

Photo: Mrs Liz Lowry

The Yugensha Traditional Music group delighted audiences at the Opening Ceremony on Sunday, August 19th at the Wellington Town Hall, then again in the evening in the Ilott Theatre.

High praise for latest Festival of Japan

"I loved every minute" and "Amazing" were two of the comments from concert-goers at this year's *Festival of Japan* in Wellington held between August 19-25. Around 200 performers from Japan were in Wellington especially for the Festival, many of whom enjoyed homestays with local families for five nights. There were local items and exhibitions, all adding up to a *Festival of Japan* described by some observers as the best ever. Crowds came in record numbers to experience

- Kyudo (Japanese Archery)
- Enka (karaoke songs)
- Kimusaku Jazz Quartet
- Rakugo (comical stories)
- Chidori (traditional music)
- Yugensha (traditional music)

- The Sound and Beauty of Japan (traditional dance and music)
- Singing by Sangatsukai, Cantate and the Sakai Junior Choir
- All Hyogo High School Wind Orchestra

An original feature of this year's Festival was the visit of Mr Tadayo Hirano, a package designer with Toppan Print Co in Tokyo. He gave a talk and demonstration in the Renouf Foyer, Michael Fowler Centre on Thursday, August 23rd. The audience (every seat was taken) enjoyed asking questions, making their own packages and admiring the many examples on display. It was interesting for the audience to see how package design can reflect social conditions in Japan, and how packages can be inventive and entertaining. Mr Hirano also visited Massey University and the Victoria University of Wellington to talk with design students. His

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Photo: Mrs Liz Lowry

Taiko drums greeted guests at the Opening Ceremony.

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visit was arranged by the Embassy of Japan in Wellington in association with the Japan Foundation in Tokyo.

The Festival attracted wide media attention with, for example, front-page Dominion newspaper coverage, with colour picture of Ryuichi Tanaka, 9th dan, during the Kyudo (archery) demonstration at the Michael Fowler Centre. The All Hyogo High School Wind Orchestra was also pictured, during its outside concert in Civic Square. Before he left for further presentations in Sydney and Canberra, TVNZ interviewed Mr Tadayo Hirano.

Nearly 400 people came to view the *Festivals of Japan Exhibition* at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre during the period of August 6 to 24th. Children especially enjoyed the doll display and the *koi* (carp) suspended from the ceiling. There was a New Year display, *samurai* dolls for Children's Day in May and many other items for visitors to enjoy. The Centre published a book about the displays which proved popular with visitors.

The three films screened by the Japan Information and Cultural Centre in the Harbourview Lounge, Michael Fowler Centre, were well attended. *Gamera, Guardian of the Universe* appealed to science fiction devotees. *Cherish His Smile* was a thought-provoking tale about the death of a parent from a child's perspective. *Haru*, the most popular of the three films, centred on an email relationship where most of the dialogue was read from computer screens.

Festival-goers, on entering the Michael Fowler Centre, were able to browse round the exhibits in the Fletcher Challenge Foyer. There were, thanks to Ikebana International of Wellington, magnificent Ikebana displays to admire, a stand arranged by the Wellington-Sakai Association focussing on the friendship and activities between the sister cities, dolls from the Japan Information and Cultural Centre and a stall of recent technology from Brother International (NZ) Ltd.

In his remarks at the Opening Ceremony co-Patron Ambassador Koichi Matsumoto praised the work and dedication of all those involved in bringing the *Festival of Japan* to Wellington. Over the ensuing six days, people from all over Wellington and beyond would heartily agree with him.



Photo: Mrs Liz Lowry

Wellington Mayor Mark Blumsky welcomed the Sakai Junior Choir to his chambers and is pictured (above) with two choir members. Wellington and Sakai City are sister-cities.



