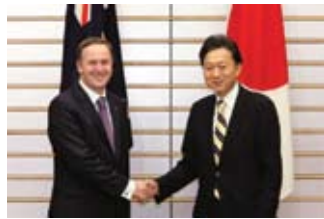


Prime Minister John Key Visits Japan

New Zealand Prime Minister Hon John Key made a six-day visit to Japan in October 2009 with his wife, Mrs Bronagh Key. Accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon Murray McCully, this was Mr Key's first visit to Japan since he became the Prime Minister in November 2008.



Prime Minister of New Zealand, Hon John Key and Prime Minister of Japan, Dr Yukio Hatoyama.

During this visit, Prime Minister and Mrs Key paid a call on Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan at the Imperial Palace in Central Tokyo. They also attended a number of events and meetings, including the Japan-NZ Partnership Forum and the opening of giant rugby ball site at the foot of the iconic Tokyo Tower, to promote the 2011 Rugby World Cup in New Zealand, which attracted hundreds of local visitors.

On 29 October, Prime Minister Key had a bilateral summit meeting with his Japanese counterpart, Dr Yukio Hatoyama, during which a variety of issues and commitments were discussed aimed at strengthening further the Japan-New Zealand relations at all spheres.

Prime Minister Key emphasised that the bilateral partnership between the two countries covers a range of areas, yet there is still room

for continuous expansion of trade and investment undertakings to reenergize such partnership. He also expressed his ambition for a free trade agreement/economic partnership agreement (FTA/EPA) with Japan. For his part, Prime Minister Hatoyama pointed out Japan's cautious position on such agreement yet he expressed his desire to examine more ways to strengthen the two countries' trade and investment relationship.

Climate change was another issue discussed by the two premiers. Prime Minister Key requested Japan to participate in New Zealand's initiative in establishing "Global Alliance" to explore ways to

reduce emissions from agriculture through investment and advanced technologies. Prime Minister Hatoyama welcomed such ideas, indicating then Japan's intention to cooperate, as he agreed that advanced technologies are necessary in solving the climate change issue.

During their stay in Tokyo, Prime Minister and Mrs Key were welcomed with a dinner hosted by Prime Minister and Mrs Hatoyama at their official residence. They were the first foreign guests to be invited to the residence since Dr Hatoyama took his office in early October 2009.



Japan - New Zealand Prime Ministers' Meeting

Hatoyama Delivers Speech on Japan's Policy on Asia

On 15 November 2009, Prime Minister Hatoyama delivered a speech in Singapore on Japan's policy toward Asia following the conclusion of the APEC leaders' summit meeting.

In his policy speech titled "Japan's New Commitment to Asia - Toward the Realization of an East Asian Community", Dr Hatoyama emphasised Japan's attachment of great importance to Asian diplomacy and reiterated his "East Asian Community" initiative.

The East Asian Community initiative stems from the philosophy of "Yu-ai", often translated as "fraternity", in which people respect the freedom and human dignity of others just as they respect their own freedom and human dignity. Its goal is to promote cooperation in various fields by sharing a common

vision. Examples of cooperation that Dr Hatoyama considers important include: (1) cooperating to prosper together, participating in the discussions bilateral and regional economic partnership initiatives such as free trade agreements and economic partnership agreements; (2) cooperating to save a "Green Asia" so that people in developing countries achieve sustainable growth based on common but differentiated responsibilities using advanced energy-saving and environment-friendly technologies; (3) cooperating to protect human lives, helping each other against natural disasters and infectious diseases; and (4) cooperating to build a "sea of fraternity", for example promoting concrete cooperation for maritime accidents and action against piracy.

The full text of Prime Minister Hatoyama's speech can be found through the Embassy's website at <http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp>.

Emperor's Birthday Reception 2009

On 24 December 2009, Ambassador Toshihiro Takahashi and Mrs Kaori Takahashi hosted a reception in Wellington to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and the 20th anniversary of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne.

