



USJETAA Celebrates 30 Years of U.S.-Japan Exchange

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Friday, August 4th through Sunday, August 6th, the **US Japan Exchange & Teaching Programme Alumni Association (USJETAA)** with support of the U.S.-Japan community and the **Embassy of Japan** will host the first-ever JET Alumni Reunion celebrating 30 Years of the JET Programme. This weekend will bring together over 250 JET alumni from across the country, representing over 32,000 Americans who have participated in the JET Program over the past 30 years. The event will commemorate the JET Programme's efforts to bring U.S. and Japanese citizens together through grassroots cultural and educational exchange and enable two generations of JET alumni to celebrate, reconnect and reminisce.

USJETAA was established in 2015 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to support alumni of the JET Programme and the 19 U.S. JETAA Chapters across the country. Its mission is to strengthen the capacity of the JETAA network, enabling alumni to contribute to the greater U.S.-Japan relationship and 'bring Japan home' by fostering education and understanding of Japanese culture in the United States.

The JET Programme was founded in 1987 by the Government of Japan as an initiative to encourage internationalization and the grassroots exchange of culture and friendship between the U.S. and Japan. Participants work in schools, Boards of Education, and government offices throughout Japan. To date, the program has 32,000 American alumni, in addition to 29,000 citizens from other participating countries. Of the 250 attendees registered for the JET30 Reunion, 46 of the 47 Japanese prefectures are represented, and attendees span every year of the program from 1987 on.

"The importance of JET and its mission to foster friendship and understanding between Japan and tens of thousands of people worldwide cannot be underestimated," said Counsellor of Education, Shintaro Seto, at the Embassy of Japan in the United States of America. "We hope to continue the wonders of international exchange and encourage the strong bonds between our two nations for many years to come."

“USJETAA recognizes the importance of the U.S.-Japan relationship, and the special role that JET alumni have had in fostering ‘soft-power’ between the U.S. and Japan,” said Executive Director, Laurel Lukaszewski, of USJETAA. “Alumni are found in diverse fields from business and diplomacy to fine arts and journalism, where they have had both direct and indirect impacts on the U.S.-Japan relationship. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to bring many of these individuals to DC for our first-ever JET30 Reunion.”

PRESS AVAILABILITY

USJETAA Welcomes press at Friday's Opening Session. **Please check in at registration desk:**

- 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.: **Natsukashii Hall** – Cultural Activities, Networking & Information
- 2:30 – 3:00 p.m.: **Welcome Remarks** will begin at 2:30 p.m. featuring opening remarks by Deputy Chief of Mission Atsuyuki Oike of the Embassy of Japan, Special Advisor to the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) Masahiro Fukukawa, and Paige Cottingham-Streater, Chair, USJETAA

Reception Hosted by the Embassy of Japan to follow:

- The reception is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. The reception features remarks by Deputy Chief of Mission Atsuyuki Oike of the Embassy of Japan, Special Advisor to the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) Masahiro Fukukawa, and representatives of the nationwide JET Alumni Associations.*
- Press wishing to cover this event should arrive at the **Ambassador's Residence** (4000 Nebraska Avenue NW, Washington, D.C., 20016) by **5:45 p.m.**
- The Deputy Chief of Mission and Special Advisor to CLAIR will make themselves available to press following the official part of the ceremony.
- Press wishing to attend the Embassy Reception must register separately with the Embassy of Japan. Media Contact: Ms. Kiah Puth, Program Coordinator, Email: jetprogram@ws.mofa.go.jp

*Speakers subject to change.