

**SPEECH OF CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES MR. KAZUHIRO NAKAI  
FOR THE OPENING OF  
THE JAPANESE FOUNDATION TRAVELLING EXHIBITION**

**“Struggling Cities: from Japanese Urban Projects in the 1960s”**

Friday 6 July 2018 at 7:00pm  
The Atrium, Faculty of Architecture and Design, Victoria University of  
Wellington, 139 Vivian Street

H.E. Ambassadors and High Commissioners,  
Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Mike Wilson  
Dean of Architecture and Design Faculty Office, Professor Marc Aurel  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kia Ora Kotou, good evening.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all this evening for the opening of the Japan Foundation’s Travelling Exhibition, *Struggling Cities: from Japanese Urban Projects in the 1960s*. We had the good fortune to be able to cooperate with Victoria University of Wellington and hold the exhibition here in The Atrium, of the Faculty of Architecture and Design. We are very grateful for the assistance and provision of exhibition space, and especially to the staff of the Faculty of Architecture and Design for their dedication and hard work in ensuring the Exhibition could be held here. I’m sure you will all agree with me when I say what a fine job they have done with the space.

This “Traveling Exhibition” is part of a program run by the Japan Foundation to introduce Japanese culture to people worldwide. As the name suggests, this exhibition, among many others like it, travels around the world visiting art galleries,

museums and cultural facilities across the globe. The Japan Foundation has about 20 traveling exhibitions constantly on the move, treating people from all parts of the world to a little piece of Japan. We are fortunate to have this one visit us here in Wellington before moving on to Auckland, Christchurch and then going overseas once more.

As New Zealand and particularly Wellington is predicted to have a period of rapid growth in the years ahead, it is a perfect time to consider Japan's history when faced by a similar situation. *Struggling Cities* is a great opportunity for those who are interested in the future of this beautiful city. With an already flourishing bilateral relationship, similar geographical features, and of course, both being prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, Japan and New Zealand could learn and share a lot when it comes to architecture, buildings and city planning. I hope that this could be a chance to increase the ties between the people of Japan and New Zealand.

Looking at what is on display, you may find ideas or inspiration, you may find yourself learning from the unsuccessful ideas of the past, you may even find now, years on from the time of these *Struggling Cities*, we have the technology and abilities to make some of those unsuccessful designs become reality. Whatever you may find, I hope that this exhibition may be of interest to everyone here tonight and who will visit in the upcoming weeks, and of relevance to those who will take part in the designing and building of future Wellington, and indeed, other cities within New Zealand and abroad.

I hope that this chance to see the Japan Foundation's Travelling Exhibition is something that everyone may enjoy, but especially one that can be of use to people whose studies or careers are related to city planning and architecture. Some of you may know that this particular exhibition has worked out to time perfectly with the 35th Annual conference of the Society of Architectural Historians, Australia and New Zealand (SAHANZ), also being held here. There is no better place to be for enthusiasts of architecture and city planning!

In closing, I would like to once again express my sincere gratitude to Victoria University of Wellington for the hospitality and cooperation shown to us throughout the process of organizing *Struggling Cities*. Thank you to Mr. Tane Moleta, Mr. Mark Shaw and Ms Jess Mackenzie of the Faculty of Architecture and Design, and to everyone involved in the instalment and organisation of this exhibition. We could not have held this exhibition in a better place than this institution which is nurturing the young architects and city planners of tomorrow. I hope many people will come and find out more about the history of the design and architecture of Japan's renowned urban spaces, and simply find the time to enjoy looking at what we have here on display.

Thank you.