



Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association



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Newsletter

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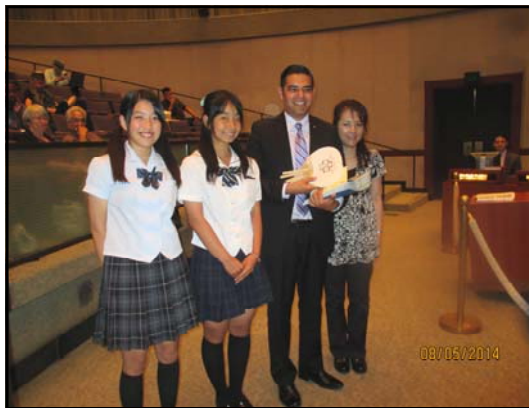
2014 Yokkaichi Trio in Long Beach

The Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association (LBYSKA) was formed in 1964 to create a cultural exchange and promote friendship between the two cities. In alternate years, one teacher and two students from Yokkaichi are selected to visit Long Beach as goodwill ambassadors for a three-week visit to experience our city's culture. This year's Trio ambassadors were teacher, **Megumi Kondo**, and students, **Misako Kitagawa** and **Ayami Yoshikawa**. A schedule of activities for the Trio was planned by the LBYSKA committee members and coordinated by six host families and Association Board members.

Cultural Exchange Tour

The Trio arrived on Monday, July 22, and were officially introduced to Long Beach at a welcome party (*see page 5*).

A full day was spent in downtown Long Beach touring the Aquarium of the Pacific and the majestic Queen Mary. After a bit of shopping in Shoreline Village, the Trio visited City Hall and was introduced to **Mayor Robert Garcia** and the **City Council** where they presented gifts from **Yokkaichi Mayor Toshiyuki Tanaka** to Mayor Garcia.



*Yokkaichi Trio students **Ayami Yoshikawa**, **Misako Kitagawa** and teacher **Megumi Kondo** presented Mayor **Robert Garcia** with gifts from **Yokkaichi Mayor Tanaka**.*

Sightseeing & Having Fun

The Trio kept a busy schedule that included touring West Anaheim High School, Cal State Long Beach (where they enjoyed the beautiful campus, the iconic Pyramid, the state-of-the-art Student Recreation Center, and interacting with ESL students), Rancho Los Alamitos, CA Expo to see the Space Shuttle Endeavor, Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and Angels Stadium. They learned about the Japanese-American experience during WWII at the Japanese American National Museum; had great fun kayaking in Naples, painting ceramic

(Continued on page 2)

2014 Environmental Summit Trip

In 2007 former Yokkaichi Mayor Tetsuo Inoue began a program to bring a delegation of students from Long Beach and China to discuss environmental problems and solutions with students in Yokkaichi, Japan. With the cooperation from the Port of Long Beach and other environmental groups, the program is now in its 7th year.

Four Long Beach Polytechnic High School students, **Autumn Smith**, **Han Vi**, **Ellis Armendariz** and **Kumiko Maxson** (*photo on right*), and chaperone/advisor **Rose Siengsubcharti** of the Port of Long Beach Environmental Planning Division, were selected as the 2014 Environmental Summit representatives. The team left for Yokkaichi, Japan on July 27, 2014 for a 10-day trip to discuss this year's theme, "What should and can we do in developing a sustainable recycling-oriented society?"



Below are excerpts from email reports sent by Rose Siengsubcharti. Due to space constraints, we were not able to print the reports in their entirety, however, our website has the complete email reports which are well worth the read.

Tuesday, June 29 – ICETT, Yokkaichi

We visited City Hall to receive a lecture on air pollution in Yokkaichi. It is amazing how far they have come to reduce air pollution in the past 50 years. In addition, we met **Yokkaichi Mayor Toshiyuki Tanaka** and the **Vice Chairman Hiroshi Higuchi** (*see below*).



Wednesday, July 30 – ICETT, Yokkaichi

We had a kick-off meeting today. I wanted to provide everyone with the opportunity to talk and to use this time for questions or to air out

(Continued on page 3)

2014 Yokkaichi Trio Visit—*Cont'd. from pg. 1*

tiles at Pacific Wind Arts, and taking a must trip to Disneyland and to the Orange County Fair. They were also able to view the *mikoshi* shrine, a gift from Yokkaichi to the City of Long Beach in 1964.

The Trio was accompanied on many of the events by a few of our host family members, as well as, former Long Beach Trio ambassadors to Yokkaichi: **Trisha Krug** and **Tanya Nguyen** (2013), **Alyssa Krug** and **Sean Rickter** (2011), and 2013 Environmental Summit student delegates, **Colin Keiko Mullen** and **Katherine Tran**.

