

New Ambassador Arrives in New Zealand

Ambassador Toshihiro Takahashi, accompanied by Mrs Takahashi, arrived in Wellington on 11 April to begin his term as Japanese Ambassador to New Zealand, succeeding H.E. Mr Masaki Saito who has returned to Tokyo. Ambassador Takahashi presented his credentials to H.E. the Governor-General of New Zealand, the Hon. Anand Satyanand on May 2. He is also accredited to the Independent State of Samoa.

Mr Takahashi graduated from the University of Tokyo, Faculty of Engineering, and entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1971. His appointments have included:

2006	Inspector General, Foreign Ministry
2003	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Paraguay
2001	Consul-General, Japanese Consulate-General in Rio de Janeiro
2000	Deputy Director-General, Cultural Affairs Department of the Foreign Ministry Deputy Director-General, Foreign Minister's Office
1999	Managing Director of the Planning and Evaluation Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

1997	Minister, The Mission of Japan to the European Union
1994	Minister, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

Ambassador Takahashi looks forward to playing a role in many important areas of the overall relationship between New Zealand and Japan. On an international scale, peace and security, a cleaner global environment, energy security and assistance to developing countries are among the many issues on which the two countries share concern. Bilaterally, he points to the trends in trade, investment and the commercial sector generally, and to the active cultural and educational exchanges as evidence of the growing friendship and deeper understanding between New Zealand and Japan.



Ambassador Toshihiro Takahashi

Second East Asia Summit

The Second East Asia Summit was held in Cebu City, the Philippines, on 15 January 2007, in conjunction with the 12th ASEAN Summit. It was chaired by H.E. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Philippines. The leaders of the ASEAN countries (Indonesia was represented by Foreign Minister Wirajuda), Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand exchanged views on regional and international issues. Energy was a priority issue and leaders agreed on goals to achieve energy security in the region and ways to achieve these goals.

Other issues covered were: poverty eradication, education, finance, avian influenza, natural disaster mitigation, a Doha development agenda, economic development and regional integration, interfaith initiatives, denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the future direction of the East Asia Summit.

The third East Asia Summit will be held in Singapore on 21 November 2007.



Commemorative photo session of leaders who participated in the 2nd East Asia Summit and ASEAN meetings (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security:
www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/eas/energy0701.html

Chairman's statement: www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/eas/state0701.html

Japan's On-going Assistance to Samoa

① Apia fisheries wharf and related facilities

The Government of Japan held the official handing-over ceremony for the grant of up to 707,000,000 Yen (about 17,700,000 Samoan tala) to the Government of Samoa for the "Renovation and extension of Apia fisheries wharf and related facilities" project on 12 January 2007.

This project is intended to expand the fisheries wharf along with improving the Fisheries Centre which had been constructed through Japan's Grant Aid Programmes in 1978 and 1982. The project included the renovation and extension of the wharf along with new offices for the Fisheries Division, both of which had been badly damaged in the cyclones of 1990 and 1991.



Ambassador Saito and Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi shake hands at Apia wharf on 12 January 2007.

② Renovation of Apolima Uta primary school



Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi at the handing over ceremony, Apolima Uta Primary School

The Government of Japan held the official handing-over ceremony for a grant of up to A\$109,655 (approximately 221,928 Samoan tala) to the Government of Samoa for the "The Project for the Renovation of Apolima Uta Primary School" on 13 January 2007. The grant was provided under the Japanese Government's Grassroots Human Security Grant Aid Programme.

This project was proposed by the Apolima Uta Primary School Committee in 2005 and is in line with the Government of Samoa's Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2005 – 2007. The Samoan Government wants to strengthen

the education sector by improving school facilities and equipment, and to enhance the quality of life of its society.

The 4th Japan-Pacific Islands Forum Summit Meeting held in Japan last May stressed through the Leader's Declaration, Japan's initiative of cooperation with the members of the Pacific Islands Forum to further enhance the development of these countries. "We believe that this Project of reconstructing a primary school can substantially help to improve the standard of education and contribute to achieving one of the most important goals of the declaration, namely 'sustainable development'",

Ambassador Saito said at the ceremony.



The local choir sing during the celebrations at Apolima Uta Primary School



Resident JICA representative Mr Junji Ishizuka, a Japanese volunteer, Ambassador Saito and Mr Takashi Nishida, Third Secretary at the Japanese Embassy in Wellington, after the handing-over ceremony on 12 March 2007.