On 23 December 2009, His Majesty reached 76 years of age. The year of 2009 was special for Their Majesties since it also commemorated the 50th anniversary of Their Majesties' marriage. During the past 20 years, Their Majesties have travelled many countries promoting goodwill amongst peoples and societies. It is also noted that Their Majesties made a memorable visit to New Zealand in May 1973 when they were the Crown Prince and Crown Princess.

At the reception, Hon Tim Groser, Minister of Trade and Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs, attended as Representative of the Government of New Zealand. Furthermore, it was a pleasure to welcome Hon Dr Lockwood Smith, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon Chris Carter, Representative of the Opposition Party, Members of Parliament, Government officials, members of Diplomatic Corps, and representatives of various organizations with whom the Japanese Embassy has close contact. More than 250 guests enjoyed conversation, and were treated with food and drinks, with Japanese cuisine especially prepared by the chef to the Ambassador.

Receptions were also held in Christchurch on 3 December hosted by Mr and Mrs Takahashi, and in Auckland on 4 December hosted by Mr Hachiro Ishida, Consul-General of Japan at Auckland and Mrs Kyoko Ishida.



Hon Tim Groser and Ambassador Takahashi at the Emperor's Birthday Reception 2009

Seminar 'Japan in the Asia-Pacific Region: The path taken between two powers, China and the USA'

In August 2009, Mr Akio Kawato, Visiting Professor at Waseda University, Tokyo (former Ambassador of Japan to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan) visited Wellington and Christchurch to give a lecture at Victoria University of Wellington (in cooperation with the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs) and the University of Canterbury.

He spoke about Japan's policy options placing emphasis on the Japan-US alliance as a stabiliser in the Asia-Pacific region while China's presence in the region grows. He explained this in contrast to a Cold War framework where the economic context had less significance. His lecture also focused on the cultural commonality and growing economic interdependence in Asia.

Suggestive comments and active questions and answers followed his lecture. About 90 people attended the lecture and found it very interesting. Many joined the post-lecture reception and enjoyed additional discussions with Mr Kawato.



Mr Kawato (centre), moderator, discussants and Ambassador Takahashi.

Emergency Assistance to the Independent State of Samoa for the Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster

On October 3 (Sat), the Government of Japan decided to extend emergency assistance to the Independent State of Samoa, which suffered damages from a tsunami caused by the earthquake that occurred in the southeast portion of the Samoa Islands Region. The assistance includes items such as tents, blankets, plastic sheets, and sleeping mats equivalent to about 20 million JPY.

On September 29 (Tue) at 6:48 AM (September 30 [Wed] at 2:48 AM JST), an earthquake registering magnitude 8.3 occurred in Samoa. A tsunami struck the island of Upolu, where the capital city of Apia is located, resulting in devastation including houses washed

away and the deaths of many residents. The Government of Samoa has so far confirmed 143 people dead and the people affected by the disaster totals 5,274 and the total damage exceeds 6.5 million USD.

Based on the request from the Government of Independent State of Samoa, the Government of Japan has decided to extend emergency assistance as humanitarian relief to the victims of the disaster, as well as in light of the cordial relations between Japan and Samoa.

*The original press release was issued on October 3.

*For enquiries, contact the International Press Division, MOFA (Tel: +81 5501 8134).

Changes to the Working Holiday Scheme in Japan

The Working Holiday Scheme changed from 29 March to become a one year visa. Under the previous regulations, Working Holiday visas were issued for just six months.

To be eligible for a Working Holiday visa you must be a New Zealand passport holder residing in New Zealand. New Zealand citizens who are travelling or living abroad will not be eligible. You must be aged between 18 and 30 years (inclusive) at the time of application and have no dependent children. All applicants must be in good health and have no criminal record and you may not have previously entered Japan on a Working Holiday visa on a passport of any country.

Your main reason for visiting is to holiday and any work should be casual/temporary to supplement funds. If your main purpose is to engage in activities for income/remuneration, you will be asked to apply for a work visa.

118 New Zealanders were issued with Working Holiday visas in 2009.

Further information can be found on the Embassy website: <http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp>
Click "Visiting Japan" and "Working Holiday".