Arigato, Host Families!

The Trio program would not be possible without the host families who generously opened their homes to the Trio as well as providing transportation to events. Much gratitude to our host families: **Bronagh Byrne & Darrell Mauldin**; **Martha Garcia & Hans Blom**; **Jim & Trisha Krug**, **Patrick & Janet Mullen**; **Truong Nguyen & Lam Pham**; and **Paul Tran & Tami Nguyen**.

Special Acknowledgements

The success of the Trio Program relies on the very hard work of many dedicated people. Arigato to the City of Long Beach leaders who took the time from their busy schedules to graciously meet with our Trio ambassadors, and to the following for their invaluable contributions: **Teresa Barbee**, **Jeanne Costello**, **Maria Dinh**, **Cecilia Fidora**, **Trace Fukuhara**, **Tami Hirai**, **Trisha Krug**, **Dr. Tomoji Mizuguchi**, **Lucas Richmond**, **Lynne Richmond**, **Jerry Schubel**, and **David Zanatta**.

Thank you LBYSCA Board members who spent many hours escorting the Trio and/or working behind the scenes at the many events: **Joe Aihara**, **Victor Fukuhara**, **Jeanne Karatsu**, **Jeanette Schelin**, **Bonnie Sharp Stoeppelman**, **Elisa** and **Nico Turien**, **Aki** and **Mike Vaughn**, and **Roy Wood**. And finally, kudos to **Yoko Pusavat**, the Trio Exchange Program Chair, who coordinated the Trio's trip from the time of their selection in Japan through to the day of their departure.



Visiting the L.B. City Council with Yoko Pusavat.



With the Mikoshi Shrine, a gift from Yokkaichi to Long Beach in 1964.



At Lincoln Park to see Sister Cities plaques—gifts from Yokkaichi to Long Beach.

2014 YEF Named



2014 YEF

David Hayter and Megan Ono.

Photo by Bonnie Stoeppelman

California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) graduates **David Hayter** and **Megan Ono** were named 2014 Yokkaichi English Fellows. They were selected by the Yokkaichi City Board of Education to serve as assistant language teachers at the elementary and junior high school level for two years.

David Hayter earned a bachelor of arts degree in History and Japanese International Studies in 2014. The

Long Beach resident attended Josai International University in Toga, Chiba-ken, Japan for five months. He participated in hosting students from Fukushima University for a "Bridge Building Project" at CSULB to promote unity between American students and those affected by the 3/11/11 earthquake and tsunami.

"I am very excited to have the opportunity to teach in Yokkaichi. I hope that I will be able to share my own culture with students in Yokkaichi through English lessons and interaction while also gaining a deeper understanding of Japan's culture," stated Hayter.

Megan Ono graduated from CSULB in May 2014 with a BA in Communication Studies/Marketing. She worked as an assistant for 3 years at the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden. At the Terasaki Nibei Foundation and UCLA Extension, she helped Japanese international students practice their English. Megan was selected to travel on a 2-week educational tour of Japan, where she volunteered at tsunami-stricken areas in Northern Japan, and attended lectures at various Japanese universities.

"I was immediately attracted to the YEF program because of my strong interest in teaching English in Japan, but I was even more intrigued by the fact that the program takes place in the city of Yokkaichi where my great-grandparents were born and raised. Most importantly, the YEF program will enable me to execute the LBYSCA's mission statement, which is 'to create rapport between the cities by exchanging cultural, civic and educational ideals and issues and promote better understanding and friendship between the United States and Japan.'"

Jeanne Karatsu, LBYSCA Board Member and YEF Program Chair explained, "Teaching in the schools requires team teaching with Japanese teachers in English. The two goals of the program are to assist in integrating oral language skills into the classroom and to make the study of English more lively and relevant. The Yokkaichi students score very high on the English tests which the Yokkaichi Board of Education attributes to the YEF program."

The YEF experience also includes working as tutors, judges or commentators for speech contests and serving as translators or English speakers as needed. The program began in 1986.

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2014 Environmental Summit—*Cont'd. from pg. 1*



Long Beach team (in blue & red) with Chinese and Japanese students at the International Center for Environmental Technology Transfer (ICETT).

any issues or concerns. We talked about the cultural differences we've experienced, *omiyage* (gifts) and the importance of interacting with other students. Even though the students will be working together on their presentation, it will be good for them to get to know and learn about each other's cultures.

Today, we went to Yokkaichi City Hall to learn about their efforts to make the city a more sustainable place. In Japan, the country is small and residents cannot afford to let garbage take over their precious land. There are currently three methods by which residents of Yokkaichi handle their waste: incineration, reclamation, and recycling (to use for other purposes). First and foremost is to decide whether or not a product must be purchased. Not only do you have to pay for the product, you pay for the energy that was used to make the package and you pay for the energy needed to dispose of the waste.

