

Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar 2010 (CLAIR New York Office Area)



Shimane Prefectural Flag

SHIMANE PREFECTURE

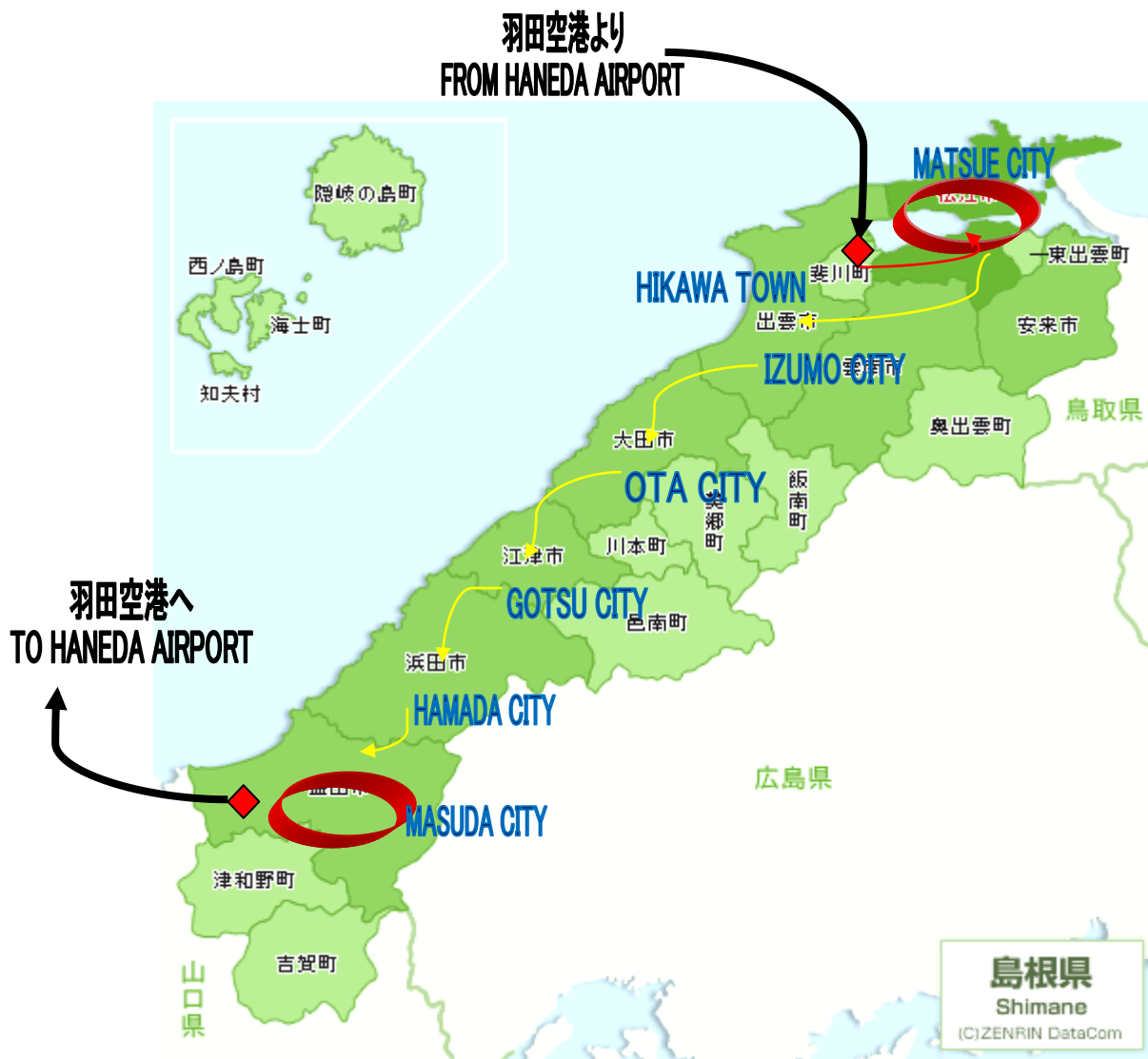
TOKYO



7th November – 17th November 2010

Council of Local Authorities for International Relations



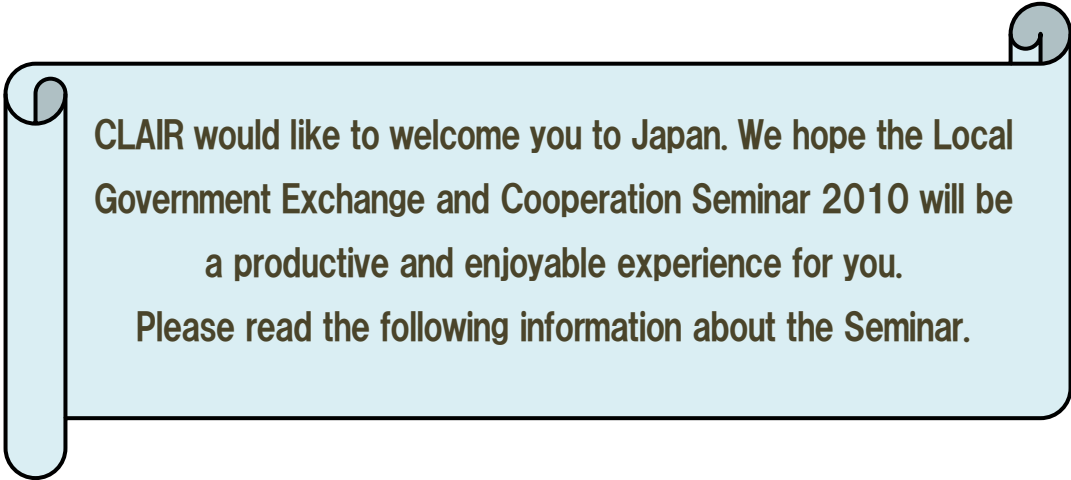


The theme for this seminar is:

POLICIES TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BY HARNESSING LOCAL RESOURCES

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CLAIR would like to welcome you to Japan. We hope the Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar 2010 will be a productive and enjoyable experience for you. Please read the following information about the Seminar.

About the Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar 2010

1. Purpose

This program invites foreign local government executives to Japan, giving them an opportunity to get a better understanding of Japan and its system of local government through opinion and information exchange. It also serves as a chance to promote network building between CLAIR, Japanese and foreign local governments, and international exchange organizations in regions covered by CLAIR's overseas offices.

2. Information about this year's program

The Seminar is comprised of two components:

- (1) The **Tokyo Seminar** provides an opportunity to learn about general and specific aspects of Japan's system of local government. The content includes:
 - * A lecture about local autonomy in Japan in the past, present, and future
 - * A lecture focusing on the designated theme of the 'exchange events' (described in point 2 below)
 - * A tour of government facilities in Tokyo & Kawagoe City (Saitama Prefecture)
- (2) **Exchange events** at a host local authority include thematically-based site visits and opinion exchange discussions. Participants will learn about the challenges facing the local government visited. The participants will also experience traditional Japanese culture. The content includes:
 - * Introduction to the host local authority and opinion and information exchange about issues related to the designated theme
 - * A courtesy visit with government executives of the host local authority
 - * Various site visits and opportunities for opinion exchange

3. Schedule of Events

Date	Schedule	Accommodation
07 Nov (Sun.)	Arrive in Japan	Tokyo
08 Nov (Mon.)	Tokyo Seminar (Presentations re CLAIR, Local Government, and the exchange event theme; Meet CLAIR Chairwoman, Welcome Reception)	Tokyo
09 Nov (Tue.)	Tour of Government Facilities in Tokyo & Kawagoe City (Saitama Prefecture)	Tokyo
10 Nov (Wed.)	Travel to the Host Japanese Local Government Exchange Events at Local Authority (Meet with the Director General, Presentation re Shimane Prefecture, Shimane Welcome Reception).	Shimane Prefecture
11 Nov (Thu.)	Exchange Events at Local Authority (Explanation of Local Administration, Study Tour). Stay at traditional Japanese Inn.	Shimane Prefecture
12 Nov (Fri.)	Exchange Events at Local Authority (Meet with Mayor of Matsue, Study Tour, Homestay)	Shimane Prefecture
13 Nov (Sat.)	Exchange Events at Local Authority (Homestay)	Shimane Prefecture
14 Nov (Sun.)	Exchange Events at Local Authority (Tours of Industrial Facility)	Shimane Prefecture
15 Nov (Mon.)	Exchange Events at Local Authority (Meet with the Mayor of Masuda City, Study Tour, Opinion Exchange, CLAIR Hosted Reception)	Shimane Prefecture
16 Nov (Tue.)	Exchange Events at Local Authority (Study Tour) Return to Tokyo. Stay at hotel.	Tokyo
17 Nov (Wed.)	Depart Japan	

