

# Applications open for the 2012-13 JET Programme

The *Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme* is a wonderful opportunity for young university graduates to gain an understanding of Japan while contributing to language education and internationalisation within their local community in Japan.

The **JET Programme** was established in 1987 by the Japanese Government. The Programme seeks to enhance internationalisation in Japan by promoting understanding between nations.

Specifically, the JET Programme aims to enhance foreign language education in Japan and to promote international exchange at the local level by fostering ties between Japanese and young people from other countries.

## The Positions

There are two main positions on the programme.

**Assistant Language Teachers** (ALTs) work with Japanese English teachers at Japanese primary, junior high and senior high schools.

**Coordinators for International Relations** (CIRs) work with local government bodies to promote international exchange.

Both roles involve sharing knowledge of your own culture and offer participants the chance to experience Japan, the people and culture.

## Interested in applying?

Applications for the 2012-2013 programme are now open.

**Applications close** on Thursday 1 December 2011 and must be received by close of business by the Embassy.

For further information, contact the JET Desk on (02) 9231 3455 or visit the following websites:

[www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/english/education.htm](http://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/english/education.htm)

[www.jetprogramme.org](http://www.jetprogramme.org)



## 祭 Matsuri in Sydney

*This year's Matsuri in Sydney on 15 October had a special theme: Revive Japan and Thank Australia!*

The weather smiled on Darling Harbour as an early morning shower cleared to a beautiful sunny spring day for Matsuri in Sydney. The festival had been held for more than 10 years in February but for the first time Matsuri in Sydney moved to October. Palm Grove in Darling Harbour was filled with a constant stream of festival-goers enjoying performances on the main stage, festival food and stalls with information about Japan.

The event is jointly organised by several Japanese government organisations and community groups.

Look out for next year's Matsuri in Sydney!

## Return to Tohoku

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go there to interpret for dignitaries. Even back then ten years ago, I remember that the local people were pushing very strongly for it to be recognised by UNESCO. For it to finally have happened is just fantastic, particularly this year. It's really kind of a rallying point for people in Iwate. They're really hoping that it draws international tourists and local tourists from within Japan as well, because that area around Hirazumi was basically unaffected by the disaster and it's operating as usual. In fact, there are new facilities that have now been built anticipating the extra tourists that will come as a result of this announcement. So, hopefully for the prefecture it will be a fantastic magnet for people around Japan and around the world to come and see some of the traditional Japanese culture in Iwate.

**JR** *I know that your trip also included a couple of other tourist experiences. Given the circumstances how did you feel about just carrying on as an ordinary tourist?*

**SvE** Yeah, it was a little bit strange, and again like in Tokyo, it was quite obvious that there just were no other tourists there. It was a bit quiet. But I also felt that it was important, that [tourism] had to happen – a.) so that the local people could feel their lives were getting back to normal, and b.) to directly contribute to the local community.

**JR** *Finally, do you have anything else that you would like to share with readers of Japan Reports?*

**SvE** Well, I assume that readers of *Japan Reports* are people who are interested in Japan and have probably been to Japan before. So they are probably quite concerned about how Japan is going, so I would like to reassure them that people in Tohoku are doing well and getting on with their lives. They're trying to rebuild their lives, and they are very grateful for the assistance that Australia and people all over the world have provided through charities and donations.

What I would suggest though, from now on the way that we can really help people in Tohoku is to go there, to not put off plans because 'maybe we can't go there', 'maybe there're power shortages'. There are some differences but Japan is certainly running as normal.

So I would encourage people to go to Tohoku, particularly if they've never been there—it's a fantastic part of Japan—and go to tourist places like Hirazumi that are operating as normal and have a wonderful time. See a wonderful part of Japan and also know that you are helping out the people by spending time in their community, contributing to the local economy.

*The above is an edited version of the interview. Sharon also talked about visiting schools and gave more detail about the communities getting back on their feet. A longer transcript can be found on our website:*

[www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp)