



PALM 2006 in Okinawa



Pacific Island Forum Leaders and former Prime Minister Koizumi pose for a group photo at the PALM 2006 Summit Meeting, Okinawa, May 2006. (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

The Fourth Japan – Pacific Island Forum Summit Meeting (PALM 2006) was held in Nago City, Okinawa on 26-27 May 2006. Leaders from the 14 Pacific Island Forum (PIF) countries and regions* attended the meeting as well as the Ministers of Foreign Affairs from Australia and New Zealand. The Summit was co-chaired by former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and the Chairman of the Pacific Islands Forum, Prime Minister Somare of Papua New Guinea.

Japan's initiative in establishing the PALM summits has been very well received by PIF members. It is seen as contributing to the sustainable development of the Pacific region. PALM 2006 built on the work of the three previous summit meetings in 1997, 2000 and 2003, in particular the Okinawa Initiative adopted at PALM 2003. The Okinawa Initiative includes a joint action plan to tackle issues of common concern to the regions involved, based on Japan's cooperation (partnership) and PIF members' efforts to help themselves (ownership). It focused on five main areas: security, environment, education, better health and economic growth.

The Pacific Plan, adopted at the PIF Forum Leaders' meeting in PNG in October 2005, was also a key factor at PALM 2006. It outlines a framework of self-help efforts and regional cooperation in tackling four challenges within the region: economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security. The strategic objectives of the Pacific Plan are consistent with the principles and priority targets of the Okinawa Initiative.

The main outcome of PALM 2006 was the new Okinawa Partnership between Japan and PIF members. Former Prime Minister Koizumi complimented PIF Members on adopting the Pacific Plan and expressed Japan's readiness to assist them implement regional initiatives at a national level. Under the Assistance Plan, Japan aims to provide up to 45 billion yen (about \$630 million) over three years through bilateral and multilateral assistance schemes, most as grants. Priority areas are set out in the PALM 2006 Leaders' Declaration, as follows:

Changes at the Embassy

- The main reception of the Embassy (Level 18) closed on 6 November and is scheduled to re-open on Thursday, 4 January 2007.
- The Japan Information and Cultural Centre and the Consular Office will move from the Mezzanine Floor of the Majestic Centre to the Embassy's Chancellery on Level 18 in late December 2006. Telephone, fax and email details will stay the same.
- Consular services will operate as usual. The Consular Office will be located on the Mezzanine Floor until 28 December and will then be situated on Level 18.
- The Centre's library closed on 1 November and the Centre's other services will close from Friday, 12 December. The Centre will re-open around the beginning of February 2007.
- From 6 November, would all visitors to the Embassy please go to reception at the Information and Cultural Centre on the Mezzanine Floor.
- Then, from 11 December, would all visitors please go to reception at the Consular Office on the Mezzanine Floor.
- Opening dates will be posted on the Embassy of Japan website, www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp
- We are sorry for any inconvenience and look forward to seeing you at our new offices next year.

Continued from page 1

- a) Economic growth: cooperation in such areas as trade, investment, infrastructure, fisheries and tourism.
- b) Sustainable development: cooperation in such areas as environment, health, water and sanitation, education and vocational training.
- c) Good governance: cooperation in such areas as administrative capacity building and institutional capacity building.
- d) Security: cooperation in such areas as disaster mitigation and management, and measures against organized crime.
- e) People-to-people communication and exchange: enhancement of exchange of personnel and cultural exchange.

Japan, New Zealand and Australia issued a joint statement on enhanced donor cooperation at the summit meeting. New Zealand Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters said in his press statement, "Japan's generous new commitments to the developing Pacific Islands are very welcome. We have also been impressed by Japan's desire to work closely with us and other major donors to coordinate our efforts in the region's interest."

For more detailed information about the PALM 2006 leadership declaration, assistance plan and joint statement on enhanced donor cooperation, please see:

www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/spf/palm2006/index.html

* The Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Niue and the Cook Islands.

Four Aid Projects Completed In Samoa

Samoa NGOs benefit from the Japanese Government Grassroots Human Security Grant Aid Programme.

The Government of Japan held the official handing-over ceremonies in Samoa for the following projects:

- (a) The grant of A\$121,268 (245,000 Samoan tala) to the school committee of Patamea Primary School for "The Project for Rebuilding of Patamea Primary School" on 14 July. The project was sought by the school committee of Patamea Primary School in October 2001.
- (b) The grant of A\$120,574 (244,000 Samoan tala) to the school committee of Satupaitea Primary School for "The Project for Reconstruction of Satupaitea Primary School" on 25 August 2006. The project was sought by the school committee of Satupaitea Primary School in October 2004.



Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi speaking at the handing-over ceremony at Patamea Primary School on 14 July 2006.

- (c) The grant of A\$120,921 (245,000 Samoan tala) to the school committee of Falelatai Primary School for "The Project for Reconstruction of Falelatai Primary School" on 24 August 2006. The project was sought by the school committee of Falelatai Primary School in March 2003.

The Government of Samoa has undertaken to improve education facilities as part of its key strategic outcome "Education Development", as contained in the "Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2005-2007". The completion of these three projects also contributes to the national development framework.

The Government of Japan also held the official handing-over ceremony for the grant of A\$121,488 (240,000 Samoan tala) to the development committee of Laumua O Punaoa Polytechnic for "The Project for Construction of a New Classroom Block for Laumua O Punaoa Polytechnic" on 24 August 2006. The project was sought by the development committee of Laumua O Punaoa Polytechnic in August 2003.

One of the priorities of the Government of Samoa is, as shown in the Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2005-2007, to strengthen the private sector and it aims to increase investment in order to create employment opportunities. In this context, this project not only supports vocational training education in Samoa, but also contributes to the flourishing of skilled human resources which are vital elements in the growth of the Samoa economy in the future.

In May this year, Japan hosted the 4th Japan-Pacific Islands Forum Summit meeting in Okinawa, Japan. During this summit meeting Japan stressed through the Leaders' Declaration, "The Okinawa Partnership for a more robust and prosperous Pacific Region", Japan's initiatives of cooperating with members of the Pacific Islands Forum to further enhance the development of these countries. These projects contribute to achieving one of the most important goals of the Declaration, namely "sustainable development".

The Government of Japan hopes that these projects will provide a significant basis for the better education of all students and that the already close friendship between Samoa and Japan will be further strengthened.

Chairman of AFPPD Attends Wellington Conference



Mr Yasuo Fukuda, MP (Japan) and Chairman of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), visited Wellington from 10-12 June 2006 to attend the 4th Asian Women Ministers' and Parliamentarians' Conference. Mr Fukuda paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Helen Clark during his stay in Wellington.

AFPPD website: www.afppd.org



Hokkaido: Powder Snow Paradise

From November until April, freezing Siberian winds bring huge quantities of powder snow to Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, making it one of the best ski and snowboarding regions in Japan.

Niseko, about three hours drive from Sapporo, is the place to be if you are keen on winter sports. Niseko's five resorts are close together on Mt Annupuri. Ski-lifts from the resorts connect just below the peak, making it easy to move from one to another. (Make sure you have the multiple lift ticket, the Niseko Free Passport!)



Snowboarding in Hokkaido, Japan

In recent years, the area has attracted more and more tourists from Australasia, who choose to leave summer sun and beaches behind and go skiing or snowboarding in Japan. Young snowboarders used to be the main visitors, but families are now starting to go to Japan during the Christmas holidays. Japanese travel agencies and tourism operators are making every effort to welcome them and make their stay more comfortable and enjoyable. They try to provide transfers between the airport, accommodation and ski resorts, and organize ski schools to meet increasing demand. More apartment-style accommodation is now available. Rusutsu, Kiroro, Furano and Sahoro are some of the other popular resorts in Hokkaido and all of them, including Niseko, are improving infrastructure and services to try to equal standards in Whistler and Aspen in America.

Some advantages for New Zealanders are that it is cheaper for them to go to Japanese ski resorts than to those in America or Europe, and the time difference is not so great. The snow is very high quality and there is also delicious Japanese food and the opportunity to try out hot spring facilities (onsen). The outdoor baths in the Niseko area have mountain views and are particularly popular.

The Japan National Tourist Organization (JNTO) does not have an office in New Zealand, but please look at the website of their Sydney office. It has information about ski and snowboard locations in

Hokkaido, as well as contact details for tour operators. You can arrange your own individualized package tour or join a group tour.

A highlight of the winter season is the annual 'Big Air' event, which is held in Sapporo in late January or early February. This international snowboarding/straight-jumping competition attracts the world's top snowboarders who perform the latest acrobatic air techniques.

