

Grassroots Sustainability - International Lessons

CONFERENCE
SPEAKERS
AND TOPICS -
AN UPDATE

Hosted by CLAIR (Japan Local Government Centre) and the Townsville City Council

GRASS ROOTS SUSTAINABILITY – INTERNATIONAL LESSONS Urban Solutions for Local Government

As part of the 2006 Australia-Japan Year of Exchange, the annual CLAIR Forum will be held in conjunction with Townsville City Council as part of a three day conference on Urban Sustainability.

Dr David Suzuki will head a group of expert international and local speakers, examining the issues of sustainability in an urban environment and its implications for local government. Practical solutions to these issues will be discussed in depth on Day 2, when councils from Australia and Japan will present their innovative policies.

Environmental issues are a major concern in the development of our local communities. Local Government must take the initiative and create unique, local, sustainable solutions for their regional environments. These solutions must involve all relevant sections of local government. This forum is for local government representatives and councillors, citizens, industry and experts, from Australia and Japan, to share these ideas and solutions for the future. This forum recognizes the spirit of co-operation and collaboration that has marked the relationship between our two countries.

About Townsville

Townsville provides the northern link for State and Federal Governments, as well as for private enterprise in primary and secondary industries, mining, commerce, retail, and community and cultural services.

The Townsville region, with a population of 160,000 is widely regarded as the capital of North Queensland.

Townsville's broadly structured economy, with its role as a gateway to the mining, agricultural and pastoral wealth of north western Queensland makes the city a hub of business and development. Major Copper, Nickel and Zinc refineries, commerce and retail industries reflect Townsville's importance to the economy of the country. The Townsville Port Authority administers the largest port in Northern Australia.

Townsville has the best in Australian education and research facilities: James Cook University, Australian Institute of Marine Science, James Cook Medical and Research school, school of Tourism and Hospitality, Technical Colleges, primary and secondary schools.

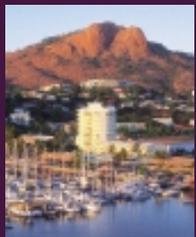
Townsville's proximity to the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef and islands, National Parks, Rainforests, the outback and agricultural hinterland towns, while offering un-spoilt and un-crowded lifestyle and tourism opportunities, brings special responsibilities in management of a sustainable environment.

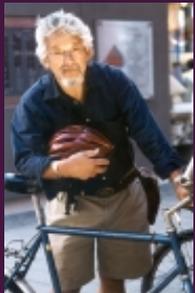
About CLAIR

The Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) was established in 1988 as a joint organisation of local governments to promote and support local-level internationalisation in Japan.

CLAIR has expanded overseas and now has offices in New York, London, Paris, Singapore, Seoul, Sydney and Beijing. Through this global network, CLAIR works to promote international understanding by supporting the overseas activities of Japanese local authorities, co-ordinating the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) program and other international exchange programs, conducting research into local government in other countries, and providing information about local administration in Japan.

The Japan Local Government Centre, CLAIR Sydney, was established in 1994 and is responsible for activities in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific Region.





CLAIR FORUM

Wednesday 4 October 2006

09:00 Registration

09:30 Opening of Conference: Chairman - Cr Paul Bell AM, President, Australian Local Government Association

Cr Bell has served Emerald Shire Council since 1985 and has extensive involvement with local government at a senior level. He was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2005 for services to local government, regional development and tourism, and to the community.

09:40 Mr Michihiro Kayama, Chairman, Board of Directors, CLAIR Tokyo

Mr Kayama worked for the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications for 37 years, rising to the position of Secretary, the top bureaucratic post in the ministry in 2004. He joined CLAIR in 2005.

09:50 Cr Tony Mooney, Mayor of Townsville

Mayor Mooney has served on the Townsville City Council since 1977 and has been Mayor of the city since 1989. He is President of the Urban Local Government Association of Queensland.

10:00 Mr Hajime Nishiyama, Consul-General of Japan in Brisbane
"The Relationship between Japan, Australia and Queensland" The Consul-General will touch on Sister City Relationships which involve Local Governments.

10:15 Keynote Address - Dr David Suzuki
"The role of Local Government in our sustainable future"

Dr David Suzuki is an award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster and Chair of the David Suzuki Foundation. He is well known to millions as the host of the popular science television series, *The Nature of Things*, and author of 43 books. An internationally respected geneticist, David is professor emeritus with the University of British Columbia's Sustainable Development Research Institute and is recognised as a world leader in sustainable environments.

11:15 Morning Tea will be served buffet style in front of the conference room. Delegates are encouraged to network, and interpreters are available during this time to assist

Dr David Suzuki will be available during morning tea to sign his latest publication, his autobiography.

11:45 Australian Government representative to speak on "Environment and the City"

12:30 Lunch

A light "working lunch" will be served buffet style in front of the conference room. Delegates are encouraged to network, and interpreters are available during the lunch period to assist.