③ Don Bosco Technical Centre

The Government of Japan held the official handing-over ceremony for the grant of up to A\$118,904 (approx. 238,000 Tala) to the Government of Samoa for the "The Project for the Upgrading of Workshop Facilities at the Don Bosco Technical Centre" on 12 March 2007. The grant was provided under Japan's Grassroots Human Security Grant Aid Programme.

The Government of Samoa has been undertaking to improve economic and social welfare at the community level in line with the Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS) 2005–2007. The completion of this Project will be one of the prominent achievements

towards the goal of the SDS, the "Quality of Life for All."

The accomplishment of this Project will significantly expand the horizon of the vocational training sector in Samoa, together with the recent completion of the Project of the Upgrading and extension of the NUS Institute of Technology, the former Samoa Polytechnic. The implementation of these projects demonstrates Japan's determination to contribute to the improvement of Technical and Vocational Education and Training.



Students at the Don Bosco Technical Centre perform during the ceremony.

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④ Signing ceremony for the reconstruction of six primary schools

Samoa Primary Schools benefited from the Japanese Government Grassroots Human Security Grant Aid Programme on 13 March 2007 when six project for reconstruction agreements were signed between the Embassy of Japan and the committees of the following primary schools:

- Fasitootai Primary School

- Lotopue Primary School
- Falefa Primary School
- Laulii Primary School
- Pata Primary School
- Salesatele Primary School

Since Japan started to operate the Grassroots Human Security Grant Aid Programme in 1991, the number of projects completed in Samoa has reached nearly 100.



Ambassador Saito signed project agreements with representatives from the six primary schools on 13 March 2007.

Ship for World Youth in Wellington



The 19th Ship for World Youth cruise left Yokohama on 25 January 2007 and visited Brisbane, Sydney, Wellington and Port Vila before returning to Japan (Tokyo) on 8 March 2007. More than 260 young people were on board, with delegations (11 delegates each) from Australia, Canada, Chile, Egypt, Fiji, Mexico, Oman, Russia, the Seychelles, Tonga, the United Kingdom and Yemen, as well as 120 delegates from Japan.

The three day visit to Wellington (19-21 February) began with a welcome ceremony that included a powhiri and performance by a Kapa Haka group. The delegates then visited the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa and national delegation leaders made a courtesy call on the Hon. Nanaia Mahuta, Minister for Youth Affairs. Their Excellencies the Governor General of New Zealand, the Hon. Anand Satyanand and Mrs Susan Satyanand attended the official reception on board the ship that evening. Other guests included Minister Mahuta, the Hon. David Benson-Pope, Minister for Social Development, MPs, business people and government officials

from Japan and New Zealand.

For the next two days the delegates split into groups and visited different venues, such as Trash Palace at the Porirua landfill, the Avalon Production Studios or the Wellington Volunteer Centre.

More than 5,000 young people from over 60 countries have taken part in the Ship for World Youth Programme since it began in 1988 and among them, more than 100 New Zealanders have been on board.

The SWY programme aims to develop mutual understanding and friendship between participants, to broaden their global perspective, to instill a spirit of international cooperation and to develop the skills to put these ideals into practice.

Japanese Cabinet Office website for International Youth Programmes: <http://www8.cao.go.jp/youth/english/koryu1-e.html>

Ship for World Youth NZ (Alumni Association website): <http://www.swynz.org.nz>

LEFT Courtesy call: Hon. Nanaia Mahuta (2nd row, centre), Ms Keiko Furuta, Director JICC, Embassy of Japan (on her left), Mr Kiyoshi Watanabe, Director for International Affairs, Cabinet Office, (right) with National Leaders on 19 February 2007.

1st BELOW Ambassador and Mrs Saito (left) with Their Excellencies the Governor General and Mrs Satyanand, and Captain Mitsuharu Shirakawa at the reception on board the Nippon Maru, 19 February 2007.

2nd BELOW Ambassador Saito welcomes guests at the reception on 19 February 2007.

3rd BELOW Ambassador Saito with delegates at the reception on the Nippon Maru, 19 February 2007.



Core Leaders Programme

Young Core Leaders from Japan visit New Zealand

By Mr Brian Cross, Executive Officer, Sister Cities New Zealand Inc.

