opening remark

Mr. Yukio Tada      Chairman, Project Team for Empowerment of Japan Hands  
President, Sojitz Research Institute

#### 3. Remark of the honorary guest

Mr. Susumu Satomi      Deputy governor, Nagasaki Prefectural Government

#### 4. Remarks of a representative of current JETs

Ms. Francesca Discenza      CIR at Minami-Shimabara City

#### 5. Remarks of representatives of JET alumni

Mr. Yuriy R. Fedkiw      Principal Officer, the United States Consulate in Fukuoka

#### 6. Photo Session

#### 7. Reception

#### 8. Adjourn

### 3. Guests and participants

#### JET Programme Participants in Nagasaki

Ms. Francesca Discenza      CIR at Minami-Shimabara City  
and other 38 participants

#### JET Alumni in Nagasaki

Mr. Yuriy Fedkiw      Principal Officer, the United States Consulate in Fukuoka  
and 4 other JET alumni

#### Honorary Guests

Mr. Susumu Satomi      Vice-Governor, Nagasaki Prefectural Government  
Mr. Shunichi Yamashita      Trustee (International Affairs and University Research Institutes),  
Nagasaki University  
Ms. Toyoko Baba      Superintendent, Nagasaki City Board of Education  
Mr. Kou Ikeda      Deputy Superintendent of Schools, Board of Education,  
Nagasaki Prefectural Government

#### Embassies

H.E. Mr. Solomon Karanja Maina      Ambassador-Designate,  
Embassy of the Republic of Kenya  
Mr. Tom Yates      Consul-General,  
Australian Counsulate-General Fukuoka  
Mr. Paul K. Ndung'u      Minister-Counsellor,  
Embassy of the Republic of Kenya  
and 1 other guest

**Government Officials**

Mr. Hisakazu Matsukawa Director General,  
Culture, Tourism & Local Products Bureau,  
Nagasaki Prefectural Government

Mr. Tadayuki Arata Director, International Affairs Division,  
Culture, Tourism & Local Products Bureau,  
Nagasaki Prefectural Government

Mr. Shinichi Shibahara Director, International Affairs Section Nagasaki City Hall

Mr. Masahiro Fukukawa Executive Consultant,  
The Council of Local Authorities for International Relations

Mr. Takeshi Enomoto Director, International Education Division,  
Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau  
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Ms. Kyoko Nishi Senior Coordinator, Office of Global Communications,  
Prime Minister's Office

and 4 other members

**Nagasaki University**

Mr. Hiromasa Okada Professor, Dean,  
Faculty of Economics, Nagasaki University

and 6 other members

**Nagasaki City Management Strategy Promotion Council**

Mr. Takamitsu Sato Chairman,  
Nagasaki City Management Strategy Promotion Council

Mr. Yasuichi Matsunaga President,  
The Nagasaki Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Mr. Nobuhiro Iwane President, Nagasaki Employers' Association

and 2 other members

Nagasaki Keizai Doyukai

Mr. Masatoshi Miyawaki Chairman  
Chairman, The Eighteenth Bank, Limited  
Chairman, Alumni Association of Nagasaki University Economics  
(KEIRINKAI)

Mr. Yoshiki Ueda Vice Chairman  
Chairman, Nagasaki Broadcasting Co.,Ltd.

Mr. Kiichirou Hiramatu Vice Chairman  
Adviser, Matsufuji Group(MSK Co., Ltd.)

Mr. Soichi Sato Chairman, Nagasaki City Management Promotion Committee  
Branch Manager, Bank of Japan Nagasaki Branch

Mr. Akira Yamada Chairman, Committee for International Exchange  
President & CEO, Yamaden Co., Ltd.

and 11 other members

Keizai Doyukai

Mr. Yukio Tada Chairman, Project Team for Empowerment of Japan Hands  
President, Sojitz Research Institute, Ltd.

Mr. Takashi Shiki Vice Chairman,  
Committee for Decentralization and Devolution to Local Governments  
Executive Vice President, All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd.

Ms. Mie Teno Member, Project Team for Empowerment of Japan Hands  
Managing Director, Acacia Japan-Deltapoint Inc.

Dr. Kiyohiko Ito Managing Director

Mr. Sadahiko Okano Managing Director

and 7 other members  
(including secretariats)  
in total 102 attendance

## 4. Welcome remark

Masatoshi Miyawaki

Chairman, Nagasaki Keizai Doyukai



Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you very much for the kind introduction. I am Masatoshi Miyawaki, Chairman of Nagasaki Keizai Doyukai.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all of you for having traveled long distances during your busy schedules to attend this exchange event with JET participants here in Nagasaki.