Photo: Mr Ron Ritchie

Mr Tadayo Hirano, package designer, demonstrates his art to one of the audience at the Michael Fowler Centre, and to students at Victoria University



Photo: Mr Roger Pearce

Homestays were enjoyed by many visitors to the Festival. Pictured are Ono Mizue and Tsubosaka Sakuraki, members of the All-Huogo High School Wind Orchestra helping to prepare dinner with Mrs Joan Pearce.



Photo: Mrs Liz Lowry

Some of the packaging on display to illustrate Mr Hirano's talk.

Former Ambassador sees world at 'major crossroads in history'

Professor Hisashi Owada, President of the Japan Institute of International Affairs, addressed an appreciative audience of over 100 at Victoria University of Wellington's Council Chamber on August 2, 2001. The meeting was arranged by the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs in association with the New Zealand branch of the International Law Association and the NZ Pacific Economic Co-operation Council.

Professor Owada lectured at Tokyo University for over 25 years and has been Visiting Professor at Harvard University many times, Adjunct Professor of International Law at Columbia Law School, and is on the faculty of New York University Law School. During his career in the Foreign Ministry Mr Owada was Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and, as Ambassador, he was Permanent Representative of Japan to the OECD between 1988-1989 and to the United Nations between 1994-98. He is Senior Advisor to the President of the World Bank and Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

At Victoria University Ambassador Owada discussed the international system which, he said, "is today at a major crossroads in history" following the Cold War and, more recently, globalisation. Power relations among the US, China, Japan and possibly Russia in the longer term, are now much more complex with a "high degree of volatility and an element of uncertainty."

The danger of proliferation of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles is a challenge to the security of the region. "The nuclear tests of India and Pakistan have created a new strategic situation by seriously undermining the international non-proliferation regime." However, the dramatic meeting between the leaders of the two Koreas has triggered a degree of euphoria over the future of the Korean Peninsula and will provide, said Ambassador Owada "the opportunity to forge a new security framework which can help consolidate the peace and stability of the wider Northeast Asian region."

The Asian economic crisis has hit a number of East Asian countries in a way which not only threatens their economic prosperity, but also jeopardises the security environment of the region. The most immediate challenge to these countries is how to re-structure their societies on the basis of good governance and social justice so that political stability and social cohesion may be established. The situation in Indonesia is a crucial factor in achieving peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

The United States will continue to play a predominant role in the area, but it can only play this role effectively with the co-operation of other major powers. It is in the national interest of the United States to work with the international community to pursue its worthy causes on a multi-lateral basis.

The changed politico-security environment of the region has meant that Japan is thinking through a new security framework for the region. Japan has been co-operating positively with other countries through APEC and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

"To meet the diverse challenges to the security environment of the region, we need a bolder initiative for more structured approaches." A multi-layered network model would be viable and feasible for the East Asian setting. The first layer would consist of

individual defence arrangements on a bi-lateral basis. The second layer would consist of a regional framework for consultation on security issues. The second layer would be equipped to deal with conflict prevention and dispute settlement.

As a basis to meet the challenges of security in the Asia-Pacific region, Ambassador Owada stressed the need for promoting a common basis for economic and social development. This may be achieved by the creation of a more "integrated economic space in which we would enjoy greater freedom in economic activities among ourselves." Common values such as respect for human rights, democracy, environmental protection, open and fair competition and social justice are basic pre-requisites.

"One of the important roles that Japan can play, lies against the backdrop of globalisation which has been steadily growing within the world community. We are all being challenged on how to harvest the benefits and guard against the risks of globalisation. We have a common interest in strengthening international institutions such as the UN, WTO and IMF."



Ambassador Hisashi Owada

The importance of Japan-NZ Partnership for East-Asia

Japan and New Zealand can "jointly work vigorously" to consolidate a new framework in the Asia-Pacific region based on common values. The 'open regionalism' which is embodied in the Pacific Economic Co-operation Council (PECC) is an important example to this end. Through mechanisms like APEC, governments in the Asia-Pacific region could achieve closer co-ordination of their socio-economic policies, elevating our co-operation to a higher level.