15th Anniversary of the Wellington-Sakai Sister City Relationship

by Mr Jim Barnes, President of the Wellington Sakai Association

In 2009, Wellington celebrated the 15th anniversary of their sister city relationship with Sakai in Japan. The charter was signed by both mayors in 1994 and since then we have enjoyed a close relationship between the cities.

Citizens from both cities have travelled to their counterpart sister city

Cassidy Tangaere from Ngati Poneke Cultural Club welcoming Hitomi Takashita from the Sakai Kyudo (Japanese Archery) group who visited Wellington in September 2009. The Wellington Sakai Association, in association with other sponsors, held a Cherry Blossom Festival at the St James Theatre and at Te Papa Museum in September. The festival included demonstrations by the kyudo group, shakuhachi (Japanese bamboo flute) performances, collaborations of Japanese and Maori music, ikebana demonstrations and tea ceremony.



in cultural, sport, educational exchanges creating many relationships.

Every five years, a group of citizens travel to each other's city to celebrate their ties. In 2009, a group from Wellington travelled to Sakai for the 15th anniversary of the Wellington-Sakai sister city relationship.

Wellington Sakai Association was formed, and is committed, to further enhance the relationship.

If you are interested in joining the Wellington Sakai Association, please contact: **Jim Barnes**, President, Wellington Sakai Association, PO Box 7215, Newtown, Wellington 6242



Japanese Potter, Masahiro Wadayama, 2009 Wellington Artist-in-Residence recipient from Sakai.

Japan Festival of Wellington

The Japan Festival of Wellington, Wellington’s largest Japanese cultural event in five years, was held in the Wellington Town Hall during 6-11 July 2009 and was organized by the Embassy of Japan, Wellington City Council and Asia New Zealand Foundation, in association with the Japan Foundation, and sponsored by the Commemorative Organisation for the Japan World Exposition 70 fund. This festival celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Wellington-Sakai sister city relationship, as well as the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Japan Society of Wellington. The festival showcased a diverse range of Japanese culture, from traditional to modern.

As a part of the festival, the Embassy presented two music concerts of the “Music Fair of Japan 2009: A Night of Japanese Harmony” which

were performed by top Japanese musicians, and also presented street dance/hip hop performances and musical puppetry performances.

Members of the Japanese community in Wellington worked together with other Wellingtonians to make New Zealand’s longest sushi roll of 50 metres.

Other events of the festival included a public speaking contest, Friend to Friend Exhibition, Clown LOTO!!, Taiko drumming, martial arts demonstration, calligraphy, tea ceremony, fashion show, marimba concert, and lots of Japanese foods and crafts.

The next Japan Festival of Wellington is to be held on 5 September 2010.



The Natural High Dance Team from Sydney’s Dancekool studio. (Photo courtesy of Mr Masanori Udagawa)



Japanese musical puppetry performance by Dalmamori and Eriko. (Photo courtesy of Mr Masanori Udagawa)



Haere Mai Taiko drum team from Auckland. (Photo courtesy of Mr Masanori Udagawa)



Mayor Kerry Prendergast and Ms Masae Ito (Sangatsukai President) join the 50m long sushi roll.



“Music Fair of Japan 2009 – A Night of Japanese Harmony”. (From left) Ms Ayako Ishikawa (violin), Mr Susumu Aoyagi (piano), Ms Takako Hagiwara (flute), Ms Lisa Kataoka (Koto) and Mr Hiroshi Ikematsu (Contrabass).

50th Anniversary of the Japan Society of Wellington, New Zealand

by Mrs Melda Townsley, President of the Japan Society of Wellington

A celebration dinner on 15 June 2009 marked the official 50th anniversary of the Society. Past presidents, life members, distinguished guests and members shared a festive meal.

On 11 July, the first Japan Festival of Wellington drew about 2000 people to the Town Hall and to the Michael Fowler Centre.

Troupe. This was a delightful performance by entertaining dancers. At supper, members of the Kirakuza mingled with the audience over supper and exchanged gifts.

