



# Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association



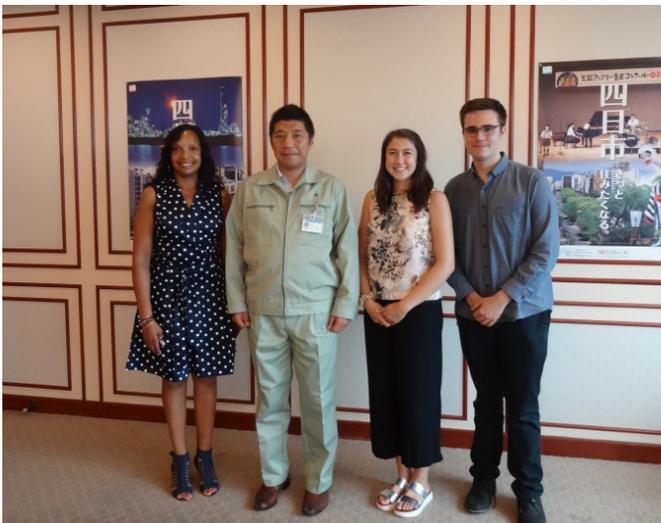
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Newsletter

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## 2017 LB Trio Ambassadors Return

The 2017 Long Beach Trio ambassadors, Barton Elementary School Assistant Principal **Marybeth Murphy** and Long Beach Poly High School students **Lily Brossus** and **Aidan Harper**, returned safely after a 3-week cultural visit to our sister city of Yokkaichi. They left for Yokkaichi on July 20 and returned to Long Beach on August 8.



*The Long Beach Trio Ambassadors meeting with Yokkaichi Mayor at Yokkaichi City Hall. Marybeth Murphy, Yokkaichi Mayor Tomohiro Mori, Lily Brossus and Aidan Harper.*

The trio reported that staying with their host families “was incredible” and “the highlight” of the trip, and the Yokkaichi city staff who accompanied them on their trips around the city were “so very kind”.

Marybeth and Lily created a blog and reported on their daily activities. Here are excerpts:

What America can learn from Yokkaichi:

### Conscious of the Visually Impaired

Almost everywhere you walk there is a yellow strip on the concrete with raised bumps and lines. This is for the convenience of the visually impaired to feel on the ground. In addition to the sidewalk strip, there is braille for most of the signs. Also, most of the crosswalk signals are accompanied by beeping and audio assistance.

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## Reports from 2017 Environmental Summit

The 2017 Environmental Summit team recently returned to Long Beach after a 10-day study trip to our sister city, Yokkaichi, Japan. L.B. Polytechnic High School students **Gisela Martinez**, **Cassidy Hunt**, **KC Hunt**, and **Jason Sun** took part in discussions and worked with Chinese and Japanese students to find environmental problem solutions at the International Center for Environmental Technology Transfer (ICETT).

Read the great reports below from chaperone and advisor **Elaine Villanueva Bernal, Ed.D.**:

“The 2017 environmental summit theme was “STOP! Global Warming - What We Can Do in The Future,” and students discussed the economic, environmental, and social issues impacted by global warming and climate change. In teams, students developed possible local and global solutions, particularly technologies that result in less waste and pollution, and create a sustainable future for the world.



*KC Hunt and Jason Sun with Yokkaichi Mayor Tomohiro Mori at ICETT.*

Throughout their time in Yokkaichi, students learned about the initiatives, programs, and technologies that local government and industries had implemented to address the global warming and climate change issues. The visit also included cultural exchanges among the students and the Yokkaichi community. The following is a description of the summit's itinerary:

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## 2017 Long Beach Trio—*Cont'd from p1*

### A Handkerchief Society

Paper towels don't exist in Japan. Everyone carries their own handkerchief or towel with them. Talk about saving trees! So in the bathrooms, you always dry your hands with your own towel. In addition, they give you towels at restaurants before you eat. Or in food courts, towels are located in the middle of the room. Instead of paper towels they have an abundance of hand wipes that are individually packaged. Many restaurants also give out these at the start of meals.

Wrote Marybeth on her return: "Japan is truly a really cool country and I'm missing it a lot. More than the country I am missing the people. I know I'm speaking for all of the Trio when I say we miss you. Thank you Yokkaichi for showing us your beautiful country and kindness for three weeks."