What we learned was put into practice. Students from each country were instructed to make curry and were given a list of items to purchase from a "virtual grocery store". Each item at the grocery store was labeled with a price.



Some were more expensive than others. Team USA spent more on items that had less packaging because they were mindful of the cost needed for disposal. In the end, the disposal cost was subtracted from the remaining money they had.

Since TEAM USA ended up paying less for disposal, the net result made them the winners! Go TEAM USA! The students really enjoyed this game and learned a lot.

Later, we visited the incineration plant in Yokkaichi which operates similarly to the one in Long Beach.

Thursday, July 31 – ICETT, Yokkaichi

We went to the Kato Farm where we learned about cow farming.

These cows are fed a moist organic diet and listen to classical music thereby contributing to better quality meat (stress apparently plays a large role in how the meat will taste).

Friday, August 1 – ICETT, Yokkaichi

The day prior, each student was assigned to either group A or B - these are the groups that will be giving a presentation. This morning, they had to further split themselves down into two groups to participate in the Trading Game. The Trading Game is really interesting. Each group must use their resources to make products (i.e., medicine, cell phone, wood and screws) but they can only do so with the resources given (and even with those given, not all worked—some groups had a broken pencil or very small scissors). If a resource is needed and another group has it, the students can buy or offer to trade resources. After a product is made, they can sell it to the market to make money. It is really interesting to see the thought process and the creativity. Waste that is generated must be weighed to determine the cost that will be needed for disposal. This game definitely goes back to the lecture we had on Wednesday.

The students are currently working on their presentation for Sunday. Despite the language barriers with other students, they are making it work.

Sunday, August 3 – Yokkaichi City

Presentation day! The students' presentations were set for 10:30 AM in the building of Yokkaichi's environmental municipal department. A flyer was sent to the public inviting them to attend the students' presentations, and the classroom we were in became full of staff, educators and many others.

Group A (Han, Autumn) was first and their presentation was on sustainability efforts in each of the students' respective cities. Group B (Kumi, Ellis) was second and their presentation was on waste reduction and recycling efforts in each of the students' respective cities.



The students pulled together their experiences from field trips and lectures in

Yokkaichi to provide a thoughtful presentation on not only current efforts taking place in their cities but what they have learned from the program and what they propose we can do in their respective countries.



At the end of the presentations, the students participated in a Q&A session with those in attendance. The responses they provided

2014 Environmental Summit—*from pg. 3*

were right on target! In closing, a staff member provided a comment on how we must "think globally but act locally" with regards to the environment. He explained, "Environmental problems are shared around the world but change will only happen if we take the initial steps and do our part in helping the environment wherever we can in our daily lives at home or at school."

The students were then presented with their certificates and of course, a lot of pictures were taken. Everyone did a fantastic job and I am really proud of each and every one of them. Go Long Beach!

It's been fun writing about our daily activities. I'm glad you've enjoyed reading them. We'll see you all when we get back home Monday. Sayonara!
—Rose Siengsubcharti

Kudos to the students on a job well done and to **Rose Siengsubcharti** for her daily reports and her guidance in assisting our students at the conference. Prior to the Long Beach team's departure to Yokkaichi, the team was able to visit the following: **Port of Long Beach, Thums-Oxy Long Beach, Covanta Energy Facility, SA Recycling LLC, and the Water Replenishment District.** Many thanks to **Bill O'Toole, David Thornburg and Scott Warren** for making these educational visits possible.

A very special arigatou to the Environmental Summit Chairs **Bonnie Sharp Stoepelman** and **Scott Warren**, and to ICETT and the Yokkaichi officials and families who make this extraordinary program possible!
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More Snapshots of our Yokkaichi Trio!



Yokkaichi Neighborhood Leaders to Visit

An eight-member delegation consisting of five leaders of the Yokkaichi Neighborhood Association, two city staff members and an interpreter, will be visiting our fair city on **September 18-21, 2014.** An itinerary is being planned by **Margaret Madden** of the **Long Beach Neighborhood Resource Center** that will include touring local businesses and neighborhoods.

LBYSKA delegates from Long Beach met with the Yokkaichi Neighborhood Association in October 2014 during the 50th Anniversary celebration in Yokkaichi and were impressed with the work the Association is doing to better their neighborhoods and help its citizens (*see photo below*). We look forward to seeing them again.



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LBYSKA Programs

2015 Trio Program

In July 2015, Long Beach will be sending 2 high school students and a teacher to Yokkaichi, Japan, to represent Long Beach and serve as cultural ambassadors. This is a 3-week program where each Trio member lives with a host family to develop strong bonds with the people of Yokkaichi, learn about the city, the Japanese customs and culture.