The event was inaugurated in Tokyo in May, and this is the first regional event with the same objectives.

The aims and the background of this event will be provided by Chairman Tada of the project team, so I will not go into the details now. I would just like to say, however, that I believe that fate made this event happen in Nagasaki, which was the sole international city in Japan in the past.

Nowadays, a shrinking population is of particular concern in Japan. At the Kyushu Keizai Doyukai Fukuoka convention, in order to avoid a manpower shortage caused by the declining population, an appeal was adopted to achieve diversity in the local communities by employing under-utilized personnel resources such as foreign nationals.

At this evening session, we invite you to the talks by principal officer, Mr. Yuriy Fedkiw, of the United States Consulate in Fukuoka and Ms. Francesca Discenza, a CIR of Minami-Shimabara city, followed by a reception where you are encouraged to exchange views with company executives to help you expand your scope and the extent of your activities.

At this event, we have a number of people who have been involved in these activities including Japanese government officials, the Consul-General of the Australian Consulate-General in Fukuoka and members of Keizai Doyukai of Tokyo, as well as the principal officer of the United States Consulate in Fukuoka. All who have been deeply involved with the JET Programme are in attendance, and many corporate executives of

Nagasaki are also present, I encourage you to actively exchange views with them. The nature of this event will provide you with wider opportunities in the Nagasaki area.

And finally, allow me to extend my deepest appreciation to Chairman Tada and everyone else of the Project Team for Empowerment of Japan Hands and wish you all continued success and further development of the JET Programme.

## 5. Opening remark

### Yukio Tada

Chairman, Project Team for Empowerment of Japan Hands

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Yukio Tada. I am serving as chairman of the Project Team for Empowerment of Japan Hands at Keizai Doyukai in Tokyo. I am grateful that you have spared your precious time for us on this Friday evening at month's end.



As you are well aware, the youth of the world are invited to Japan via the JET Programme to engage in English education and international relations programs at various municipalities.

This year marks the 28th anniversary of this programme, which has resulted in more than 60,000 people from 63 countries with life experiences in Japan. Most of them are now serving as bridges between Japan and their respective countries.

Business executives in Japan strongly recognize the importance of youth exchanges to promote friendly relations between Japan and overseas countries. As Mr. Miyawaki stated, the interest in hiring human resources with diversity is heightening amid the globalization of business activities.

JET participants are interested in Japan and develop a deep understanding of Japanese society and organizations through their first-hand experiences of living and working in Japan. We believe that they are extremely important human assets for Japan in terms of international exchanges as well as meeting the needs of Japanese companies. To provide further support for them is the primary purpose of this evening.

I will be very glad if you can make the most of the limited time today to develop friendships and deepen exchanges among JET participants, alumni, and business executives who support local communities and university academia.

I have just briefly explained the aims of this meeting. Before I conclude, let me take this opportunity to thank the Nagasaki Keizai Doyukai members for their great effort and support to make this event possible. Thank you very much.

## 6. Remarks

Susumu Satomi

Deputy Governor, Nagasaki Prefectural Government



Good evening ladies and gentlemen. And “大家晚上好”, “여러분 안녕하십니까?” and “Buona sera.”

At the outset of this exchange event for JET participants, I would like to say a few words of greetings on behalf of the host prefecture, Nagasaki and Governor Hodou Nakamura.

Let me first extend my deep respect to the members of Keizai Doyukai and Nagasaki Keizai Doyukai for their active roles in the industrial promotion and economic revitalization. I would also like to offer my sincere gratitude for your decision to hold the event in Nagasaki prefecture.

Let me also heartily thank all the distinguished guests for your specific support of the prefecture’s globalization initiatives.

To JET participants, please accept my deepest appreciation for your great efforts in language teaching and international relations activities that have contributed to better foreign language education and international exchanges.

Currently, the number of JET participants is 191 from 15 countries. Those from English-speaking countries such as the United States and Australia are playing very active roles as assistant language teachers. And those from China and Korea, with which Nagasaki has maintained long-standing relations, are also very active as interpreters and translators for exchanges.

I hope this event will provide the opportunity for the participants and corporate executives to share useful information, and that the collaboration of industry, academia and government will make significant advancement.