The Japanese Government operates an international programme to develop leadership in civil society. New Zealand recently participated in this scheme in a programme for personnel engaged in Support for Youth. The purpose of the programme is to give selected people from within Japanese society the opportunity to share experiences with foreign counterparts and to study ways in which other countries manage social issues in modern society.

The intensive one-week programme was from 25 October to 3 November 2006 and included presentations on policy and initiatives by staff of the New Zealand Ministry of Youth Development, as well as in-depth discussions with specialists in the areas of training and employment



The group with representatives of the Life Education Trust at the Discovery School, Whitby

initiatives, health and well-being education, suicide prevention and dealing with at-risk youth and young offenders. A particular interest of the group was how New Zealand encourages volunteer support for youth-based activities and the funding mechanisms for

delivering them. Meetings with the New Plymouth District Council Youth Sub-committee and school representatives provided the opportunity to hear from young people themselves how they directly participate in forming a society in which youth is fully engaged.

"We were most impressed by the spirit of teamwork shown by social activity leaders in New Zealand and the way they positively and passionately work at their tasks," said group leader Mr Toru Shinshi. "We have learned much through this programme that can be used in Japanese society to help provide sustainable youth development and contribute to a bright future for our young people."

Sister Cities New Zealand Inc. was contracted to organise the programme and attend the group during their visit to New Zealand.

Young Core Leaders from New Zealand go to Japan

By Suzanne Fryer of the Life Education Trust – North Wellington. Suzanne was leader of the New Zealand group.

Early February saw thirteen New Zealanders representing Care for Youth, the Elderly or the Disabled, join delegations from Belgium and Denmark in Tokyo at the **Young Core Leaders of Civil Society Groups Development Programme Forum**.



It looks easy, it sounds easy, but the challenge was to make the hoop go down – and it wanted to go up! Serious teamwork and concentration were needed. Osaka Outdoor Pursuits Centre. Care for Youth Prefecture Visit.

Along with our Japanese colleagues, we gathered to discuss the operation of non-profit organisations in our own countries and share ideas for further development. We were all surprised at the relative newness of the NPO sector in Japan and by the commitment of so many Japanese towards helping others in their communities, often in a volunteer role.



The New Zealand Delegation: (left to right, back row) Hayley Johnstone, Jo Hathaway, Bry Kopu, Teresa Matassa, Matt Frost, Sarb Johal, Tofa Fagaloa, Kirsty Buggins. (Front row) Suzanne Fryer, Tanya Sweetman, Rachel Pullar, Rachael Hutt, Lucy Leckie.

The forum itself was an intense three days, based at the National Olympic Centre. We gathered in small groups, discussed areas including Fundraising and Management, Cross-Sector Collaborations, Partnerships with the Community and Human Resources. We also enjoyed a Cultural Workshop, where we shared and sampled food from the four countries including New Zealand wine, Danish schnapps and large amounts of chocolate from Belgium. Each delegation shared a cultural performance and a highlight for the New Zealanders, was teaching the whole audience the children's song "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" in Te Reo Maori. We even managed a late night trip to Shinjuku to explore karaoke; a few hidden talents were revealed!

Institutional visits saw us out exploring areas of Tokyo. We met many staff members and volunteers in a variety of organisations who care for those in need. One area which impressed us was the involvement of different age groups in care. At Kokaigawa Project 21 for example we experienced pony riding and saw examples of the river training. Young volunteers assist the elderly and older teens train the young. This cross generational approach is inspiring.

Week two saw us splitting into three groups for prefecture visits. The Care for the Disabled group travelled to Yamaguchi, Care for the Elderly, to Fukui and Care for Youth to Osaka. Included in these visits was a home stay night, a feature which we all thoroughly enjoyed and which we felt was a true high spot. In Osaka, we took part in group discussions, experienced a delinquency prevention programme at Ai Elementary School and human relationship training at the Osaka Youth Outdoor Activities Centre. Here we all enjoyed the 'icebreaker' activities which saw us doing strange things with hoops, and pretending to be chickens!

We learnt much about ourselves over the two weeks in Japan. Each of us was challenged to reflect on our own practice. By sharing our ideas with others from around the world, we were given an opportunity to absorb and explore different approaches and values. We thoroughly appreciated the friendliness and dedication of our Japanese hosts and I for one am eagerly anticipating a return journey to Japan in the near future.

New Zealand Honour for Japanese Citizen



Mr Ohashi receives the award from Dame Catherine Tizard.