Dr David Suzuki will be available during lunch to sign his latest publication, his autobiography.

13:30 Mr Yasushi Furukawa Governor, Saga Prefecture
Governor Furukawa has been at the forefront of innovative environmental policies such as using low-impact hybrid cars for official use and championing the new "no-necktie" business style in summer. He spent 20 years at the Ministry of Home Affairs where his roles included Secretary to the Minister and Senior Specialist for Environmental Policy.

14:00 Professor Lal Wadhwa, Head of Civil & Environmental Engineering, James Cook University
"Global technologies and local endeavours for sustainable communities"

Professor Wadhwa has over 35 years teaching and research experience in Australia, Thailand, Canada, the US and India. He has been co-chair of the International Conferences on Urban Transport in 2004 and 2005 and of Sustainable City conferences in 2002 and 2004. He has acted as an expert consultant to the Belgian Government, and has guided several projects funded by national research councils.

14:50 Afternoon Tea will be served buffet style in front of the conference room. Delegates are encouraged to network, and interpreters are available during this time to assist

15:20 Professor Mitsuru Tanaka, Department of Sociology, Hosei University, Japan

Professor Tanaka worked in Kawasaki City's Environment Bureau for over 20 years. His areas of expertise are environmental policies in local government in regional areas, and environmental management and impact evaluation systems. He is a Director of the Environmental Policy Institute and a member of the Japan Association of Environment and Society for the 21st Century.

15:50 Mr Greg Bruce, Director Environment Townsville City Council

Creek to Coral: The Evolution of a Holistic Approach to Water Management in Townsville City

"Creek to Coral" is a holistic infrastructure-based and total water cycle management approach which incorporates community involvement through partnerships and stewardship. Infrastructure-based means the approach is centred on local government water utilities, departments, and industry (water treatment and distribution; wastewater collection and treatment; stormwater/drainage; parks irrigation & natural areas). The approach includes the concept of understanding and mitigating the impact of water utilities on natural waterways, wetlands and the marine environment.

16:20 Discussion. Chairman - Mr Paul Bell

18:00 CLAIR dinner reception for delegates.

Venue: Jupiters by the pool.

Dress: Smart Casual.

Delegates are invited to enjoy a buffet dinner under the stars beside the pool at Jupiters, with a traditional Japanese *Taiko* drumming performance, as guests of CLAIR.

The Fugaku Taiko Group, a member of the Nippon Taiko Foundation, is based in Gotenba City, Shizuoka, on the south-eastern slopes of Mt Fuji. Fugaku is local dialect name for Mt Fuji. The group performs over 100 times a year, in Japan and abroad. It is actively involved in a community volunteer program using taiko drumming as a therapy for people with intellectual disabilities.



DAY 2 CASE STUDIES

Thursday 5 October 2006

Australian and Japanese local governments and industry representatives present their research, latest technology and environmental solutions.

08.20 Opening. Chairman - Robyn Williams AM.

Science journalist and broadcaster, Robyn Williams, graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Honours). Robyn has served in various capacities, including President of the Australian Museum Trust, Chairman of the Commission for the Future, and President of the Australian Science Communicators. In 1987, he was proclaimed a National Living Treasure. He is a Fellow Member of the Australian Academy of Science, and was appointed AM in the 1988 Australian Bicentenary honours list. He has received Honorary Doctorates in Science from the University of Sydney and Macquarie and Deakin Universities, and a Doctorate of Law from the ANU. He is a Visiting Professor at the University of NSW and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland.

08.30 Opening

Cheryl Paten. Lecturer in the School of Engineering Griffiths University.

"Greening the Built Environment"

With the rising cost of energy and resources, it is becoming urgent for the construction & manufacturing industry in Australia to make significant leaps forward in design and construction, to mainstream these examples of best practice. It is also imperative that the Australian built environment profession continues to look to our Asian neighbours for inspiration and collaboration opportunities. Cheryl will present key findings of this Chapter, which examines key barriers and opportunities for Greening the Built Environment in Australia. She will also discuss recent findings by mentors and partner organisations of The Natural Edge Project in relation to emerging challenges and opportunities since publication of the international publication *The Natural Advantage of Nations*.

09.00 Robert Ball General Manager Hornsby Shire Council "Biodiversity Conservation in a Sustainable Shire"

Massive changes in natural biodiversity have occurred during the past 200 years in Australia, leading to a biodiversity decline that requires urgent reversal. Local government is and will always be an important agent of change. Hornsby Shire Council cares for its natural and built environments with a biodiversity conservation programme that promotes conservation of urban biodiversity and endangered ecological plant communities through active participation of local residents on public and private property.

