

Cheryl Hou
Pacific Northwest JETAA (US-11)

PNW JETAA Activity

- Executive Advisory Board: 2010 - Present
- National Conference Coordinator: 2014
- Transitions Career Forum + Networking Expo Coordinator: 2013
- President: 2012 – 2014
 - Attended National Conferences in Minneapolis (2013) and San Francisco (2012)
- Vice President: 2011-2012
- Social & Volunteer Coordinator: 2009 – 2011
 - Attended Regional Technology Conference in Portland: 2010

JET Program Participation

- Assistant Language Teacher in Toyama City, Toyama Prefecture: 2005-2008
- AJET Library Coordinator for Toyama Prefecture: 2006-2008
- Toyama Regional Coordinator: 2007-2008

Local Community and JET Program Support

- JET Program Pre-Departure Orientation Presenter: 2009 – Present
- JET Program Candidate Interviewer: 2012

In 2008, I returned to the Seattle area (home!) and was a little unmoored by the change in scenery. Before returning home I had not signed up for PNWJETAA and it was only through a little luck and the perseverance of the JET Program Coordinator, that I made it to the Consulate-hosted Returners' Reception. The rest, as they say, is history - I was hooked on JETAA!

In all my roles on the PNWJETAA Steering Council, but especially as Vice President and President, I've represented PNWJETAA at Seattle fundraisers, cultural events, and community collaborations. My favorite activities, I have to say, are helping new JETs on their way, and seeing alumni return!

In 2014, PNWJETAA hosted the JETAA USA National Conference for which I was fortunate enough to play an integral role. While a part of me was sure that I would be retiring post-Conference, I found myself energized and excited by the prospects and very real advancements of how JETAA USA is working toward a focused and concrete future.

Right now is an exciting and important time for JETAA USA. For the last several years, the Working Group has been collaborating on building national capacity and focusing the JETAA USA chapters into a more cohesive and unified force. We are on the brink of accomplishing the overarching goal of the JETAA Initiative in creating a non-profit

organization which will work with JETAA USA and local chapters

I would have two over-arching focuses as a Country Representative:

1. We need to implement the final plans of the JETAA Initiative and continue to collaborate and assist the Working Group in creating a sustainable partner for JETAA USA. This has been one of the main projects, for the last several years, of the Country Representatives, Advisory Board, and JETAA USA as a whole, and I am focused on continuing that goal and hopefully seeing it come to fruition during my term.
1. Developing a stronger relationship between JETAA, MoFA, and CLAIR, with clear transparency so that local Chapters can be utilized by their home Consulates and local community members in methods that will increase the enthusiasm and the overall participation of JET Alumni. The ROI of JETs is something that is consistently spoken of and desired; a focused and driven relationship between JETAA, MoFA, and CLAIR will enhance the potential and deliver a model for the future.