Mr Hiroshi Ohashi from Hyogo, Japan was made an honorary member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to education in the 2007 New Year Honours List. The investiture took place at the opening ceremony of the International Pacific University in Okayama, Japan, on 1 April 2007 and he received the award from former Governor General, Dame Catherine Tizard.

Mr Ohashi is a visionary educationalist with a passion for attaining better understanding and tolerance within and amongst nations of the Pacific through education.

He established the International Pacific College in Palmerston North. After evaluating options in the United States, Canada and other countries, Mr Ohashi decided to create a tertiary institution for non-native speakers of English in Palmerston North in 1990. Palmerston North was selected for reasons such as its safe environment and an atmosphere conducive to study. The college began with only 69 students from Japan, but today there are over 550 students from over 24 different countries.

Mr Ohashi is still committed to making a difference to as many people as possible, especially young people. He has recently established International Pacific University in Japan, which specialises in sport and education. Starting next year, some students from this university will spend three months training in Palmerston North.

Proficiency Test Certificates and Anime

Fifty three people passed the proficiency tests in the Wellington region in December 2006. About 20 of them, together with friends and family, attended an informal presentation ceremony at the Centre's new premises on the 18th Floor of the Majestic Centre on Monday, 12 March 2007. Teachers and students from Victoria University also joined the event.

After the presentation, Ms Furuta showed guests new books on anime, manga and contemporary Japanese culture that have been added to the Centre's library. Guests later enjoyed some Japanese food and were able to watch a DVD of CG anime produced by students from the University of Digital Content (Digital Hollywood) in Tokyo.

The proficiency tests are designed for Japanese language students who wish to test their level of skills using worldwide criteria. Applicants

can choose from four levels with Level 1 being the most difficult. The test for each level has three sections: writing and vocabulary; listening; reading and grammar. Applications usually open in early August and examinations are held annually in December. For more information, please contact the Embassy in Wellington, Consulate-General in Auckland or Consular Office in Christchurch.

Proficiency Test: http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/culture_education/japanlanguage.html

Digital Hollywood: www.dhw.co.jp (Japanese language website)

A Personal Achievement

The Level 1 proficiency test is a high standard and it is unusual for a Year 12 student to pass it. Kay Leary, a pupil at Queen Margaret College, describes why she sat the test and how she prepared for it.

I was born in Wellington in 1990. My mother was Japanese and my father was English, so you may think becoming bilingual would be pretty easy for me. Well, things did not work that simply for me.

When I moved to Tokyo at the age of five, I had no Japanese. However, during our 5-years in Japan my English faded away and was replaced by the new language. Returning to Wellington when I was 10, I struggled to catch up on my English and I am still doing so, as I missed almost all of the primary education in New Zealand.

At the same time, my parents were keen on me retaining my Japanese and enrolled me at the Chartwell Japanese school. I finally graduated from the Japanese school in 2006, and decided to sit the Level 1 Proficiency Test to see the result of my long-term commitment. Since we came back to Wellington in 2001, I have read many interesting Japanese books, including manga, watched Japanese videos sent from



Kay Leary receives her Level 1 certificate from Ms Keiko Furata

Japan, as well as NHK television, and listened to Japanese music. Although I had to work hard on kanji and phrases for the test because they were beyond my knowledge, I was lucky that I found a way to enjoy studying Japanese. Now that I have passed, I'm really glad I worked for it.

Welcome Home for JETS



Ambassador Masaki Saito with 2006 JET returnees in Wellington. Ambassador Saito hosted a welcome home reception for eleven JET participants who returned to New Zealand 2006. The reception was held at his Residence in Wellington on Friday, 9 March 2007.

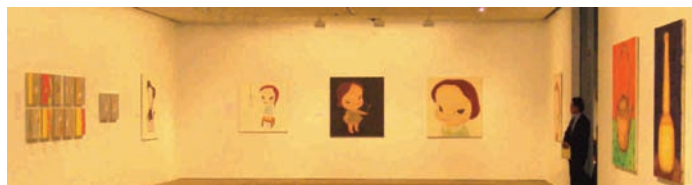


Guests and JET returnees at a welcome home dinner hosted by Mr Takamichi Okabe, Consul-General of Japan in Auckland, at his Residence on Thursday, 22 March 2007. Seven recently returned JETs attended the dinner.



