

Submitted in Spring 2012 with the endorsement of:
JETAA International
Association of JETs
US JET Program Coordinators

THE JET PROGRAMME AWARDS A Proposal

(I) Overview

In the past, AJET has sponsored a yearly awards program in recognition of the contributions JET Programme participants make towards fulfilling the mission of the Programme. With the help and participation of the appropriate Ministries, we hope to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the JET Programme by instituting a more official process and expanding the awards to include JET alums. With support from all groups who facilitate the JET Programme, we believe this awards program will be more meritorious.

With the endorsement of the below listed ministries and organizations, we believe the awards would both honor the recipients as well as provide grounds for positive publicity for the JET Programme itself. Selecting the award recipients would also provide opportunity for all these parties to work together in a tangible sense.

- Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR)
- Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)
- Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)
- Association for Japan Exchange and Teaching (AJET)
- Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association International (JETAAI)

(II) The Awards

The seven awards categories we propose are as follows:

1. **Taylor Anderson & Montgomery Dickson Service Award** (*formerly the JET Internationalization Award*) recognizes one JET or JET alum for outstanding volunteer service in his/ her school or community. This award would be renamed in honor of Taylor Anderson and Montgomery Dickson, the two JETs who lost their lives in the Tohoku Disaster on March 11, 2011.
2. **The JET Team-Teaching Award** recognizes the outstanding collaborative work of a Japanese Teacher of English (JTE) and an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) in creating an excellent environment, lesson, or program for Japanese students to learn language and/or participate in international exchange.
3. **The AJET Prefectural Chapter Award** recognizes the AJET Prefectural Chapter which demonstrates the most superb action of fostering connections within their JET community as well as achieving grass-roots internationalization.
4. **The JET Alumni Association Chapter/ Country Award** recognizes a JET Alumni Association Chapter/ Country which demonstrates superb actions of fostering connections within their JETAA community as well as achieving grass-roots internationalization.

5. **The Outstanding AJET Event Award** recognizes an outstanding event organized by JET Programme participants. The event should highlight cultural exchange. It can be a fundraiser, sporting event, cultural event, volunteer event, etc.
6. **The Outstanding JET Alumni Association Event Award** recognizes an outstanding event organized by JET alums. The event should highlight cultural exchange. It can be a fundraiser, sporting event, cultural event, volunteer event, etc.
7. **The Outstanding JET Publication Award** recognizes the best print or online publication created by an AJET/ JETAA chapter which furthers the purpose of the JET Programme.

(III) Nomination, Selection and Awarding Process

The nomination process will begin in April, and will be promoted by AJET and JETAA-I. Promotion of the awards by CLAIR, MEXT, MIC, and MOFA via their resources (publications or websites) will be helpful.

Nominations for candidates will be submitted online through the AJET website or any other online platform that encourages and ensures complete participation. The nominations would then be shared with representatives of AJET, JETAA, CLAIR, MEXT, MIC, and MOFA.

Each of the aforementioned groups will vote on the nominees. In the event of a tie, both nominees will receive an award. The selection process would take place in early May, and the honorees would be announced at the end of May. Certificates will be awarded and mailed to the honorees at that time with seals of approval from each of the sponsoring ministries/ organizations..

(IV) Benefits

The benefits of this award are many:

- **Deserved recognition**
Recognizing accomplishments not only honors those who greatly deserve it, but also features them as models to their peers. We hope this encourages and inspires others to initiate community-service oriented projects and events in their own locales.
- **Cultivation of exceptional JET Programme participants**
Promoting and showing value for these types of effective extra-curricular contributions will attract service-minded applicants who may otherwise opt to participate more overtly humanitarian programs like US Peace Corps, etc. It additionally highlights this level of community involvement for newly-minted JETs, thereby encouraging them to include community projects as part of their JET experience.
- **Positive PR for the JET Programme in Japan and abroad**
Promoting these awards in Japanese and foreign media outlets highlights the many contributions of JETs and JET alums. Spotlighting the fact that JET Programme participants and alumni make significant and sincere contributions to their local schools and communities, and often in the name of serving as a bridge between Japan and their home countries is important to share. We can harness the media contacts in both countries through the foreign missions overseas, university campuses (and where JETs are recruited from) and in Japan with the help of the various Ministries.
- **Increased global awareness of the JET Programme**

Although many university graduates who studied topics related to Asia or Japan are aware of the JET Programme, most people are unknowing of the JET opportunity. This type of annual awards Programme gives us a natural motive for exposing those in other professional and educational sectors through media and PR campaigns. This, in turn, helps build relations between Japan and other countries as we access a population which may not have otherwise become involved with Japan.

(V) Summary

These awards will reinforce the JET Programme's mission to enact international exchange and outreach at the grassroots level, in Japan and overseas. This awards program is an easy way to recognize the accomplishments of the JET community and encourages JETs to continue in this path. We hope to have your support in this endeavor to spotlight the projects and achievements of JETs, and help to show the world just how effective and relevant the JET Programme is.