Ambassador Owada was Director of the Oceania Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs exactly 30 years ago. He was personally involved in efforts to promote the bilateral relations of Japan with New Zealand and Australia.

In those days our entire bilateral relations were dominated by trade in selective areas. Japan's goal was to make the relationship more comprehensive, so that it could not be swayed by fluctuations of certain commodities. Now, our relationship has been elevated to the level of a mature partnership. In April this year in Tokyo, Prime Minister Clark and former Prime Minister Mori agreed that our two countries would further our relationship not only in the traditional economic area, but also in the political and cultural areas.

"What is even more important" continued Mr Owada "is that we take advantage of opportunities to work together for the promotion of regional peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region... neither Japan nor New Zealand can afford to remain pre-occupied with its own parochial interests, far from the madding crowd in the confusion of East Asia"

A full copy of Ambassador Owada's speech is available from the Japan Information and Cultural Centre, Embassy of Japan, in Wellington.

Consul-General gives views on Consumer Trends in Japan

Consul-General of Japan in Auckland, Mr Tatsuo Mizuno, told his audience at the Japan/New Zealand Business Council on May 30 at the Russell McVeagh Centre, that he was talking from the "standpoint of an average Japanese consumer about how Japanese society is unique when compared with New Zealand and western society, and what kind of products the Japanese consumers are seeking":

There is greater disparity in the distribution of wealth in Japan, compared to a decade ago. The winners' group are increasing their savings and purchasing ability. The losers are facing a shortage of income and are no longer in the market. Those with money are not buying real estate or company shares. However, if New Zealand exports products which are in demand by Japanese consumers, then they will sell well.

In Japanese society all generations are curious about emerging fashions and new products. City businessmen especially are greatly influenced by television and newspaper advertising. In Japan, there is extreme reaction, like the swing of a pendulum, to (for example) the present recession which is exaggerated out of all proportion by the mass media. In Japan, it is said the media is now the strongest dictator. If the

media and weekly magazines recommend it, sales of the product will immediately be explosive.

In New Zealand there are many products with potential for boom sales in Japan, for example in the area of health improvement. Honey is an example of a high-quality New Zealand product which is popular on the Japanese market. Great importance is placed by Japanese supermarkets on hygiene control standards and packaging. Competitiveness in price and quality is crucial to the success of your product.

These days, even though Japan is reported as being in an economic depression, reasonably-priced high quality products are welcome and will sell quickly.

Mr Mizuno stressed that these are just some personal opinions but now, he said, is a transitional period, a time of opportunity and the time to take a chance. "I look forward to learning of your success" he said.



