

50th Sister-State Anniversary Includes 10 Year Renewal of MOU between Evergreen Chapter and the Hyogo Administrative Policy Studies Association

Mary Van Verst

In mid-August, the Hyogo Prefecture of Japan and Washington State commemorated the 50th anniversary of their sister-state relationship. Nearly 300 visitors from Hyogo, led by Governor Toshizo Ido, came to Olympia, Wa., for a series of celebratory events. Evergreen Chapter members Dave Broom and Mary Van Verst served on the anniversary planning committee, chaired by Washington State Senator Karen Fraser.

On Aug 19 Gov. Ido and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee renewed the longest formal friendship between a Japanese prefecture and an American state. A commemorative ceremony took place at the Washington State Capitol, graced by the singing voices of The Phoenix Club, a choir of older adults from the Hyogo Prefecture and the Yelm Prairie Elementary School Choir from the Olympia area.

“In 1963, leaders from Hyogo and Washington had the foresight to see the benefits of working together and collaborating on cultural, educational and business issues,” Gov. Inslee told a packed Senate chamber and galleries filled with local residents and visitors from Japan.

“They understood that by working together we would create the special ties that would enrich both of our communities and create new opportunities for growth and exchange. Fifty years ago our leaders started preparing us for an age when international relationships would be essential to the success of our communities,” he said.

“Washington State and the Hyogo Prefecture have a lot of similarities, including their natural environment, climate and industry. Since the signing of the sister-state agreement 50 years ago, we have carried out various activities in a wide range of fields to cultivate this friendship,” Hyogo Gov. Ido said through an interpreter at the ceremony.

“Today, the joint statement will be signed not only to carry on such achievements, but also to strengthen our collaborative

alliance towards the solution of global challenges, such as disaster risk reduction and environmental issues. Furthermore, it will enhance academic and research exchange, thus further expanding and developing friendly relations between our two regions.”

The agreement signed by the two governors included a specific objective to promote academic and research opportunities in both regions, and cooperation between the American Society for Public Administration and the Hyogo Administrative Policy Studies Association.

The Sister-State Signing Ceremony can be viewed on the TVW website at:

http://tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2013080001

Ten years ago following the 40th sister-state anniversary, ASPA entered into an agreement with the Hyogo Administrative Policy Studies Association (HAPSA). The Evergreen Chapter serves as the Secretariat for the MOU. It was the first international Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for an ASPA chapter.

As part of the 50th anniversary celebration, the Evergreen Chapter and HAPSA hosted a joint public administration seminar on August 20 in the Worthington Conference Center at St. Martin's University in Lacey, Wa. The focus of the seminar was the sharing of knowledge, experience and best practices related to disaster response and emergency preparedness by representatives of the respective sister-states.

The seminar, titled, Earthquake Preparedness, Disaster Relief and Restoration of the Social Equilibrium: How Do We Get There From Here? was facilitated by Jim Mullen, former Director of Washington State Emergency Management, and Principal – EM Northwest Consulting.



Above: Evergreen Chapter members Cheryl Broom (left) and Mary Van Verst reunite with Rysuke Aota of the University of Hyogo.

Right: Van Verst and Gov. Toshizo Ido

Dr. Matsuyo Makino, Professor in the Department of International Studies at Kansai Gaidai University and Professor Emeritus of the University of Hyogo served as the commentator.

Dr. Roy Heynderickx, President of St. Martin's University and Sen. Fraser provided welcome remarks, both recalling that the site of the gathering was near the epicenter of an earthquake in the Nisqually Valley in September of 2001. Sen. Fraser introduced Gov. Ido.

Gov. Ido spoke of the lessons learned from the 1995 earthquake in Kobe, the Great Hanshin Earthquake. He said that after an earthquake, the topics of discussion and priorities change over time. Immediately after, there is a focus on rescuing the victims. “Once lives start to become settled, we have to think about reconstruction of infrastructures, and over longer time what the permanent situations will be for the victims. It's already been two and a half years since the Great East Japan Earthquake, but it's unfortunate



that we are still only at an early point of restoration. One thing we have learned is that we can be prepared. We can never prevent disasters, but we can be prepared, and we can accelerate the processes of restoration and reconstruction.”

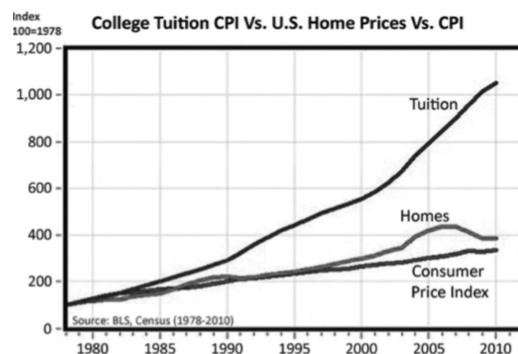
We were privileged that five presenters came from the Hyogo Prefecture representing HAPSA. They included: Dr. Machiko Banba of the Education Center for Disaster Reduction, University of Hyogo; Mr. Masaya Shinbayashi of the Municipal Affairs Division, Hyogo Prefectural Government; Mr. Yasuo Kawawaki, International Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas Center; Mr. Shingo Kouchi, Senior Recovery Expert, International Recovery Platform; Mr. Kozo Arakawa, Asian

FILLING THE PIPELINE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

With the absence of generalist positions, new public administration graduates are entering into the profession with fewer opportunities to pursue a career in city management. Those that do enter into the profession are faced with the lowest salaries of any MPA/MPP graduate. Table one is a breakdown of salary ranges for the typical recent graduate, based on what field they choose to work in.