Consul Tomoo Hirakawa (centre back) giving a speech at the combined welcome home dinner and JETAA AGM he hosted at the Marina Chinese Restaurant in Christchurch on Friday, 9 March 2007. Five recently returned JETs and 20 members of Christchurch JETAA were at this event.

“Painting For Joy”, a Japan Foundation Exhibition



A view of some of the paintings in the exhibition at Pataka Museum.

“Painting for Joy: New Japanese Paintings in the 1990s” opened at Pataka Museum on Saturday, 10 February 2007, in conjunction with two other exhibitions, “People of the Cedar” (from Canada) and “Tu Maia” (greenstone carvings).

“Painting for Joy” is a touring exhibition of contemporary art featuring work from nine Japanese artists born around 1960, including the internationally acclaimed artists Takashi Murakami and Yoshitomo Nara. The paintings reflect the desire of these artists to identify a relevant and contemporary form of artistic expression in their particular genre, painting, during the last decade of the twentieth century, a time of great change in Japan both culturally and economically. There were 50 paintings in the exhibition. Some were grouped together as sets of images, while others were individual works of art.

Several Japanese cultural events were held at Pataka Museum during the exhibition in cooperation with JETAA. The Wellington Chapter of Ikebana International had a workshop and demonstration on Saturday, 10 March, tutored by Mrs Elizabeth McMillan, and Mr James Hurring, a member of Nippon Origami Association, held an origami workshop the following Saturday. “Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind” and “Laputa: Castle in the Sky”, two anime films written and directed by Hayao Miyazaki, were also screened on 17 and 24 March 2007 respectively.

“Painting for Joy” continued until Wednesday, 18 April 2007. The exhibition was organised by the Embassy of Japan, Pataka Museum and the Japan Foundation.

Pataka Museum: www.pataka.org.nz

Japan Foundation:
www.nz.embjapan.go.jp/culture_education/foundation.htm



Ambassador Saito opens the “Painting for Joy” exhibition at Pataka Museum, Porirua, on 10 February 2007.

Maori Treasures at Tokyo National Museum

"Mauri Ora: Maori Treasures from the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa" opened at Tokyo National Museum on 22 January 2007. The Maori King, Te Arikini Tuheitia Paki, his wife Atawhai Paki and the Hon. Mahara Okeroa, New Zealand's Associate Minister



The Maori King, Te Arikini Tuheitia Paki and his wife, Atawhai Paki, with the Maori performance group Te Puia at the dawn ceremony. (Photo courtesy of the Tokyo National Museum © 2007)

for Arts, Culture and Heritage, took part in the traditional Maori dawn ceremony and the official ceremony to open this important cultural exhibition.

Mauri Ora was on display in Gallery 1 and 2 of the Heiseikan building and consisted of about 120 traditional Maori taonga (treasures). A large mauri (life force) stone of pounamu (greenstone) was set at the entrance to the gallery as the spiritual anchor of the exhibition. Exhibits



Visitors examine the Maori treasures on display at the Heiseikan building. (Photo courtesy of the Tokyo National Museum © 2007)

ranged from items with early Pacific connections, to unique carvings and ceremonial pieces, as well as weapons, waka huia (treasure boxes), jewellery and woven kakahu (clothing). Large scale exhibits were a key part of the exhibition and included the façade of a tribal wharehau



Hei matau, Collection of Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa (Photo courtesy of Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa)

(meeting house), a carved pataka (storehouse) and carvings from waka taua (war canoes).

Several events related to the exhibition, such as workshops on Maori design, a film show of "Whale Rider", and commemorative lectures, were held during the exhibition.

"Mauri Ora" closed on 18 March 2007 and approximately 72,000 people came to the exhibition over the three month period. Dr Seddon Bennington, Chief Executive of Te Papa said, "With the support of iwi throughout New Zealand, we were delighted to be able to share these taonga with the people of Japan in their national museum. We hope this exhibition leads to a greater understanding of the richness of art, heritage and traditions that underpin Maori culture."

The exhibition was developed specifically for the Tokyo National Museum by Te Papa as part of a cultural exchange programme. Te Papa showcased the "Splendours of Japan" exhibition in March 2006.



Toki poutangata (ceremonial adze), Collection of Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa (Photo courtesy of Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa)

Tokyo National Museum:
www.tnm.jp

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa: www.tepapa.govt.nz

JETAA: Music and Film Evening

Baobab, a contemporary acoustic trio from Japan, performed at the New Zealand Film Archive building in Wellington on Tuesday, 20 March. Malcolm Larking, a member of the trio, is a former JET who spent three years in Oita prefecture. Baobab's recent tour of New Zealand was funded by the New Zealand Japan Exchange Programme.