Consul-General
Tatsuo Mizuno

Hiroshima Remembered

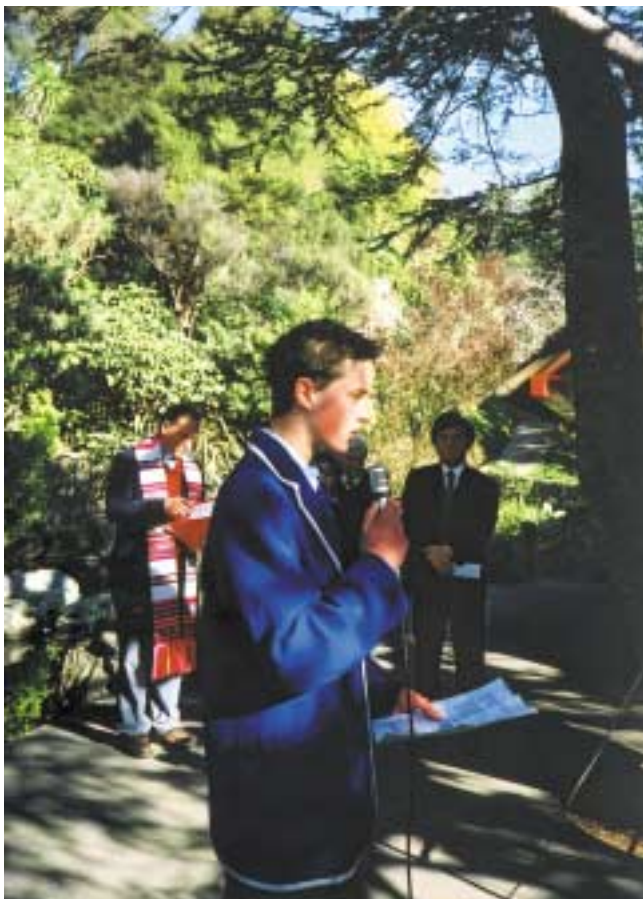


Photo: Ms Helen Millen

Sam Huckstep at the Botanic Gardens on August 5th.

The focus was on youth at Wellington's Botanic Gardens on Sunday, August 5 at the annual ceremony to commemorate Hiroshima Day. This was the 56th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and the service was organised by the NZ Peace Council.

Zoe Shaw of St Mary's College and Sam Huckstep from St Patrick's College gave the keynote speeches. The Hon Marion Hobbs, Minister of Broadcasting and the Hon Peter Dunne, leader of the United Party also spoke. So too did Mr Masaru Aniya, First Secretary and Director of the Japan Information and Cultural Centre, Embassy of Japan.

Speaking about the meaning of Hiroshima Day for him, 16 year old Sam Huckstep said that he "could not comprehend the full effect of nuclear war, the numbers cannot possibly measure the pain and suffering the people of Hiroshima endured... no one will win a nuclear war. However, Japan has avoided taking part in the arms race, it works constantly at developing world peace".

Mr Aniya talked about his four years in Hiroshima City as a student; the harmony of the flowers, trees, birds, boats on the river and a fountain. The only reminder of the tragedy was the occasional sight of an old lady offering flowers at the cenotaph. At night Mr Aniya would see the Peace Flame, eternal, silent. At the annual Peace Memorial ceremony there would be the sound of a bell and a never-ending queue of people praying and sobbing at the cenotaph with their flowers. On the plaque of the cenotaph is written:

"Please be asleep calmly, for faults will not be repeated"

NZers at 12th Pacific Music Festival

Four young New Zealanders were among the 117 Pacific Musical Academy members chosen to participate in this year's annual Festival between July 7 - August 1. Auditions were held in 19 cities worldwide and there were over 1,000 applicants. Rainer Gibbons (oboe) Mark Cookson (clarinet) Jane Kircher (bassoon) and Victoria Simon (cello) were the chosen New Zealanders.

The PMF Academy is an educational programme and the primary activity of the Pacific Music Festival. World-renowned artists act as faculty and guide the young musicians through a series of concerts, held this year in and around Sapporo. There were three musical programmes of outdoor and family concerts as well as concert-hall performances.

The first Pacific Music Festival was held in 1990 under the baton of the late Leonard Bernstein. Over 1,400 young musicians have participated in PMF and the alumni include many musicians who already stand out in the professional world. The first PMF Orchestra made such an impressive ensemble that an



astonished Bernstein said "This is miracle."

The Pacific Music Festival is held every year and is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Agency of Cultural Affairs, many foreign Embassies, educational, musical and media organisations.

PMF 2001 bassoonists relax over a *shabu shabu* of New Zealand lamb with their tutor. Jane Kircher (second from left) is pictured with Sophie Dansereau (Canada) and Patricia Wang (USA). Across the table are from top to bottom - tutor Daniel Matsukawa, principal bassoonist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Maria Togashi (Japan) and Daniel Mazaki (Israel)

Japanese Language Education on the Web

Massey University is the first New Zealand university to offer Japanese language education on the internet. The courses are the culmination of a decade of planning by Mr Paul Knight, Senior Lecturer in Japanese at the School of Language Studies, East Asian Studies.

Mr Knight says that the web-based courses are particularly helpful for extramural students who can work at their own pace and they do not have to wait for assignments to be marked.

