

Ryan Hata (ALT, Tottori, 2014-2017) 2026 JETAA USA Country Representative Platform



- JETAANY Board of Directors (2026-Present)
- NatCon JETAANY Delegate (2022 & 2023)
- JETAANY President (2022-2025)
- JET Program, Application Reviewer (2020-present)
- JETAANY Vice President (2020-2022)
- CanCon JETAA-I Delegate (2019)
- JET Program, Interviewer (2019-present)
- JETAANY Membership and Career Development Chair (2018-2020)
- JETAA-I Board of Advisors (2017-Present)
- International Meeting Participant (2016, 2019, 2022, 2025)
- National AJET Director of Alumni Relations (2016-2017)
- Tottori AJET President (2016-2017)
- National AJET Director of Alumni Resources (2015-2016)
- Asian Pacific Islander (API) AJET National Representative (2015-2016)
- Asian Pacific Islander (API) AJET Regional Representative (2014-2015; 2016-2017)
- Tottori AJET Board Member (2014-2016)
- JET Program, Tottori City, Tottori Prefecture, ALT (2014-2017)

My passion for the JET Alumni Association (JETAA) began while I was still on JET in Tottori. During that time, I served for two years as a liaison with the National Association for JETs (AJET), collaborating closely with JET alumni by promoting career opportunities to the broader JETAA community and contributing to Chapter Beats, which highlighted events hosted by JETAA chapters worldwide. In addition, my work with key stakeholders within the alumni network and with CLAIR during my tenure on National AJET led me to play a foundational role in the revitalization of JETAA International (JETAA-I) 2.0. Throughout my service with National AJET and JETAA-I, I prioritized ensuring that both current JET participants and alumni were represented by consistently participating in critical virtual meetings, regardless of my location.

Since returning from the JET Program in 2017, I have remained deeply engaged with my local chapter, JETAA New York (JETAANY), which serves New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Over the years, I have held multiple leadership positions, contributing to both organizational strategy and programmatic development, including serving as President for three years. Although I stepped down from the presidency last year, I continue to be highly active in the chapter, regularly hosting monthly events driven by my ongoing commitment to the alumni association.

Below are highlights from my involvement with National AJET, JETAA-I, and JETAANY.

Association for JETs (AJET)

- Planned at least two monthly events for Tottori AJET
- Hosted a national in-person gathering in Osaka for over 25 API AJET members from 16 prefectures
- Played an integral role in revitalizing JETAA International 2.0

JETAA International (JETAA-I)

- Nine years of supporting over 50 JETAA chapters from around the world

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- Helped plan four International Meetings for JETAA-I
- Post-JET Opportunities: disseminating job listings to the broader JET alumni community and assist in developing corporate sponsorship partnerships with USJETAA
- KenJETKai: worked as a team to connect current JETs and alumni with their second homes in Japan, while strengthening relationships with local communities
- Expanded JET participants from India and the Philippines through collaboration with CLAIR Tokyo
- Collaboratively established JETAA chapters in Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Switzerland
- Co-developed bylaws for JETAA Japan with input from chapter leaders
- Held strategic planning meetings with leadership from JETAA Tokyo and Western Japan
- Advocated collectively for raises for current JETs

JETAA New York (JETAANY)

- Planned and executed career-related events:
 - Career Forum: Recruited JET alumni to discuss resume building, elevator pitches, interviews, and career pathways for recent JET returnees
 - Meishi Meetups: Hosted monthly mini meishi networking dinners leading up to the annual Meishi Exchange, connecting 100+ individuals across the broader Japanese community
- Pre-Departure Seminar: Organized the annual seminar in partnership with the Consulate-General of Japan in New York for ~100 new JETs that will depart to teach English in rural Japan
- Coordinated and Managed Japanese Cultural Events:
 - Japan-A-Mania: Structured volunteers to introduce different aspects of Japanese culture (Kimono/Yukata/Happi Coat Fitting, Origami, Japanese Writing, Chopstick Challenge, and Making Onigiri) to the Big Brothers, Big Sisters youth and mentors
 - Bonsai Workshop: Facilitated a hands-on workshop covering bonsai repotting, root anchoring, pruning, and shaping techniques using dwarf jade trees
 - Identified, developed, supported, and visited subchapters in New Jersey, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Upstate New York to ensure greater inclusivity

What I Plan to Do

- Monthly newsletters: Engage and empower all 19 chapter leaders by sharing clear updates on national initiatives and chapter activities. Highlight event insights, which include successes, lessons learned, and opportunities for improvement that will enable chapters to adapt proven programs locally and learn from one another, strengthening communities nationwide
- In-person strategic planning meetings:
 - Gain a deeper understanding of local chapter challenges and needs
 - Collaboratively develop strategies to grow and sustain our communities
 - Coordinate JET Program's 40th Anniversary celebrations in 2027 throughout the U.S. with sister organization USJETAA
- NatCon Planning: Leverage experience organizing four JETAA International Meetings and large-scale events at Columbia Business School to actively support the host chapter in planning and executing a successful NatCon, aligning with both chapter and national goals
- Collaboration: Continuing to utilize my strong working relationship with CLAIR, MOFA, USJETAA, JETAA International, National AJET, Japan-America Societies, and other Japan-U.S. organizations, to expand opportunities and advocacy for JET alumni