



## **JETAA Southern California Final Report**

**Event:** Reception for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of JET at the JETAA USA National Conference  
**Organizer:** US-14 JET Alumni Association of Southern California and Arizona  
**Date:** Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> 2016  
**Place:** The Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Los Angeles Downtown California  
**Attendees:** 97 total, including representatives from all 19 JETAA USA Chapters, local alumni and members of the U.S.-Japan community.

### **Event Review**

JETAASC planned a special reception at the Kyoto Gardens, a meticulous recreation of an ancient Japanese Garden on the hotel's rooftop. Beginning with a speech from Consul General Akira Chiba welcoming back recent returnees from the JET Programme, the reception itself served as the official Kick-off reception for the year-long celebration of the JET Programme's 30th Anniversary in 2017.

We were honored to have secured Ms. Yuko Kaifu, President of Japan House LA, as our Keynote speaker. Japan House LA will launch in 2017 as a public diplomacy initiative which will strengthen international ties by promoting authentic Japanese art, culture, business, science and technology, tourism, film, music, and cuisine. Kaifu-san tied the mission of Japan House LA with the JET Programme's thirty-year legacy and future goals, including community outreach, and how to generate Japan-related career opportunities for JET Alumni.

### **Major Goals**

The major goals for the 2016 Welcome Back Reception were to recognize this year's returnees and the contribution they made to Japanese-American bilateral relations; to encourage them to continue pursuing opportunities for cultural exchange; and to provide them with some contacts and opportunities within the local and national community to be able to start looking for Japan-related activities. There was a sense of nostalgia as all guests in attendance have spent some time in Japan and reminisced about their experiences in Japan.

The reception was successful and well-received. In the future our goal is to provide increased incentives for recent returnees which is anticipated to boost attendance.