

# JET Participant Involvement in Local Communities

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Grassroots internationalisation is one of the primary pillars of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. The purpose of this report is to examine the relationships that JET Programme participants have with their local communities, and the nature of their involvement within them. This report is based upon the results of an Association for Japanese Exchange and Teaching (AJET) survey distributed to current JET Programme participants. The scope of the survey includes:

- the level of JET participant involvement in their local communities
- the type of activities most commonly participated in
- how much of an impact the JET participants feel their participation has on their local community and on themselves
- the type and sources of information that JET Programme participants receive regarding community involvement opportunities

The survey found that nearly all JET Programme participants are involved in their local communities in one way or another. A large majority (82%) believe that their community benefits from their involvement, and an even larger proportion (91%) believes that they also personally benefit from this involvement. Over 77% of ALTs and 91% of CIRs said that they seek out information about getting involved in their communities on their own, and more than half of first-year respondents and 85% of respondents in their second year or above said that they did not receive any information regarding community involvement prior to departure for Japan. However, the majority (78%) of all participants indicated that they would like to have received such information before they arrived.

This report concludes that:

- The majority of JET Programme participants are actively working to achieve the 'grassroots internationalisation' that the Programme strives for.
- Many uninvolved, or under-involved, JET Programme participants either do not know how to get involved or feel they lack the necessary Japanese language skills to do so.
- JET Programme participants are highly motivated to seek out community involvement activities themselves, but still desire more information.
- Contracting organisations should be a significant source of information regarding community involvement, but most of them currently are not.
- Pre-departure JET Programme participants are very keen to receive information about community involvement opportunities, but few are receiving it.