After more than 60 years, the name Tokyo Lane was restored to Wellington. It is said that the original lane, which ran between Lambton Quay and The Terrace, was changed

University or up to the Botanic Gardens pass the spot and can see the street sign.

The Society is indebted to the Japanese Embassy for support and assistance especially during this 50th year. The Society's golden anniversary year revived many memories and opened a bright path of cooperation into the next 50 years.



(From left) Mr Alf Levick, Mr Dean Rabbitt, Mrs Melda Townsley, Mr Rex Nicholls, Mayor Kerry Prendergast, Mrs Kaori Takahashi, Mrs Akiko Omundsen, Ambassador Toshihiro Takahashi, Ms Sue Lytollis, Ms Nola Sinclair and Mr Bernard Feehan.

A feature of the day was the Friend to Friend Public Speaking Contest held in the Ilott Theatre. Students learning Japanese spoke in Japanese about a place or event in the Wellington area while students learning English spoke in English about a place or event in Japan. The judges were: Mrs Akiko Omundsen and Mr Gregory De Costa (Japanese), and Ms Barbara Laurenson and Mrs Melda Townsley (English). Nearly 20 students in all took part and all received a certificate of participation. The winning speakers in both sections received airfares to Auckland to attend the Taste Japan Festival later in the year and other prize winners received art works from noted Wellington artists. The winner of the Japanese speaking section was Matt Barnacott who spoke on the Karori Sanctuary and the winner of the English speaking section was Miho Ishimari who spoke on Hokkaido.

In early October, the Society hosted an evening of Japanese Traditional Comical Performances by Kirakuza – Easygoing

from York Lane to Tokio Lane on 8th May 1924, to honour the visit of the Japanese Naval Training Squadron that came to New Zealand to express appreciation of the Japanese people for the assistance given by New Zealand in 1924 after the 1923 Tokyo earthquake. However, in 1942, at the start of World War II, Tokio Lane was renamed Farmers Lane when the Japanese homage was deemed inappropriate.

On 25 November 2009, on a brisk Wellington day, Mayor Kerry Prendergast and Japanese Ambassador to New Zealand, H.E. Mr Toshihiro Takahashi officially opened Tokyo Lane. A commemorative bronze plaque marking the peaceful links between Wellington and Japan was presented to the mayor by the president of the Japan Society, Mrs Melda Townsley. This will be embedded at the junction of Bolton Street and Tokyo Lane. The new Tokyo Lane is a pleasant, leafy walkway running alongside the Motorway from Bolton Street to the Cable Car at Clifton Terrace. Visitors travelling to Victoria



Ambassador Takahashi and Mayor Prendergast open Tokyo Lane on 25 November 2009.

(To see an aerial photograph of the location, see <http://www.newswire.co.nz/2009/08/tokyo-back/>)

Programmes Coordinated through the Japan Information and Cultural Centre, Embassy of Japan

The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme

The JET Programme was established by the Japanese Government in 1987 to promote internationalisation at the local level and New Zealand was one of the four original countries invited to participate. In 2009, the Programme included 4,436 participants from 36 countries, including 194 from New Zealand in locations throughout Japan. Since 1987, over 2,400 New Zealanders have participated on the JET Programme.

Most participants are selected as Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs), mainly at public schools. Others join the JET Programme as Coordinators (CIRs) for International Relations or Sports Exchange Advisors (SEA).

Applications for ALT and CIR

The basic criteria for applying to join the JET Programme as an ALT or CIR are that candidates must be New Zealand citizens and (in principle) be under the age of 40 years. A bachelor's degree (in any field), or a teaching diploma gained after 3 years study, are the minimum educational requirements.

This year, there will also be a departure group from New Zealand and Australia leaving in April to participate in the 2010 JET Programme. Nine participants will depart from New Zealand. The other participants will depart in early August.

For more information about the JET Programme, see: http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/culture_education/JET.html

Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarships

The Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture (Monbukagakusho) of the Government of Japan offers scholarships to foreign students who wish to study at Japanese universities.