Student Ambassador, Aidan Harper, wrote a wonderful journal with photos of his experiences and thoughts of Yokkaichi. Here are excerpts:

"Without a doubt, Yokkaichi is one of the best places I have ever been to. I like to think that I am fairly well traveled for someone my age as I have been to places like Paris, London, and Rome, along with various other destinations, but what I realize after this trip is that I have been missing out on some great experiences in these countries. For foreigners, I doubt that Yokkaichi is a city they envision visiting, as it isn't one of those big fancy cities with all of the neon lights that are so mesmerizing. But in Yokkaichi, they don't need all of these lights—replace the neon lights with the bright eyes of the most kind and welcoming people I have ever had the pleasure to meet.

Yokkaichi has both the charm of a countryside town, and the energetic feel of a flourishing city with all of the activity during the week created by a buzzing community of local industry.

I am not exaggerating when I say this, but it is hard to put this experience into words that would do justice to the city of Yokkaichi and all the extraordinary people we met there."

Aidan's entire report can be found on our website at <http://longbeach-yokkaichi.org>.

The Trio Program not only impacts the Trio teacher and students, but all those with whom they interact during their visit. The city of Long Beach sent three very fine young people who represented our city well as goodwill ambassadors. Congratulations to the Trio Program committee, led by **Yoko Pusavat**, for having the insight in selecting Marybeth, Lily and Aidan.

Check out the trio's blog at <https://yokkaichitrio2017.com> for more reports and photos of their adventures in Yokkaichi.

## 2017 Summit—*Cont'd from p1*

Day 1: Meeting with local dignitaries including the Mayor of Yokkaichi, visiting the Environmental Museum for Future Awareness, and the high school students from Long Beach, Tianjin, and Yokkaichi getting to know each other. The visit to the Environmental Museum for Future Awareness was particularly interesting, as we learned that 50 years ago Japan entered a period of high economic growth from postwar reconstruction. Under the social backdrop of economic priority, large-scale factories were built one after another throughout the country including Motoichi, and various pollution occurred around the factory. Serious pollution problems called "Yokkaichi pollution" occurred, such as air pollution causing many people to suffer from asthma. Through advocacy, legal, and political will, the people of Yokkaichi were able to vastly reduce pollution and victims were compensated for their suffering.

Day 2: Learned about measures for environment and global warming from Tosoh Corporation, environmental study activity with Escolapios Kaisei Catholic Senior High School, and cultural exchange with Kabuse Teahouse. What was great about this visit was being able to spend time with the high school students, especially what their educational experiences were.



*2017 Environmental Summit Team  
at a tea plantation:  
Jason Sun, Gisela Martinez, Advisor/Professor  
Elaine Bernal, Cassidy Hunt, KC Hunt.*

Day 3: We learned about the latest environmentally friendly treatment center, global warming measures from Yokkaichi Port, visited a small hydraulic power generation plant, and made Hinaga fans. The port not only had many programs and initiatives to mitigate pollution, but what stood out to us the most was their outreach to the community and their efforts to communicate what is happening at the port as much as possible.

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**2017 Summit**—*Cont'd from p2*

Day 4: Trip to Imuraya, a red bean confectionary company, to learn about how they are lessening their carbon footprint. One of the major highlights of the Imuraya visit was that they specifically label on their product packaging how much carbon dioxide was emitted in the process. For example, about 600g of carbon dioxide is produced from a package of 12 red bean popsicles! After the factory, we then went to Iga Ueno Castle and Ninja Museum of Igaryu. What was of interest during the portion of the trip was to be immersed in how samurai and ninja lived centuries ago.

Day 5: We spent the day with Yokkaichi City Environment Conservation Department to learn about city-wide global warming measures, and then with Nurturing Nature and Children Society and Yokkaichi Consumer Association to have a Nagashi somen/bitter melon lunch as well as try on yukata (summer kimono).

Day 6: This was our last day in Yokkaichi. The students presented what they learned about climate change and how Long Beach, Yokkaichi, and Tianjin can work together to address global warming challenges. The students received positive feedback, with some city leadership commenting that the presentations were the best they have seen in the last five years. We then went to the Yokkaichi Festival celebrating the city's 120th anniversary.

Day 7: Lunch and Dinner at Kyoto Station, paid homage to the Nishiki Tenman-gu and Yasaka Shrines, shopped around Gion, and braved the rain.

Day 8: Private walking tour of Arashiyama, bus tour of Heian Shrine, Sanjusangendo, and Kiyomizu Temple, then a quick trip to Fushimi Inari Shrine. What a full and amazing day!