List of Delegates

MS. STEPHANIE OSBORN (ステファニー オズボーン)	Deputy Director, County Services, National Association of Counties, U.S.A. (アメリカ合衆国 全米カウンティ協議会 カウンティ・サービス局 副局長)
MR. ED SAJECKI (エド サジェッキ)	Commissioner, Planning & Building Department, City of Mississauga, Canada (カナダ ミシソーガ市都市計画局コミッショナー)
MR. KEVIN FRAZELL (ケヴィン フラゼル)	Director, Member Services, League of Minnesota Cities, U.S.A. (アメリカ合衆国 ミネソタ都市連盟 連盟サービス局 局長)
MR. LLOYD HALVERSON (ロイド ハルバーソン)	City Administrator, City of Camas, Washington, U.S.A. (アメリカ合衆国 ワシントン州カマス市 シティ・アドミニストレーター)
MS. SASHA SUTCLIFFE-STEPHENSON (サーシャ サトクリフ・ステファンソン)	Director, International Programs, Council of State Governments, U.S.A. (アメリカ合衆国 州政府協議会 国際プログラム局 局長)
MAYOR NANCY CHANEY (ナンシー チェイニー)	Mayor, City of Moscow, Idaho, U.S.A. (アメリカ合衆国 モスコウ市 市長)
MS. JOY WILSON (ジョイ ウィルソン)	Director, Health Policy, National Conference of State Legislatures, U.S.A. (アメリカ合衆国 全米州議会議員連盟 健康政策局 局長)
DR. RICHARD LECLERC (リシャール ルクレール)	Regional Director, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Québec, Canada (カナダ ケベック政府 自治省 地域局長)

Seminar Itinerary

Day	Time	Details
07 NOV (Sun.)	PM PM Upon arrival at hotel	Arrival in Japan Travel by Airport Limousine to Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka Orientation / Check-in Dinner at the hotel (meal ticket) <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Accommodation: Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka</i></div>
11/8 (Mon)	TOKYO SEMINAR	
		Breakfast 8:50 Gather in hotel lobby 9:00 9:20 Transfer by taxi 9:30 11:00 Presentation re CLAIR's activities Mr Hideo TSUNODA Director, Department of International Exchange, Cooperation and Economic Relation 11:00 11:30 Meet with Chair of the Board of Directors, CLAIR 11:30 11:45 Transfer by foot 11:45 13:00 Lunch at 'Patio' (Grand Arc Hanzomon Hotel) 13:00 15:00 Presentation re Local Government in Japan Mr Eisuke HATAKEYAMA, Associate Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies 15:00 15:30 Break 15:30 17:30 Presentation: "Policies to promote industrial development by harnessing local resources" Mr Naohiro ISHIDA, Chairman, Japan Center for Regional Development 17:30 18:00 Transfer to reception 18:00 20:00 Welcome Reception (Topaz Room, Grand Arc Hanzomon Hotel) 20:00 20:15 Transfer by taxi 20:15 Arrive at hotel <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Accommodation: Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka</i></div>
11/9 (Tue)	STUDY TOUR OF TOKYO & SAITAMA LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	
		Breakfast 9:00 Gather in hotel lobby 9:00 9:30 Transfer by chartered bus 9:30 10:50 Tour of Tokyo Prefectural Government Building 11:00 12:00 Transfer by chartered bus 12:00 13:00 Lunch at 'Taisho-kura' (Little Edo Storehouse Village, Kawagoe Industry and Tourism Center) 13:00 13:15 Presentation at Meeting Room of Kawagoe Industry and Tourism Center 13:15 13:25 Transfer by chartered bus 13:25 14:15 Walking tour of the Old Storehouse District 14:15 14:30 Transfer by foot 14:30 15:20 Visit Kawagoe City Museum 15:20 15:30 Transfer by chartered bus 15:30 16:20 Tour of Kita-in Temple 16:20 17:30 Transfer by chartered bus 17:30 Arrive at hotel