New Zealand citizens:

- Research (Graduate) Student
- Japanese Studies Student
- Undergraduate Student

Samoan citizens:

- Research (Graduate) Student
- Professional Training College Student (Senshu-Gakko Student)
- Teacher Training Student

For more information about Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarships, see: http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/culture_education/scholarships.html

JENESYS PROGRAMMES (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths)

In January 2007 at the Second East Asia Summit (EAS), Mr Shinzo Abe, then Prime Minister of Japan announced a plan to implement a 35-billion youth exchange programme, inviting about 6,000 young people to Japan mainly from the EAS member states every year for the next five years. Based on this plan, the Government of Japan has launched the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS). This programme aims to deepen understanding of the different faces of the Japanese society including politics, diplomacy, economics and cultures and to form the basis of future vision and construct firm solidarity among Asian countries which will promote mutual understanding of the future generation of the East Asia.

JENESYS offers the following programmes:

- East Asia Future Leader Programme
- Japanese-Language Programme for University Students
- Invitation Programme for Creators
- Special Invitation Programme for Japanese-Language Teachers
- Special Invitation Programme for Graduate Students
- Training Programme for Students Studying Japanese
- Invitation Programme for Future Business Counterparts
- High School Exchange Programme by AFS Intercultural Programmes

For more information about JENESYS Programmes, see: http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/culture_education/jenesys.html

Japanese-Language Programme for University Students

by Ms Lauren Williams
(Auckland University of Technology)

The Japan Foundation JENESYS Summer Programme was the trip of a lifetime.

I really enjoyed every aspect of this programme, and would definitely recommend it to anyone who is studying Japanese. I have learnt a lot from my experiences in Japan, and will continue to develop



the skills I have learnt from this programme. I have met some great people, from all different walks of life; from the other participants in the programme, to the members of the community and the very helpful and supportive teachers who have great understanding of individual needs. I believe this is a unique stepping stone towards my future, and I am very grateful for the chance to have taken part in this programme.

Japan Foundation Programmes

The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 as a special legal entity to undertake international cultural exchange and subsequently became an independent administrative institution in October 2003.

The Foundation consists of a head office in Tokyo, a branch office in Kyoto and two Japanese-language institutes (Urawa and Kansai). Overseas there are 22 Foundation offices in 20 countries. The closest office to New Zealand is in Sydney, Australia.

The purpose of the Japan Foundation is: to contribute to a better international environment, and to the maintenance and development of harmonious foreign relationships with Japan, through deepening other nations understanding of Japan, promoting better mutual understanding among nations, encouraging friendship and goodwill among the peoples of the world, and contributing to the world in culture and other fields through the efficient and comprehensive implementation of international cultural exchange activities.

The Japan Foundation carries out its programs and activities in the following three major categories: 1) Arts and Cultural Exchange

2) Japanese-Language Education Overseas

3) Japanese Studies Overseas and Intellectual Exchange

For more information about Japan Foundation Programmes, see: http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/culture_education/foundation.htm
<http://www.jpf.go.jp/e/index.html>

Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

From 2010, the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) will have five levels (N1, N2, N3, N4, and N5). N3 is the newly established level and is considered to be between level 2 and level 3 of the old test.

This year, tests will be held in Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch on Sunday 4 July for N1, N2 and N3, and Sunday 5 December for all five levels.

For more information about the Japanese Language Proficiency test, see:

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

For application forms or further information, contact one of our offices:

The Japan Information and Cultural Centre, Embassy of Japan in Wellington: japan18@ej.org.nz

The Consulate-General of Japan in Auckland: info-cul@cgj.org.nz

The Consular Office of Japan in Christchurch: cultural.info.sec@jpncon.org.nz

School Visits

The Japan Information and Cultural Centre holds several school visits throughout the year. Introductory presentations to learn about Japan and its culture through entertaining activities are coordinated by staff at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre. Presentations often include activities such as Japan related quizzes, Karuta games, Kendama competitions, trying on festival wear and summer kimono (yukata), watching episodes of Japan video topics and J-pop video clips and calligraphy demonstrations. We also visit schools to introduce Japan and its culture to the students.