Day 9: The students and I managed to squeeze a quick trip to Nishiki Market before departing to Los Angeles.

Coming in I thought I was only going to serve as a chaperone to make sure the students were safe, and kind of hang back, but I felt that in just ten days I grew so much professionally and personally. This trip has allowed me to forge a much larger vision of my impact as an educator, and I felt so much more connected to the world. While I have always taught the chemistry of global warming and climate change in my own classroom, this trip took that teaching and education to a global level, and that these very issues are not just about the science but truly about human rights.” —Elaine Bernal, Ed.D

Congratulations to Environmental Summit Chair **Bonnie Sharp Stoepelman** and co-chair **Scott Warren** for their countless hours of hard work in preparing and educating the delegates for their trip to Yokkaichi.

*Trio & Summit Photos in Japan*



*2017 Trio having fun at the Ninja Museum.*



*Environmental Summit Study Teams from Long Beach, Tianjin, China and Yokkaichi, Japan.*

**Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association**  
**Supporting Organizations**

						
Port of Long Beach	City of Long Beach	Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden at CSULB	California State University, LB	Long Beach Unified School District	Sister Cities of L.B., Inc.	Tomio Ito & Family Ito Farms Westminster

**See page 4 for a brief description of LBYSCA's 4 programs.**

## LBYSKA's 4 Programs

### 1. YOKKAICHI ENGLISH FELLOWSHIPS (YEF)

This program, which began in 1985, provides an opportunity for Long Beach teachers or Cal State Long Beach graduates to serve as assistant language teachers at the elementary and middle school levels in Yokkaichi, Japan.

Selected teachers or new graduates will work at a paid position in the Yokkaichi School System for a minimum of two years. This is an English immersion program for the students and speaking Japanese is not required.

Applicants must have a current passport, be a citizen of good character, and have no visible tattoos.

### 2. TRIO CULTURAL EXCHANGE\*

Every alternate year, LBYSKA selects one teacher and two high school students for a three-week cultural visit in Yokkaichi, Japan. Each member of the Trio will stay with a family for 9 days and move to the next host family for the remaining 9. This program began in 1965.

**2019 will be the year that trio applicants will be selected from Long Beach.** Applicants must be Long Beach residents and/or Long Beach Unified School District students, citizens of the United States, possess a record of good citizenship in school and community, and have no visible tattoos.

Expenses, including partial airfare, are supported by the Association and the city of Yokkaichi. All applicants must have a current passport.

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT PROGRAM\*

Each summer four high school students and a chaperone from Long Beach take part in a one-week environmental study program with students from Yokkaichi and China. This program began in 2008.

Expenses, including round-trip airfare, are the responsibility of the students and chaperone. All applicants must have a current passport and have no visible tattoos.

### 4. PHYSICIANS EXCHANGE

Since 2003 doctors from Yokkaichi Hospital visit Long Beach to study medical procedures at Long Beach hospitals.

\*Application forms are available between December and February and interviews are held in March or April. Please check our website for additional information and requirements at <http://longbeach-yokkaichi.org>.

## Need LB Host Families for 2018 Trio

In July 2018 Yokkaichi, Japan will be sending a teacher and 2 students to Long Beach.

**We will need 6 families to host the Trio ambassadors. Each trio member will stay with a family for 9 days and move to another family for the next 9 days.**

**If you can volunteer, please contact Yoko Pusavat, Trio Committee chair at [yoko.pusavat@csulb.edu](mailto:yoko.pusavat@csulb.edu).**

Applications for 2019 Long Beach Trio ambassadors to Yokkaichi will be available on our website around December 2018—February 2019.

## 2018 Summit & YEF Applications

Applications for 2018 Environmental Summit Team members (4 students and 1 chaperone/advisor) will be available on our website around December 2017—February 2018.

Applications for 2018 Yokkaichi English Fellows will be available on our website around December 2017—February 2018.

Website: <http://longbeach-yokkaichi.org>



See MORE pictures on Facebook at Yokkaichi-Long Beach Sister City.



### 2017 Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association Board Directors & Associate Members

Joe Aihara	Janet Mullen	Mariko Tabar
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Trisha Krug	Frank Tabar	

— 2017 LBYSKA Officers —

Frank Tabar, President	Yoko Pusavat, Vice President
Mariko Tabar, Secretary	Victor Fukuhara, Treasurer