Day	Time		Details
	18:00		Dinner (Meal Coupon at Hotel) <i>Accommodation: Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka</i>
11/10 (Wed)	EXCHANGE EVENTS IN SHIMANE PREFECTURE		
			Breakfast at hotel
	8:50	9:00	Check out and gather in hotel lobby
	9:00	9:50	Transfer by chartered bus to Haneda Airport
	11:05	12:40	Transfer by plane (JAL1665, Haneda to Izumo)
	13:00	13:20	Transfer by chartered bus
	13:20	14:20	Lunch at 'Hokichi'
	15:00	15:55	Briefing at Shimane Prefectural Office
	16:00	17:00	Meet with Director General of Department of Environment and Civic Affairs
	17:00	17:15	Transfer by chartered bus
	17:15		Arrive at hotel
	18:00	20:00	Welcome reception hosted by Shimane Prefecture <i>Accommodation: Matsue New Urban Hotel</i>
11/11 (Thur)			Breakfast
	8:30		Check out and gather in hotel lobby
	8:40	9:00	Transfer by chartered bus to Shimane Prefectural Office
	9:00	12:00	Opinion Exchange re ①Shimane Prefecture's major policies ②Major policies related to the designated theme for the exchange events
	12:00	12:30	Transfer by chartered bus
	12:30	13:30	Lunch at Matsue Tokyu Inn Restaurant
	13:30	14:00	Transfer by chartered bus
	14:00	17:00	Study Tour of Techno-Arc Shimane
	17:00	18:00	Transfer by chartered bus
	18:00		Arrive at Japanese Inn
	19:00	20:00	Dinner <i>Accommodation: Kaisuien Minami (Traditional Japanese Inn)</i>
11/12 (Fri)			Breakfast
	8:00		Checkout and gather in inn lobby
	8:15	8:45	Transfer by chartered bus
	8:45	10:15	Tour Matsue Castle and Cruise Castle Moat
	10:15	10:30	Transfer by chartered bus
	10:30	11:00	Meet with Mayor of Matsue City
	11:00	11:30	Transfer by chartered bus
	11:30	12:30	Study tour of Yushien Japanese Garden (Explanation of export of peony flowers)
	12:30	13:30	Lunch at Yushien Restaurant
	13:30	14:30	Transfer by chartered bus to Shimane Prefectural Assembly Hall
	14:30	16:30	Opinion Exchange with JET Programme Participants
	16:30	17:00	Break
	17:00		Meet with Host Families (Dinner)

Day	Time		Details
			<i>Accommodation: Homestay Families</i>
11/13 (Sat)			All day with host families <i>Accommodation: Homestay Families</i>
11/14 (Sun)	11:00		Gather at Matsue Urban Hotel
	11:00	12:00	Transfer by chartered bus to Izumo City
	12:00	13:00	Lunch at Kirara Taki Restaurant 'Thalasso'
	13:00	14:45	Transfer by chartered bus to Gotsu City
	14:45	16:30	Study Tour of Sekio Region Local Product Promotion Center
	16:30	18:00	Transfer by chartered bus to Masuda City
	18:00	20:00	Dinner at 'Irohanihoheto Isami'
			<i>Accommodation: Masuda Green Hotel Morris</i>
11/15 (Mon)	8:50		Gather in hotel lobby
	8:50	9:00	Transfer by chartered bus to Masuda City Hall
	9:00	10:10	Meet with Mayor of Masuda City, Presentation re Policies
	10:10	10:30	Transfer by chartered bus
	10:30	11:30	Study Tour of Shimane Masuda Electronics Co. Ltd.
	11:30	12:00	Transfer by chartered bus
	12:00	13:00	Lunch at Grand Toit Restaurant 'Pony'
	13:00	15:00	Final Opinion Exchange (at Grand Toit)
	15:00	18:00	Study Tour of Grand Toit, View Kagura (Shinto Dance)
	18:00	18:30	Transfer by chartered bus
	18:30	20:40	Farewell Reception (Bonne-Maman Nobu)
	21:00		Arrive Hotel
			<i>Accommodation: Masuda Green Hotel Morris</i>
11/16 (Tue)	9:30		Check out and gather in lobby
	9:30	9:45	Transfer by chartered bus
	9:45	10:45	Study tour of Sesshu Gardens, Manpuki-ji Temple
	10:45	11:00	Transfer to chartered bus
	11:00	11:45	Lunch (Sushi Bar Minori)
	11:45	12:00	Transfer by chartered bus to Hagi Iwami Airport
	13:00	14:30	Transfer by plane (ANA576 Hagi Iwami to Haneda)
	15:00	15:40	Transfer by chartered bus
	15:40		Arrive hotel
			<i>Accommodation: Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka</i>
11/17 (Wed)			Check out Transfer by Limousine Bus (Grand Prince Akasaka Hotel to Narita Airport) Depart Japan