For more information about school visits, see:

http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/culture_education/archive.htm#schoolvisit



10 students and a teacher from the Feilding High School Japanese class visited our Information and Cultural Centre on 14 May 2009. The school visits us annually to participate in the activities we offer to learn about Japan and Japanese culture. The students and teacher enjoyed their school visit.

JETAA Japanese Language Lessons

Since 2008, Wellington Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association (JETAA) has organised Japanese Language Lessons with a Japanese teacher at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre. In the first year, there was just one level, however, due to the popularity and demand for the classes, both intermediate and advanced level classes were held in 2009.

There were 14 classes for each level, and the lessons were held from June to November. Each class was held for 1.5 hours, from 6-7.30pm. Classes were open to JETAA members, and Wellington community members who also wanted to continue their study of Japanese. The levels of the classes were aimed at students around level 3 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) for the intermediate classes, and level 2-1 for the advanced classes.

Classes are expected to continue in 2010

Japan Related Events

Recent Events



Japanese Film Festival (1-5 March 2010)

A five-day Japanese Film Festival was held by the Embassy of Japan, in association with the Japan Foundation and the Wellington JET Alumni Association at New Zealand Film Archive and Reading Cinema Courtney. The movies screened were: "The Glorious Team Batista", "My Neighbors the Yamadas", "Tokyo Tower - Mum & Me, and Sometimes Dad", "Summer Days with Coo", and "Memories of Tomorrow".



Quiz Night (24 March 2010)

The Wellington JET Alumni Association held a quiz night at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre on 24 March with a Japan and New Zealand related theme. Attendance was open to the general public.



Japanese Cultural Workshop (26 March 2010)

A Japanese calligraphy workshop by Akiko Crowther, a Grand Master of Japanese Calligraphy in Nelson, was held at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre. There were two workshops, one open to high school students, and the other open to the general public.



Monthly Japanese Movie Screening (6 & 8 April 2010)

The Japan Information and Cultural Centre hold monthly movies at its centre. Movies are free of charge and are usually held on the last Tuesday and Thursday of each month. The April movie was "Kikujiro", directed by Takeshi Kitano.

Upcoming Events



Japanese Photo Exhibition (21-30 April 2010)

A Japanese photo exhibition, "Gazing at the Contemporary World: Japanese Photography from the 1970s to the Present", sponsored by the Japan Foundation, will be held on 21-30 April at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre.

Japanese Speech Contest (14 May 2010)

The Japanese Language Teachers Association will hold a Japanese Speech Contest at Wellington College on 14 May. The speech competition is open to high school, and university students in Wellington.

For more details, contact Mr Shinichi Muroya, Wellington College, at: s.muroya@wellington-college.school.nz

Japanese Cultural Workshops

Over the next few months, various Japanese cultural workshops will be held at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre.

Details to be confirmed at a later date. • Wagashi-Japanese Sweets - May 2010 • Japanese Pottery – June 2010

Monthly Japanese Movie Screenings

Upcoming movies to be screened free of charge at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre:



The Guardian of the Universe, Gamera 6.00pm, 25 & 27 May 2010



Gray Sunset 6.00pm, 24 & 29 June 2010



Tombstone for Fireflies 6.00pm, 27 & 29 July 2010

Consulate-General of Japan
Level 12, ASB Bank Centre
135 Albert Street
PO Box 3959, Auckland 1140
Tel: (09) 303 4106
Fax: (09) 377 7784
Email: pr@cgj.org.nz

Japan Information & Cultural Centre
Level 18, The Majestic Centre
100 Willis Street
PO Box 6340, Marion Square, Wellington 6141
Tel: (04) 472 7807
Fax: (04) 472 3416
Email: japan.cul@eoj.org.nz
Website: <http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/>

Consular Office of Japan
5th Floor Forsyth Barr House
764 Colombo Street
PO Box 13748, Christchurch 8141
Tel: (03) 366 5680
Fax: (03) 365 3173
Email: cojhc@jpncon.org.nz