"The only drawback" said Mr Knight "is that you must have an AppleMac to run the CD. The HyperCard programme only runs on Macs - the PC platform has nothing like it. We could see the advantages in having cross-platform software, so the solution was to make it web-compliant". This task is being carried out by the School of Language Studies.

Both the web-based course and the CD stand alone as teaching aids, but students are able to use both to get the best of both worlds. "The CD has more functionality than the web material, and it is faster. You also get the benefit of sound and animation. The beauty of the web, though, is that it is cross-platform and we can constantly update the material" said Mr Knight.

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Applications Invited...

- Applications are invited for Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) and Co-ordinators of International Relations (CIRs) for the 2002 JET Programme which will start in late July/early August next year. A knowledge of Japanese language is not required to be an ALT but a good working knowledge of written and spoken Japanese is a requirement for CIRs. All applicants must be New Zealand citizens under the age of 40 years and have a degree (or be eligible to graduate) or hold a three-year teaching diploma. The contract is for one year, renewable twice by mutual agreement. The closing date for applications is Friday, December 14th.
- Of special interest to schools and universities throughout New Zealand are the annual Japan Foundation Programmes which invite applications for assistance under many headings, including resources and teaching materials. Applications to the Wellington and Christchurch offices (please see the bottom of the back page) close on November 16th. Applications to the Consulate-General of Japan in Auckland close on November 16th for the Japanese Language Teaching Materials Donation Programme and teacher invitation programmes. Please note that the closing date for all other Japan Foundation Programmes to the Consulate-General of Japan in Auckland is Saturday December 1st.

Japan's Measures in response to the simultaneous terrorist attacks in the USA

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi described the "vicious terrorist attacks" on Tuesday, September 11th as "not only an attack on the United States and those people who are suffering and who have suffered, but also an incredible attack against the international community of peace, freedom and democracy".

At a media conference on September 19th the Prime Minister announced Japan's basic policy and the immediate measures which the Government of Japan will adopt.

1. Basic Policy

- (1) Japan will actively engage itself in the combat against terrorism, which it regards as Japan's own security issue.
- (2) Japan strongly supports the United States, its ally, and will act in concert with the United States and other countries around the world.
- (3) Japan will take concrete and effective measures which will clearly demonstrate its firm determination. These measures will be implemented in a swift and comprehensive manner.

2. Immediate Measures

- (1) The Government of Japan will promptly take measures necessary for dispatching the Self-Defence Force (SDF) for providing support, including medical services, transportation and supply, to the U.S. forces and others taking measures related to the terrorist attacks, which have been recognised as a threat to international peace and

security in the United States Security Council Resolution 1368.

- (2) The Government of Japan will promptly take measures necessary for further strengthening protection of facilities and areas of the US forces and important facilities in Japan.
- (3) The Government of Japan will swiftly dispatch SDF vessels to gather information.
- (4) The Government of Japan will strengthen international co-operation, including information sharing, in areas such as immigration control.
- (5) The Government of Japan will extend humanitarian, economic and other necessary assistance to surrounding and affected countries. As a part of this assistance, the Government of Japan will extend emergency economic assistance to Pakistan and India, which are co-operating with the United States in this emergency situation.
- (6) The Government of Japan will provide assistance to the displaced persons as necessary. This will include the possibility of humanitarian assistance by SDF.
- (7) The Government of Japan, in co-operation with other countries, will take appropriate measures in response to the changing situation to avoid confusion in the international and domestic economic systems.

Special Memorial Service

On Sunday, 23 September 2001, the America-Japan Society, Inc. and the Government of Japan jointly hosted a Ceremony for All Victims of the Terrorist Attacks in the United States. The Ceremony was held at the Tokyo International Exhibition Centre (known as Tokyo Big Sight)



Prime Minister Koizumi speaking at the Special Ceremony.
"We must stand up with firm resolve to acts of terrorism, together with other nations of the world. At the same time, I would like to express my deep condolences for all who were killed as a result of these acts of terrorism."

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