Information for Delegates

1. General Seminar Information

Schedule

Please confirm the itinerary on pages 4 through 6 for a detailed schedule. We ask for your kind cooperation and punctuality during the Seminar. **The schedule may be revised in order to accommodate inclement weather.**

We will keep you updated of any changes made to the schedule.

Attire

At this time of year there is a large difference between day and night time temperatures, so please pack clothes which allow you to adjust to changes in temperature. Please be especially aware of the drop in temperature on rainy days.

Please dress in suitable business attire for official visits.

Climate of Japan

This time of the year is autumn in Japan. You might feel chilly in the morning and in the evening, but it is comfortable during the day if the weather is good.

*Weather averages for Japan (1971-2000)

		October	November
Tokyo	Average high	21.6°C (70.88°F)	16.7°C (62.06°F)
	Average low	15.0°C (59°F)	9.5°C (49.1°F)
	Humidity	66%	60%
Matsue	Average high	21.3°C (70.34°F)	15.9°C (60.62°F)
	Average low	12.3°C (54.14°F)	7.2°C (44.96°F)
	Humidity	78%	77%

Precautions

Please take care of your health during the seminar. If you feel ill, please feel free to talk with a CLAIR staff member at any time, and we will assist in arranging treatment.

Public Safety

Tokyo is in general much safer than many other major cities around the world. Businesses, citizens and anti-crime volunteers cooperate with local government to ensure a safe and pleasant community. Police are stationed throughout towns and cities and at stations, and can be approached for assistance at any time. Shop assistants are also generally very helpful.

However, foreign tourists can be the target of fraud or bag-snatching, so please be sure to keep your valuables safe at all times. If you go out late at night, there is no need to take extreme caution, but as in any city it is best to avoid deserted areas.

Convenience stores

24-hour convenience stores can be found almost anywhere in Tokyo. You can buy food, drink, daily necessities, stationery, simple medicine and so on. In addition, most convenience stores have photocopiers, FAX machines and ATMs. You can also arrange baggage delivery services, book and pay for transportation tickets and pre-paid phone cards, etc.

*Major convenience stores in Tokyo

Seven Eleven, Lawson, Family Mart, am/pm, Three F, CircleK, Sankus, Mini Stop

Medicine

You can buy over-the-counter medicine at drugstores and general merchandising stores. Convenience stores often stock cold medicine, painkillers, stomach medicine, anti-diarrhoea drugs, disinfectant and contact lens solution. However, you should be aware that not all stores sell these kinds of products. Please only rely upon convenience stores for sudden illness when hospitals and drugstores are shut.

Directory assistance

Directory assistance is available in Japan. Merely ring the operator, state the name of the business or facility you would like to contact, and they will tell you the number. The service is available for free and in English. You can also ask about how to make a phone call if you are unsure of procedures in Japan. TEL: 0120-364-463

Tourist Information Center

There are several English-speaking Tourist Information Centers across Tokyo

- Tokyo Tourist Information Center

TEL : 03-3201-3331

- Narita Airport Tourist Information Center

Terminal 1 TEL : 0476-30-3380

Terminal 2 TEL : 0476-34-5877

Business hours: 8:00~20:00 (open all year)

