

# **LONG BEACH-YOKKAICHI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION**

## **2007 President's Report February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Prepared by:**

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**LONG BEACH-YOKKAICHI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION  
2007 PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

2006 was a very active and productive year for the Association. As president, I am very pleased to submit the following report and recommendations:

**I. OFFICERS FOR 2006**

Michael Vaughn	President 2006-07
Eunice Sato	Vice-President 2006-2007
Barbara M. Parks	Secretary, Publicity
Victor Fukuhara	Treasurer
Gladys Flair	Historian
John Kashiwabara M.D.	Chairperson Medical Exchange Program
Jeanne Karatsu	Chairperson Yokkaichi English Fellow (YEF)
Yoko Pusavat	Chairperson Trio Exchange Program (Trio)

**II. ACITIVITY AND PROGRAM REPORTS**

**Long Beach – Yokkaichi Doctors Exchange Program**

Beginning in 2002 under the direction of Dr. John Kashiwabara the Association has taken part each year in an education program in which the Yokkaichi General Hospital selects three practicing physicians to come to Long Beach and study Western medical techniques at Long Beach Memorial Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital.

In March of 2006 we were very happy to host Ryoichi Mizubayashi, M.D., an Endocrinologist with a special interest in Diabetes Mellitus; Hayato Iwase, M.D., Chief Resident in General Surgery; and Akiko Asaka, M.D., a Resident in Pediatrics.

The exchange lasted from February 18<sup>th</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. Dr. John Kashiwabara and Mr. Bruce Easley, R.N. were in charge of the program. The physicians attended programs at Long Beach Memorial Hospital, Miller Children's Hospital and St. Mary's Medical Center.

We were very pleased with the productivity of the program and very happy to host a farewell dinner at the Bixby Café on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Dr. Mizubayashi and

Dr. Iwase thanked the Association for the opportunity for this unique experience. Upon their return to Yokkaichi they shared their experiences with their colleagues at their hospital.

**Long Beach-Yokkaichi Trio Program**

In 1964, with the support of the Port of Long Beach, the Long Beach-Yokkaichi Student – Teacher Exchange Program was established. Each alternating year since 1964, one teacher and two students from the Long Beach Unified School District have gone to Yokkaichi as Ambassadors of the City and Port to visit and study the culture of the other Sister City.

In 2006 it was our pleasure to host a teacher and two students from Yokkaichi for a two-week visit to Long Beach.

Our guests were Ms. Yukari Kobayashi, a teacher from Utsube Elementary School, Miss Shuku Nakano from Merryknoll Girls' Senior High School, and Yusuke Taniguchi from Akatsuki Junior-Senior High School.

While here they met and exchanged gifts with the Mayor of Long Beach and members of the City Council. They also visited the Board of Harbor Commissioners for the Port of Long Beach and presented them gifts from Yokkaichi.

During their visit they attended many local events and The Japanese-American National Museum in Los Angeles. They lived with local families and had an opportunity to experience ordinary life in Long Beach.

This program is funded by the Port of Long Beach.

**Yokkaichi English Fellows (YEF) Program**

2006 required that we replace four of our English Fellows teaching in Yokkaichi. We had only seven applicants for the positions to interview. Fortunately, we had seven very good prospects. After intensive interviews, four new YEFs were selected and prepared for their two-year stay 2006/2008 teaching English in the Yokkaichi School system.

The 2006/2008 YEFs are:

Jon David Friedberg  
Vutha Leang  
Marie Raz  
Eric Wurdinger

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006 we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Yokkaichi English Fellow Program with a dinner reception at the very lovely Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden.

Thirty-five former YEF fellows attended and entertained everyone with fond memories of their time in Yokkaichi. We were especially happy to have in attendance Ms. Yoko Kimura, who has been responsible for the YEF program at the Yokkaichi Board of Education. Also in attendance were association members and guests, including local press.

The Honorable Tetsuo Inoue, Mayor of Yokkaichi, sent congratulations by letter which was read to the audience. Mr. Kinya Kawakita, Superintendent, Yokkaichi City Board of Education, also sent a letter of congratulations indicating that the very high scores his students make on the national English test are attributable to the YEF program.

The Japanese Garden setting was a most beautiful background with its Koi pond and beautiful plants. This was an evening that all members of the association will remember for years to come.

### **III. FINANCIAL REPORT**

I am pleased to report that the finances of the Association remain in good condition. However, due to a change in the funding process with the Port of Long Beach, future funding from the Port must go through a request process overseen by the Sister Cities of Long Beach Inc., Board of Directors.

I do not know how this will affect our funding in the future, but I believe that we should not rely solely upon the Port as our major source in the future.

Dr. Kashiwabara has been very active in developing a Corporate Membership Program that will solicit corporations that have an interest in Long Beach and Japan. He will be especially interested in companies doing business in Yokkaichi.

With the help of our treasurer, I have prepared an analysis of our operating costs so that we can make some projections for the future.

One issue we will face in obtaining corporate funding is a need to show how the funds will be used to achieve our goals. Currently, the funding from the Port and the fundraising from the Musical Theater West has kept the Association at a break-even point.

If we are going to improve any of our programs or develop any new programs, we will have to find new sources of substantial funding.

The following is a projected budget for 2007 and an estimated budget for 2008 that I would like to discuss at our next meeting. The estimated budget is based upon some of the recommendations that I will make later in this report.

**Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association**  
**Costs of Programs**  
 2006-2008

<b>Programs</b>	<b>Costs 2006</b>	<b>Projected 2007</b>	<b>Estimated 2008</b>
General Operations - Web Site	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
Promotional Items including pins and brochures.	\$750.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Protocol Gifts & Tokens	\$16.00	\$400.00	\$500.00
Yokkaichi English Fellows Program (YEF)	\$2,731.50	\$1000.00	\$1250.00
Doctors Medical Exchange	\$169.33	\$500.00	\$500.00
Yokkaichi Trio To Japan	0.00	\$4500.00	0.00
Yokkaichi Trio Host From Japan	\$2,731.50	0.00	\$3500.00
New Program Development		\$5000.00	\$5000.00
Sustaining new programs			\$3500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,438.33</b>	<b>\$11,940.00</b>	<b>\$14,790.00</b>

**INCOME 2006**

<b>Source of Funding</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>Projected 2008</b>
Net profit from Fund raiser Ticket sales	\$646.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Individual Corp Grants	\$305.00		
Port of Long Beach Funds	\$3235.65	\$4000.00	\$4000.00
Membership Dues		\$525.00	\$525.00
Corporate Membership Dues		\$4500.00	\$9000.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$4186.65</b>	<b>\$9775.00</b>	<b>\$14,275.00</b>

#### **IV. MISCELLANEOUS EVENTS**

##### **Internet Site**

We have established our own Internet Site at [www.longbeach-yokkaichi.org](http://www.longbeach-yokkaichi.org). Hopefully, it will be fully operational by the end of March and all of our data for the YEF program and the Trio will be uploaded. The cost of the site is approximately \$40.00 per year.

##### **Annual Planning Session**

In October 2006 we held a planning session at Barbara Park's home in which members from the Trio Committee and YEF Committee had an opportunity to work together for a few hours in planning activities for 2007. This proved to be a great help to everyone and I look forward to repeating this year.

#### **V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2007**

Since our planning session in October, I have had an opportunity to speak with almost everyone on the committee concerning how the association is operating. I continue to solicit your advice, criticism and recommendations.

Because of the limited time we have in our monthly meetings, I would like to make the following four recommendations for this year:

##### **1. Membership**

Our membership has grown this year despite the loss of four former members due to factors beyond their control. Our last monthly meeting had the largest attendance that I can recall since I became a member. In addition, we have now acquired three new corporate members who will place representatives on our board. Our newest member, Dr. Tom Mizuguchi, just hosted the reception for our 2007 visiting physicians. This is evidence of the vitality of our membership.

This is the first year we have set a membership fee of \$35.00 for board members. We should provide each member with the following:

1. Name tag to be worn at all events.
2. A membership certificate.
3. The Long Beach-Yokkaichi Membership Pin
4. A copy of the membership roster.

This should be done formally for each member. I think this is particularly important for our new corporate members.

## 2. New Programs

If we are to attract regular and corporate members, we must develop programs that provide reasons and justifications for their involvement.

Our current programs have developed for a number of different reasons and at different times:

- 1963 Trio Exchange - Initiated by Port of Long Beach
- 1986 YEF Board of Education
- 2002 Doctors Medical Exchange

I would recommend that we explore the idea of an exchange of performing artists with Yokkaichi. This could be artists at either high school or college level.

We have discussed hosting the Yokkaichi Symphony, but this may be too big of a project under our current structure. However, we could develop a program in which we provide venues for small groups of 3 to 5 performers from Yokkaichi.

The Japanese Garden would be an excellent venue as would be some of the corporate headquarters of some potential corporate sponsors.

It may also be possible to incorporate the exchange into the arts program at the colleges or high schools so that the trip to Yokkaichi would be a prize and the winner would go there to do a concert or recital.

We should also consider all of the arts in this program and see which would work best for everyone. Of course, it will depend upon cooperation with our counterparts in Yokkaichi.

## 3. Fundraisers

I want to compliment this organization on being one of the most frugal civic-minded groups with whom I have ever been associated. As you may see from our financial data we have maintained our YEF, Trio and Doctors' Programs on very modest funding and successfully maintained them for 40 years. Much of this is due to the willingness of individual members to sacrifice time, money and effort to ensure that everything is completed on time and on budget. This is the attitude that gets things done.

I do not think we want to tamper with something that is working as well as these programs have worked, but if we intend to continue on for another 40 years, we need to explore other ideas as well.

The Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden at Cal State Long Beach has been made available to us at little or no expense by Jeannette Schelin. There is no other

location in Southern California that is more suitable for our purpose or the goals of our Association than the Japanese Garden.

I would recommend a spring or summer fundraising dinner at the Japanese Garden, depending upon its availability, at which we could invite our sponsors, the Harbor Commissions, the City Council and Mayor, and our Corporate Members and potential members, as well as the Japanese Consulate. This time we should extend the invitation to the Mayor of Yokkaichi and the Yokkaichi Board of Education and make this a formal affair.

Within our association we have very talented people and we should be able to present a program exemplifying American-Japanese Culture, Talent and Art. The Japanese Garden is a setting that is unparalleled for this type of event.

I encourage anyone who is not familiar with the Japanese Garden to call Jeanette and visit the facility. Please give me your ideas and suggestions.

#### **4. Gifts**

Gift giving is a cultural tradition in the Japanese community. I would like to develop gifts that reflect Long Beach and our community that we can give to our guests that they can display.

Thank you very much for allowing me to serve in this position this year. I look forward to a very productive and exciting year.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Vaughn  
President  
Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association