09.30 Dr (John) Shad Linley, CEO Sun Metals Corporation, Townsville

"Industry and the environment – Lovers or Foes"

Shad Linley is the leading architect of the long-term mineral industrialisation of Queensland. After helping identify the opportunity for the Sun Metals Zinc refinery he supervised the project's construction and is now working on plans to double it. His stellar CV spans Vice President of Texas Gulf, executive positions with Fluor Engineers and Constructors to Executive Sponsor of the Olympic Dam project.

10.00 Mr. Kazuichi Ishii Iwaki City Fukushima Japan.

"Using the Energy of the Sun to Develop Our City: Working towards Using New Energy from Regional Resources"

The creation of an environmentally sustainable city via the use of renewable resources forms the basis of Iwaki's approach

to urban development. The City established its "New Energy Vision" in 1998 and a supplementary "Biomass Energy Vision" in 2003. The vision is based on the climatic and geographic characteristics of Iwaki City.

10.30- 11.00 Morning tea

Morning tea will be served buffet style in front of the conference room. Delegates are encouraged to network, and interpreters are available during this time to assist

11.00-11.30 Mr Grahame Foulger Acting General Manager Business Development Operations Ergon Energy. "Solar Cities"

An Ergon Energy-led Townsville based consortium is bidding for the right to host a Solar City project under the Federal Government's Solar Cities program. Solar Cities is a \$75 million initiative of the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) to showcase both the uptake of solar power and energy efficiency measures by customers, and innovative approaches to energy markets to contribute to Australia's sustainable energy future.

11.30 – 12.00 Councillor Diane Thorley Mayor of Toowoomba, Queensland.

"The introduction of potable water from waste water to the city dam - a plebiscite opinion"

12.00/13.00 Lunch

A light "working lunch" will be served buffet style in front of the conference room. Delegates are encouraged to network, and interpreters are available during the lunch period to assist.

13.00 Mr Yoshiaki Sogabe, Ehime Prefecture

"The Environmental purification Micro-organism Ehime AI-1"

As Director of the Industrial Research Centre in Ehime Prefecture research scientist, Dr Sogabe, developed a groundbreaking new technique, *Ehime AI-1*, using environmentally friendly micro-organisms to treat wastewater. Using all organic ingredients, his technique has wide-ranging domestic and industrial applications.

13.30 Ellen O'Brien, Sustainability Programs Manager, Environment and Health, Wollongong.

"Sustainability: Challenge or Opportunity?"

Wollongong City Council has embarked on an ambitious sustainability education program that engages the community and local businesses and encourages them to take action that will help to reduce Wollongong's ecological footprint. The *Sustainability Begins at Home* program is one of the first in Australia to link council, state government agencies, business and people in sharing ideas to achieve sustainable outcomes at the household level on a city-wide scale.

14.00- 14.30 Mr Dawson Wilkie

Director, Engineering Services Townsville City Council "Grass Roots can be the answer to Sustainability - Magnetic Island Style"

World heritage solutions for waste water.

14.30 – 15.30 Discussion

Robyn Williams

15.30 Afternoon Tea

Morning tea will be served buffet style in front of the conference room. Delegates are encouraged to network, and interpreters are available during this time to assist

16.00 Close



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Registration (Closing Date Thursday 21 September 2006) Fax 07 4721 2535

Name and Title

Position

Organisation

Postal Address

Telephone Fax

Email

The CLAIR Forum and reception (Day 1) are fully catered and free of charge for delegates

I will attend (please tick):

Conference Fee: \$ 200.00

Conference Dinner, Friday 6 October \$ 85.00

Friday- 6 October **Optional Inspections**

Magnetic Island and Great Barrier Reef F/D (incl lunch) \$139.00 \$ _____

City Water Purification and City Sewerage Plants H/D \$33.00 \$ _____

Industry and Environmental Protection H/D \$33.00 \$ _____

Total cost of my Conference Attendance \$ _____

Delegate Accommodation Bookings (Room Only)

Jupiters (conference venue)

3 nights single accommodation \$512.00 \$ _____

3 nights twin accommodation \$288.00 \$ _____

4 nights single accommodation \$660.00 \$ _____

4 nights twin accommodation \$362.00 \$ _____

Mercure Inn* (resort accommodation 10 minutes by coach to Jupiters)

3 nights single accommodation \$385.00 \$ _____

3 nights twin accommodation \$235.00 \$ _____

4 nights single accommodation \$487.00 \$ _____

4 nights twin accommodation \$285.00 \$ _____

Total cost of my Accommodation \$ _____

Sharing accommodation with: (name please)

* Coach transfers available to conference venue

Method of Payment

Cheque enclosed: payable to Townsville Sister City Committee, Box 396, Townsville Q 4810 Australia

Please charge the following credit card: Bankcard Visa Mastercard

Name as specified on the card _____ Expiry Date /

Amount \$ _____ Signature _____

* Card payment cost 1.5%