2. Accommodation Information

Accommodation	Check-in	Check-out	Room Type	Information
Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka (Tokyo)	07 Nov (Sun.) & 16 Nov (Tue.)	10 Nov (Wed.) & 17 Nov (Wed)	Twin or Double Room (One person per room)	<p>Address 1-2 Kioi-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8585 Japan</p> <p>Phone 03-3234-1111 (+08-3-3234-1111)</p> <p>URL http://www.princehotels.com/en/akasaka</p> <p>Internet High-speed Internet access is available for ¥1,575 per day (including tax).</p>
Matsue New Urban Hotel (Matsue City)	10 Nov (Wed.)	11 Nov (Thu.)	Single	<p>Address 40-1 Nishicha-machi, Matsue City, Shimane Pref. 690-0845 Japan</p> <p>Phone (+81)-(0)852-23-0003</p> <p>URL Japanese only http://new.matsue-urban.co.jp/</p> <p>Internet 2 PCs are available for rental. Internet connection in each room is free.</p>
Kasuien-Minami (Tamatsukuri Spa, Matsue City)	11 Nov (Thu.)	12 Nov (Fri.)	Japanese Style *2people/room	<p>Address 1218-8, Tamatsukuri, Tamayu-cho, Matsue City, Shimane Pref. 699-0201 Japan</p> <p>Phone (+81)-(0)852-62-0331</p> <p>URL Japanese only http://www.kasuien-minami.jp/</p> <p>Internet No computer rental service is available.</p>
Masuda Green Hotel Morris (Masuda City)	14 Nov (Sun.)	16 Nov (Tue.)	Single	<p>Address 17-2 Ekimae-cho, Masuda City, Shimane Pref. 698-0024 Japan</p> <p>Phone (+81)-(0)856-31-8111</p> <p>URL Japanese only http://www.hotel-morris.co.jp/masuda</p> <p>Internet No computer rental service is available. Internet connection in each room is free.</p>

Attention

- Your room number will be decided at a later date.
- All telephone, pay television, mini bar, and other incidental expenses are the responsibility of the individual seminar delegate. Kindly pay any extra charges when you check out.
- Hotel rooms are available until the regular check-out time
- When you go out, you can leave your baggage at the hotel until the regular check-out time. But please take your valuables with you.
- Currency exchange is available at the Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka (USD and CAD available 24 hours)

“Onsen”: Traditional Japanese Baths



- Kasuien Minami, where you will stay on the 11th of November, is a traditional Japanese style inn located in one of the Sanin Region's most famous spa resorts – Tamazukuri. You will have the chance to experience seasonal food and take a dip in a traditional spa, or 'onsen'. The water at this spa is hypotonic, slightly alkaline and hot.
- Please take note of the following when using the hot spring:
 - You will be bathing with other guests in a sex-segregated public space.
 - Please do not wear your bathing suit into the bath area.
 - Please remove all your clothes in the changing area and leave them in the baskets provided.
 - The floor can be slippery so please take care.
 - Please wash and rinse well in the shower area before entering the bath. You should never get soap or shampoo in the bath water. Keep the towel out of the water as well. You may place the towel on your head as some people do but never soak your towel in the water.
 - Please do not use the onsen after alcohol consumption as it could lead to fainting.
 - Please dry your body before entering the changing area.
 - Because you are clean before entering the bath, the water is shared by other guests. There is no need to drain the bath after you are finished.
- There is both an inside bath, and an outside bath, known as a *rotenburo*.

Japanese bathrobe (*Yukata*) Instructions

1. Put on the *yukata*
2. For both men and women, wrap the right side of the *yukata* over the body, and then overlap it with the left side. Right on top of the left is considered taboo as it is only used to dress a corpse for burial.
3. Tie the robe sash with the knot at the front.
4. Turn the robe sash until the knot is at the back. You can wear *yukata* to the public bath or to the public eating area.