Today, distinguished guests from diplomatic missions are also present. We in Nagasaki are working to have our city's churches and important Christian sites designated as world heritage sites, as well as those related to the Meiji industrial revolution. Please enjoy the unique history, culture, and beautiful nature of Nagasaki, and promote Nagasaki in your home countries.

Lastly, I would like to conclude my remarks by wishing you all great health and further success.

On behalf of Governor Hodou Nakamura and myself, thank you for coming to Nagasaki. And “謝謝”, “감사합니다” and “Grazie!”

## Francesca Discenza

CIR, Minami-Shimabara city



I am from Italy, and this is my third year to work as a CIR at the board of education in Minami-Shimabara city of Nagasaki prefecture. I interpret, translate, hold seminars on my country's culture and language at public facilities. I also visit nursery schools, kindergartens, elementary and junior high schools, and participate in regional events, appear on TV and radio, and post articles in municipal public relations magazines. These duties mean exchanges

with citizens as a bridge between Japan and overseas.

I was born in Switzerland, raised in Italy, and studied Japanese at a university in Germany. Thanks to my parents who love to travel, I have been able to meet people from all over the world, and have been surrounded by people of different nationalities and with diverse cultures. I applied for the JET Programme hoping to contribute to globalization in Japan with my international experience and language skills in Italian, English, German and Japanese.

Initially, I was not very clear about what kind of role a CIR should play, but after working as one for about a year, I began to see what it means to be a CIR. To be a bridge from one country to another, you have to be a bridge between people first. In other words, you become friends. For this purpose, smooth communication is very important. CIRs are expected to not only be equipped with language skills, but also to work as bridges with a good understanding of the culture of the persons you speak to. Since Japanese people in general are not very used to living with people of different nationalities, JET participants assume very important roles and functions to play. Through exchange activities, we take root in local communities, make personal contacts and communicate with them regardless of their age, gender or occupation. We share the same environment and situations, and share emotions and excitement as well. Through these activities, we come to realize and recognize, become curious, receive and respect each other as persons no matter how different the languages, nationalities and customs are.

In my private time, I participate in a variety of traditional Japanese cultural activities such as Japanese drumming, the art of drawing real Japanese swords, Yosakoi dancing and the Japanese art of archery, through which I can have contact with a number of local people.

When I meet them, I start by becoming friends with them. If I take an interest in them and approach them hoping to make friends with them, they generally reciprocate my feelings. I have come to realize very clearly, recently, that smooth and successful international exchanges depend on how sincere and friendly you are with the people you meet.

If you maintain this mindset and take actions accordingly both publicly and privately, appreciating other cultures, languages and people will literally become part of you. This, I believe, will eventually lead us to world peace. To achieve permanent peace throughout the world might sound like sheer idealism. But if you aim at the target, sow seeds where you can, and make efforts for improvement, I am sure that our future will become bright. Now I realize that this is my mission to contribute to globalization in my capacity as a CIR, to work as a bridge between countries, for the ultimate purpose of world peace.

The majority of foreign nationals working at Japanese companies have contact with Japanese people at their workplaces, but probably not much in their personal lives. The big advantage of the JET Programme is the opportunity to meet with a wide range of people with different jobs, gender and age. Especially in the countryside where people have very little exposure to foreigners and foreign cultures, we, as JET participants, can exert great impact and influence on them. Alternately, JET participants themselves can get valuable experience from local people and exchanges with them.

I am not a JET participant from the English-speaking country, but am often treated as such, and am expected to teach English language and its culture -- which made me feel a little at a loss. I had wrongly thought that they only have interest in English, and that I had nothing to offer. I came to realize that people living in the countryside had very limited knowledge of overseas countries, so I started providing them with opportunities to learn and speak Italian, and they took interest and began to understand. Then, immediately people learned about me and started to broaden their knowledge about Italian and Italian culture, took an interest in Italy, and began to greet me not in English, but in Italian!

There may be other JET participants worried that they may not have much to offer, like I had felt before. I would like to tell those of you that you may not be able to get immediate results, that it is worth the effort. Believe in what you do. Whatever you do has plenty of meaning. Be confident and don't give up.

Amidst a rapid progression of internationalization, I would like all of you here this evening to realize that JET participants are very important human assets. In this regard, I would like to ask for your support for the smooth recruitment and visa issuance for those of us who wish to continue to stay and work in Japan even after our term ends as JET participants.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

## Yuriy Fedkiw

Principal Officer, the United States Consulate in Fukuoka

It is a great honor for me to join you tonight at this event which brings together JETs and members of the Nagasaki Association of Corporate Executives. As a former JET myself, I am particularly excited by this opportunity for JETs to meet and talk to leaders from the Japanese business community. I was glad to learn that almost half of the JETs in Nagasaki Prefecture come from the United States. So, my remarks today will be a bit skewed towards the Americans in the audience.



I would like to thank you for what you do on a daily basis as citizen diplomats to support and strengthen relations between the United States and Japan. By investing your time to learn the Japanese language and understand Japanese culture, by introducing our country to your Japanese colleagues, friends, and students, and, frankly, by just being yourselves, you deepen the ties between our two nations.

You make a difference. You touch lives. You influence the students you work with every day. Your impact is deeper than you imagine, and something that you may not fully understand until many years after you have left Japan.

You join a large and significant alumni network of over 11,600 American JET participants over the 27 years of the programme, some who have stayed in Japan, and many who have moved on to careers around the world. In fact, there are no less than a dozen former JETs working throughout Japan for the United States diplomatic mission, including myself.

You have a very special opportunity to not only prepare students, but to excite them about the possibility of studying overseas, and in particular, in the United States. I want to ask for your help in reversing the trend of declining Japanese students studying abroad. You know who is thinking about study abroad among your students; you know who has potential and who is sitting on the fence.

My team offers educational advising for students interested in studying in the United States – completely free of charge. Send them to us, or invite my advisors to come to your schools. From Mr. Tada's title, I can tell that he sees every one of you as a future diplomat. As

assistant language teachers and coordinators for international relations, you are well positioned for this mission.

I am here to enlist your help in enabling Japan to maintain a global leadership role through sustained engagement with the world, and by developing among its citizens communicative skills in a global language. Let me preview a few tools we can offer you. We have printed teaching materials we can send you if you share your contact information with us. The State Department offers online resources like American English Online. We can also offer professional skills development.

Many of your Japanese colleagues who teach English are also eager to learn about innovative ways of teaching the language. This is especially true as the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) is reforming English language education to develop communicative skills in all four areas of listening, speaking, writing, and reading. You are in a unique position to encourage those Japanese teachers to take advantage of the training opportunities which will benefit both teachers and their students.

Next, I would like to address those of you in the business community. The JET Programme is an investment that Japan has made in its own internationalization. It is an investment that pays benefits through the young foreigners who come to Japan and live in its communities. However, there is a risk that Japan will simply delegate its internationalization efforts to JET participants and think that its work is finished. JET participants and alumni are one bridge between Japan and other countries, but they should not be the only one. I would also like to see Japanese people themselves take responsibility for Japan's internationalization by taking part in grassroots exchanges, both in Japan and abroad.

The experience and insights of JET participants who form bridges between Japan and the world should be more highly valued than they currently are. These young people do more than teach language. Foreign JETs teach us new ways of looking at the issues we face every day, and different ways of dealing with those issues. Let us make full use of the JETs' abilities. What JET participants experience during their time in Japan is a seed that will blossom over time. People involved in grassroots exchange initiatives at the local level do something very important: they encourage understanding between countries as well as understanding of the value of human diversity. Person-to-person exchanges develop deeper ties between countries and make our lives richer and more fulfilling.

We often hear the word "internationalization" in Japan. Posting street signs and printing leaflets in foreign languages is important, but it is not enough. Internationalization means to explore unknown cultures, to interact with foreigners like the JET participants living in Nagasaki, and to travel to other countries. When Japanese people step outside the context of

their home country, they see themselves from a different point of view. That different perspective teaches us who we are and where we came from. Living overseas gives us insight on our own identity be it Japanese or American.

We also often hear the expression “global human resources.” They are nice words, but without action -- actually hiring and making use of these global human resources -- the words lack meaning. Global human resources are a valuable asset for businesses. Companies which actively hire individuals with global experience can more effectively do business with global enterprises and be more competitive in international markets. Internationally competitive businesses can help their nation’s economy recover and grow. It is my hope that you will take the lead in hiring and making use of global human resources, by hiring both Japanese who have studied abroad and foreigners with JET experience.

Young people are our future. When they study abroad, they develop a sense of themselves as global citizens, and bring that mindset back home with them. I hope corporate executives in Japan will take advantage of our young people’s overseas experiences. Doing so can create the business chances you have always dreamed of.

Once again, I thank you and all of the JETs across Japan, for your commitment to this important programme and for the work you do every day to deepen the mutual understanding between our two nations.

## 7. Photos at the reception