2015 Environmental Summit Program

Four high school students and an chaperone will be selected to participate in the Environmental Summit program in July 2015. This is a 10-day program in Yokkaichi where the students study with Chinese and Japanese students to discuss environmental issues. The purpose is to raise awareness of sustaining a clean environment and learn to relate and communicate with students from different cultures.

2015 YEF Program

Two CSULB graduates will be selected by the Yokkaichi Board of Education to serve as assistant English Language teachers for a period of 2 years.

If you qualify and are interested, please watch our website between December 2014—February 2015 for application forms.

Please visit our website at longbeach-yokkaichi.org

2014 Trio Welcome Dinner—July 23, 2014

The 2014 Trio ambassadors from Yokkaichi, Japan were officially welcomed to Long Beach at a dinner held at the beautiful Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden at Cal State Long Beach.



*Trio Ambassadors: Students Ayami Yoshikawa & Misako Kitagawa, and Teacher Megumi Kondo.***

All attendees were welcomed by Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association (LBYSKA) president, **Jeanette Schelin**. Master of Ceremonies and LBYSKA past president, **Mike Vaughn**, introduced special guests: **Sharon Weissman**, Sister City liaison from the Long Beach Mayor's office; Vice Consul **Taeko Yamada** from the Japanese Consulate in Los Angeles; **Dr. James Wells** of the Long Beach Memorial Medical Center; and **Cultural News** Publisher and Editor, **Shige Higashi**.

Also in attendance were former Trio members to Yokkaichi, **Alyssa Krug** (2011), **Trisha Krug**, **Tanya Nguyen** (2013); Environmental Summit representatives, **Meredith Maimoni** (2008), **Jacob Liberman** and **Nicholas Warren** (2012), **Colin Keiko Mullen**, **Katherine Tran** (2013); and YEFs **Christopher Rohar** (2012) and **Courtney Roe** (2013).

After a delicious dinner, the group moved to the Friends Garden for dessert. Trio Program Chair, **Yoko Pusavat**, introduced the 2014 Yokkaichi Trio members: Teacher **Megumi Kondo** and students, **Misako Kitagawa** and **Ayami Yoshikawa**, each of whom spoke in English about Yokkaichi city.

Jeanne Karatsu, Yokkaichi English Fellow (YEF) Chair, introduced the two new YEF teaching assistants, **David Hayter** and **Megan Ono** (see page 2).

Environmental Summit Chair, **Bonnie Stoeppelman**, next introduced the 2014 Environmental Summit representatives: **Ellis Armendariz**, **Kumiko Maxson**, **Autumn Smith**, and chaperone/advisor, **Rose Siengsubcharti**. Student representative **Han Vi** was out of town and unable to attend.



*LBYSKA President, Jeanette Schelin, presenting retiring member, Bruce Easley, with an award for distinguished service.***

Bruce Easley, LBYSKA Board Director and a recent retiree from the Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, was honored for outstanding service and dedication as the Chair of the Yokkaichi Physicians Program.

Lastly, LBYSKA board members provided the entertainment: **Aki Vaughn** sang "Sukiyaki" and **Roy Wood** sang "Odoru Pompokorin"

in Japanese, a catchy sing-a-long tune. The Yokkaichi Trio and past Trio members, Environmental Summit representatives, and Yokkaichi English Fellows were called on stage to join in. It was the perfect song to close out a most wonderful evening!

Many thanks to the following organizations for their support:

Program Partners

City of Long Beach
 CSULB American Language Institute
 CSULB Center for International Education
 LBUSD Board of Education
 L.B. Memorial Medical Center
 Port of L.B. Harbor Commissioners*
 Yokkaichi School Board of Education

Donors

The Aquarium of the Pacific
 CSULB Alumni Association
 Disneyland
 Japanese American National Museum
 Los Angeles Angels
 Pacific Wind Arts
 Tomio Ito Family of Ito Farms

As always, thank you to the Director of The Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden, **Jeanette Schelin**, and to her attentive staff.

**Special appreciation to the Port of Long Beach Harbor Commissioners for supporting our program since 1963.*

***Photos this page courtesy of Bonnie Sharp Stoeppelman.*

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Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association Supporting Organizations



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

2014 Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association Board Members

Joe Aihara	David Reinsvold
Bruce Easley	Jeanette Schelin
Victor Fukuhara	Yumi Shibasaki
Larry Hill (Honorary)	Bonnie Stoeppelman
Thomas Jelenic	Elisa Turien
Jeanne Karatsu	Nico Turien
Pat McMaster	Aki Vaughn
Yoko Pusavat	Mike Vaughn
	Roy Wood

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