3. Meals

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
07 Nov (Sun.)			meal ticket (voucher) valid for ¥4,000 at restaurants in Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka
08 Nov (Mon.)	At the hotel (Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka)	Welcome Lunch Reception (Grand Arc Hanzomon Hotel)	Welcome Dinner Reception (Grand Arc Hanzomon Hotel)
09 Nov (Tue.)	At the hotel (Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka)	At the restaurant (in Taisho-kura, Koedo-KURARI, Kawagoe City)	meal ticket (voucher) valid for ¥4,000 at restaurants in Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka
10 Nov (Wed.)	At the hotel (Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka)	At the restaurant HOKICHI, (Hikawa Town)	At the Matsue New Urban Hotel restaurant (Welcome Reception hosted by Shimane Prefecture)
11 Nov (Thu.)	At the hotel (Matsue New Urban Hotel)	At the Matsue Tokyu Inn restaurant	Kasuien-Minami (Tamatsukuri Spa, Matsue City)
12 Nov (Fri.)	At the hotel (in Kasuien-Minami)	At the YUSHIEN's restaurant (in Matsue City)	Homestay
13 Nov (Sat.)	Homestay	Homestay	Homestay
14 Nov (Sun.)	Homestay	At the restaurant THALASSO (in KIRARA TAKI, Taki Town, Izumo City)	At the restaurant I-RO-HA-NI-HO-HE-TO ISAMI (Masuda City)
15 Nov (Mon.)	At the hotel (in Masuda Green Hotel Morris)	At the restaurant PONY (in Grand Toit, Masuda City)	At the restaurant BONNE-MAMAN NOBU (CLAIR Hosted Reception)
16 Nov (Tue.)	At the hotel (in Masuda Green Hotel Morris)	At the Sushi-Bar MINORI (Masuda City)	meal ticket (voucher) valid for ¥4,000 at restaurants in Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka
17 Nov (Wed.)	At the hotel (Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka)		

Attention

- Please notify us if you have specific health or religion related dietary requirements. Please do not feel that you must eat something if you do not like it.
 - As a general rule, with the exception of beverages provided at official receptions, individual seminar delegates are responsible for paying for drinks at meals.
 - Breakfast will be provided at all hotels in a specified hotel restaurant.
- On November 7, 9 and 16, you will be provided meal tickets (vouchers) worth ¥4,000 for dinners at the Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka. Any cost over ¥4,000 is the responsibility of the individual Seminar delegate.

4. Miscellaneous

Large Luggage

We recommend that you leave your large luggage in the hotel room or in the bus during the day. Please pack your valuable belongings and seminar materials in a smaller bag so you can move around easily during the seminar.

Souvenirs

If you have a gifts/souvenir for the host organization or study tour locations, please bring them with you on the appropriate day.

There will be a chance for you to buy souvenirs at tourist locations and at the airport terminal.

Travel by Limousine Bus To Narita Airport

- On November 17 (the final day of the seminar), we will be on stand-by from 9AM to 12 Noon in the hotel lobby. If you require assistance, please feel free to talk to a CLAIR staff member.
- You can take the Airport Limousine for Narita Airport at the entrance of the hotel. Please confirm limousine bus departure times so you do not miss your flight.

Outline of Tour Locations

◆9th November (TUE)

【Tokyo • Kawagoe City】

(1) Tokyo Metropolitan Government Buildings

The Tokyo Government moved from its old location in Marunouchi to the new towers in April 1991 after construction was finished in December the previous year. Governing a total of 13 million citizens, the building has two wings and the assembly chamber and was designed by famous architect Kenzo Tange. This represents one of the architectural masterpieces of his latter years, and is said to have taken inspiration from the Notre Dame in Paris. Wing number 1, the highest, has 48 floors, 3 basement levels, and is 243m tall. Total floor space is 195.567m² and there is a free observation deck on floor 45. The total construction costs amounted to ¥156.9 billion. It was the highest building in Japan until the Yokohama Landmark Tower (296m) was constructed in 1993.



The building houses the governor and his secretariat, administrative committees, public companies, the fire and police departments and the board of education, for a total of 170,000 employees. The yearly operating budget is ¥6.598 trillion.

(2) Kawagoe City : Kurazukuri Zone (Old Storehouse Zone)

Kawagoe City is located in the western part of Saitama Prefecture and has a population of 340,000, making it the 3rd or 4th largest city in the prefecture. This was the seat of the Kawagoe fief during the Edo Period, and flourished as a castle town. Located strategically to Edo's (Old Tokyo's) north, many high ranked officials were located here. It developed into a major industrial and academic city, and came to be known as 'Little Edo'. After the city was almost completely destroyed in the fire of 1893, many fire-proof, solid storehouses were built. They remain to this day as a reminder of a time gone by. This ranks as the 3rd most popular tourist destination in the greater Tokyo area after Kamakura and Nikko, with yearly visitors topping 6.2 million.