The Japanese film, "Tony Takitani", was screened at 6:30 p.m. The audience of 63 people included JETAA members, as well as people from the Japanese community and general public.

The event was organized by Wellington JET Alumni Association and the Japan Information and Cultural Centre.

JETAA: www.jetaawgtn.org.nz

Baobab: mallarking@hotmail.com, www.myspace.com/baobab23



In Memory of Mrs Ruth Scott

Contributed by the Wellington Chapter of Ikebana International.

Mrs Ruth Scott passed away on 7 January 2007, a few days before her 91st birthday. Her enduring interest in Ikebana began when her husband, Mr John Scott, was posted as New Zealand Trade Commissioner to Japan in Tokyo from 1956 to 1963. She studied the Ohara School, and later Sogetsu and Ikenobo, although Ohara remained her main love.



She attended the first public meeting of Ikebana International in 1956 and became its third International President from February 1961 until August 1963. She is the only New Zealander to ever serve in this office. While President, she helped establish the group's beautiful ikebana magazine.

On her return to New Zealand she promoted, demonstrated, gave TV demonstrations and interviews to papers and was tireless in her promotion of ikebana. She helped the Auckland chapter with their Australia-NZ Regional Conference in March 1969, the first held in New Zealand, where Mr Houn Ohara, Headmaster of the Ohara school, gave demonstrations. She created arrangements for Trade Fairs, the Academy of Fine Arts and for the opening of the Embassy's Information and Cultural Centre. In 1970 she established a chapter in Wellington and was Chairperson and Co-ordinator of the 1983 NZ Australia Regional Conference of Ikebana in Wellington.

A particular highlight occurred when then Governor-General Sir Dennis Blundell asked her to create Ikebana arrangements at Government House for the visit of Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess of Japan in 1973. She had met the princess many years earlier in Japan and treasured this link.

Her love of Ikebana and her knowledge and enjoyment in creating Ikebana arrangements remained with her throughout her life. She endeavoured to strengthen the relationship between New Zealand, other countries and Japan, for whose people she had a profound respect and regard.

Her contribution to Ikebana and international goodwill were recognized by the Government of Japan in November 1992 when she was awarded the Order of the Precious Crown, Apricot.

Sakai Rugby School's visit to Wellington



The Sakai team push for the line, strongly defended by the Ponake Under 13 team at Evans Bay Park on 24 March. (Photo: Neil Price, Wellington Sakai Association)

The Sakai Rugby School was established in April 1987. The school, a non-profit organization, has about 130 students ranging from 5 to 15 years old, as well as volunteer coaches and assistants. The students meet about 45 days a year for training, usually on Sundays.

Thirty-five students, aged 12 to 14, and nine coaches from the school visited Wellington from 23-27 March 2007 as part of the 20th anniversary celebrations of the establishment of the school. "New Zealand is famous for rugby and since Wellington and Sakai are sister cities so we wanted to come to Wellington more than anywhere else," they said.

Mayor Prendergast hosted a reception for the visitors at the Wellington Town Hall on the Friday evening and the boys had a home-stay experience on Saturday night.

They played two games on Saturday and two on Sunday against various boys' teams in Wellington at Evans Bay Park. The results were three wins and one loss.

A highlight of the trip was a visit to the Westpac Stadium and New Zealand Rugby Union Headquarters, where they saw the Bedisloe Cup and All Black memorabilia. City councillor Rob Goulden, who is club captain of the Rongatai Football Club, organized the visit.

The Wellington Sakai Association supported the tour in association with the Wellington City Council and the Oriental Rongotai Football Club.

Mrs Hiromi Morris, President, Wellington Sakai Association,

Email morriswn@ihug.co.nz

Sakai Rugby School: www.sakairugby.com/

Consulate-General of Japan
Level 12, ASB Bank Centre
135 Albert Street
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Tel: (09) 303-4106
Fax: (09) 377-7784
Email: info@cgj.govt.nz

Japan Information and Cultural Centre
18th Floor, The Majestic Centre
100 Willis Street, Wellington 1
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Fax: (04) 472-3416
Email: japan.cul@eoj.org.nz
Website: www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp

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