Service to government no longer holds the axiomatic benefit of stability and better benefits in exchange for a lower salary. With the ever inflating cost of college highly qualified early career professionals are opting out of local government service. The figure below illustrates the general cost increase of college in relation to CPI.

As a result, many who would have otherwise considered a career in local government may migrate to other fields. According to data from the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA), enrollment in



institutions of higher education is down from its 2003 height of 26,000 students for the fall 2003 semester. Indeed, in 2010, the number of students enrolled – ICMA’s pool of potential future members – was at approximately 15,600. Again according to NASPAA, the proportion of recent MPA/MPP graduates entering employment in local government has diminished from 10.2 percent to 7.82 percent.

This trend is alarming when one considers the number of current lack of vacancies as a result of city managers postponing retirement as a result of the recession. In the near to mid-term, it is likely that we will see more vacancies than typical when managers feel financially secure enough to retire. These eventual retirements will need to be filled by an already small pool of qualified candidates.

The question is: How does ICMA convince talented public servants to consider a career path that includes a manager position?

The ICMA Advisory Board of Graduate Education has recommendations for filling the local government pipeline. These recommendations are relevant at various points of a potential manager’s career.

1. Facilitate more long-term fellowship positions throughout the country where a new graduate could become immersed within a city/county. “If I knew I had 24 (or more) months to work under the wing of a seasoned manager, it might give me more confidence to even put my resume out there,” Little said.
2. Develop a mentor program between veteran (or retired) managers and potential city/county managers to assist with advice and the job hunt. The more experienced folks could assess these candidates and help define where they could use some help or training.
3. Explore the potential for reaching out to undergraduate programs or high schools. Unfortunately, many potential public administrators aren’t exposed to the field until they already have other career plans. By developing a program that would facilitate local managers visiting classrooms, professionals across the country could assist with this effort.
4. Encourage local government professionals in non-generalist positions to join ICMA and consider offering joint memberships with other professional organizations in fields such as Public Finance, Human Resources, Public Works and Planning associations.
5. Promote the importance of Analysts and Assistant positions for effective city management and competitively compensate them.
6. Advocate for MPA curriculum that prepares students for generalist city management positions as well as specialized entry level positions in local government.
7. Ensure MPA programs and ICMA are on the same page in terms of recognizing new careers path to city management if current trends continue.

The ICMA Advisory Board of Graduate Education is an advocate for filling the local government pipeline. It is hoped that these recommendations will help to address the need to fill the pipeline for the future.

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Disaster Reduction Center and Mr. Akio Kawanabe, Secretary-General, member of the Representative Steering Committee of HAPSA and director of the board, Hyogo Earthquake Memorial 21st Century Research Institute.

Banba outlined the recovery status of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Shinbayashi spoke about the recovery based on retrospective partnerships between local governments. Kawawaki described the role of local community in recovery from the recent earthquake. Kouchi reflected on past disasters while asking the question, “What’s Next?” Arakawa described prevention and preparedness efforts for disaster. Kawanabe detailed activities of a center in Kobe dedicated to remembrance and the future, called the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution.

Washington State’s presenters included Chuck Matthews, senior regional solid waste specialist in the Washington Department of Ecology; Stephanie Jackson, veteran and project coordinator with the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) – Department of Ecology; Phil Hansen, crew supervisor also with the WCC – Department of Ecology and John Schelling, earthquake/tsunami programs manager with the Washington State Emergency Management Division.

Matthews presented on Washington State’s marine debris planning and response. Jackson gave an overview of the WCC as an AmeriCorps program based with the WA Dept. of Ecology. Hansen detailed the WCC’s response to the tsunami debris clean up on Washington shores, as well as the response by WCC crews deployed to assist with clean up in New York and New Jersey following Hurricane Sandy. Schelling outlined steps for building a more earthquake and tsunami resilient Washington State.

All of the seminar presentations are on the ASPA-Evergreen Chapter website: <http://www.evergreenaspaonline.org/hyogo-washington-50th-anniversary/>

The seminar ended with closing statements made by the commentator and facilitator, Makino and Mullen, respectively.

The joint public administration seminar of ASPA and HAPSA, listed as the United States - Japan Disaster Preparedness Seminar, can be viewed via TVW’s website:

http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2013080028

At the close of the seminar, the presenters and invited guests took part in a luncheon and signing ceremony at which HAPSA and the Evergreen Chapter renewed the agreement signed 10 years ago. Akio Kawanabe and Mary Van Verst performed the signing as representatives of the sister-organizations. Each made statements recognizing the progress made via exchanges over the last decade and pledged support for future collaboration.

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