(3) "Kita-in Temple" – ‘Tendaishu’ Sect Head Temple of the Kanto Region

The Kita-in Temple is part of the Tendaishu sect and is also known as ‘Kawagoe Daishi’. It was constructed as Muryoju Temple in 830 by decree of Emperor Junna under the supervision of the monk Ennin. In 1599 the high priest Tenkai, affiliated with the Tokugawa Shogunate, became abbot of the temple and changed its name to Kita-in. All but the Sanmon Gate and the Sutra Library were destroyed by fire in 1638, but the temple was rebuilt under order of Iemitsu Tokugawa. Its kitchen and study were dismantled from Edo Castle (the then imperial palace) and rebuilt in Kita-in’s reception hall, which is now designated as an important cultural asset. The 3rd Shogun, Iemitsu Tokugawa was born in this room, which offers a glimpse into a bygone era.



◆11th November (THU)

[Shimane Prefecture]

Techno-Arc SHIMANE



The Shimane Research Business Park is situated to the north of Shimane University, overlooking Matsue city and Lake Shinji. It was established to attract research institutes, IT businesses and companies that conduct research and development. Techno-Arc Shimane is a comprehensive industry support body at the centre of the park.

It aims to foster new industries and develop businesses. Techno-Arc Shimane’s founding goal is ‘To support Shimane businesses by fostering creative, bold entrepreneurs, improving the technical capacity of existing businesses, and supporting business entering new fields’. Support is provided by the Shimane Industrial Promotion Foundation, the Shimane Institute for Industrial Technology, the Shimane Intellectual Property Support Centre, the Next Generation Technology Research and Development Centre.

Matsue Castle



The symbol of Matsue city is Matsue Castle, built between 1607 and 1611 by Yoshiharu Horio. The castle has distinctive eaves in the Irimoya style, which are said to look like a Plover taking flight – hence the castle’s nickname ‘Plover Castle’. It is the only original castle keep in the Sanin Region, and 4th oldest in all Japan. It consists of 4 stories with 5 levels, and has a floor area second only to the World Heritage listed Himeji Castle in Hyogo

Prefecture. A 360 degree view of the downtown area can be seen from the keep, and the gardens vary with the seasons. 2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the castle, and many events are being planned. The castle is located in a park full of trees, making it an ideal spot for a stroll. The stone steps leading from the castle to the prefectural office are famous in spring for their camellia and plum blossoms. To the north of the castle is a sacred forest replete with a Japanese-style rotunda, making it an oasis for the citizens of Matsue.

Moat Cruising

The 3.7km moat that surrounds Matsue Castle was built at the same time as the castle. Cruising the canals is the ideal way to view the traditional Japanese landscape of the castle town with its numerous water birds and a waterfront decorated with flowers.



Sekio Region Local Product Promotion Center

This centre features the local products and food of the Iwami Region. These products include Iwami-yaki pottery (a designated traditional craft), and Sekishu Paper, which has a 1300 year history. The 2nd and 3rd floors house meeting rooms and an exhibition hall which are open for local events and activities.

The centre is run by Shimane Prefecture, Masuda City, Gotsu City, several chambers of commerce and a cooperative of local businesses.

**Shimane Arts Center ‘Grand Toit’**

Opened in 2005, The Shimane Arts Centre ‘Grand Toit’ is comprised of the Iwami Art Museum and the Iwami Arts Theatre. ‘Grand Toit’ means ‘Large Roof’ in French, and the building has a distinctive gabled roof tiled with local red ‘Sekishu’ tiles. The structure has two basement levels, grounds of 3.7ha, a floor area of 17,800m², a large auditorium seating 1500, a small auditorium seating 400, a studio and a multi-purpose gallery, making it the cultural centre of the Iwami Region.

Manpukuji Temple, Sesshu Garden

A temple that was originally located in the Nakasu area of Masuda, was moved and renamed Manpukuji in 1374 under the supervision of the 11th lord of Nanao Castle, Masuda Ecchu no Kami Kaneharu. The 15th lord of the castle, Masuda Kanetaka invited the Zen master Sesshu Toyo to create the gardens that remain to this day. The gardens feature a rock structure that represents Mt Shumisen, the mountain at the center of Buddhist heaven. It is said that the garden's elegance is matched only by the ink paintings of Sesshu himself.



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