If you want a break from skiing and snowboarding, you might like to go and see the giant ice sculptures at the Sapporo Snow Festival. It runs for seven days in February and is one of Japan's biggest festivals. Every winter, about two million people come to see the hundreds of beautiful snow statues and ice-sculptures in Odori Park, Satoland and Susukino.

Do come and join us. Yokoso Japan!

JNTO Sydney: www.jnto.go.jp/syd/index.html,
Email: jntosyd@tokyonet.com.au



Snow sculptures at the Sapporo Snow Festival

International Youth Development Exchange Programme

New Zealand was one of 12 countries invited to send youth representatives to Japan to take part in the International Youth Development Exchange Programme for 2006. The programme is run by the Cabinet Office of Japan and aims to promote friendship and understanding between young people in Japan and young people in other countries. Guanting Liu reports on her experience.

From big-city lights to small-town friendliness, eight lucky New Zealanders experienced two opposite aspects of Japan on the International Youth Development Programme. The exchange programme, organised by the Japanese Cabinet Office, lasted from 5th July to 26th July.

The first two weeks of the programme were held in Tokyo. The main event being the International Youth Development Conference, where we split into different workshops and discussed current issues with youth from twelve other countries, including Japan. The topics for discussion were: Education, Environment, Corporate Social Contributions, Information, Traditional Culture and Volunteerism.

As well as this, we visited tourist attractions such as Asakusa Temple and the Tokyo Edo Museum. We also visited different institutions and elementary schools where everyone received us with great warmth. Of course, we also had plenty of free time to ourselves when we could take full advantage of the great shopping available in Tokyo!

After two weeks in Tokyo, which was overwhelmingly crowded and lively, it was a surreal experience arriving at our next destination: Tottori. Tottori is the smallest prefecture in Japan. It reminded us Kiwis of New Zealand, with lush green mountains and friendly locals.

We visited Tottori with delegates from two other countries: Cambodia and Jordan. It was fantastic visiting the Tottori Great Sand-dunes with them. The sand dunes were breathtakingly beautiful, but we were even more appreciative of it when we heard that for many of the other delegates, it was the first time feeling sand between their toes.

The local youth in Tottori were incredibly friendly. We never spent a single night alone. We were taken out to local restaurants and karaoke, and



The New Zealand delegation: (From left) Theresa Radley (Napier), Samara Sutherland (Whangarei), Shilinka Smith (delegation leader), Ahmed Osman (Wellington), Sean Tangiti (south Auckland), Andrew Perenara (Manakau), Guanting Liu (Auckland) and Kevin Duncan (Auckland). The doll was floated down the river in a traditional ceremony. It symbolises bad luck or worries that will float away.

BBQs at the beach. We were particularly grateful because we knew that they were giving up precious study time to be with us during what was a busy period for students in Japan.

The exchange was a fantastic experience. We learnt so much about Japan and the Japanese people, and I cannot wait to return to Japan one day in the future.

Fun And Games at Role Play Day



Andrew Goddard from Onslow College plays Musashi Miyamoto

Contributed by Ms Jo Hawes who teaches Japanese at Upper Hutt College.

This year's Wellington Japanese Role Play Day was held on Friday, 18 August, at Upper Hutt College. The event, sponsored by the Japan Foundation and the Japan Information and Culture Centre, is held annually with Year 10 and 12 students from around the region entering teams of up to five members.

The day is designed to encourage students to put to use the language they have learnt in creative and fun ways in order to maximise enjoyment for both the participants and the audience and to help students to find motivation for their own language learning. Participating in a team is viewed as less threatening than entering a speech contest by students and this is one of the reasons the day enjoys such wide support.

This year's themes included a play about Musashi Miyamoto, another

about an evil sushi shop owner after his customer's soul, and a solo stand-up puppet comedy performance, to name a few.

Kayamoto-sensei, National Language Advisor, and Hidemi Fuke of Queen Margaret College provided students with words of encouragement as well as constructive comments.

A new addition to this year's event was a workshop run by Harumi Hasegawa of Onslow College, where students from different schools joined forces to convey the meaning of famous Japanese proverbs to the audience through role-play. The students really enjoyed this and there were some highly entertaining performances.

To finish, I would like to share a joke I particularly liked from the comedy solo involving a play on the word **hen**: "aruiteiru niwatori o mita hito wa nan toiimashita ka...hen desune!"



Roberta Davis from Queen Margaret during her puppet comedy performance.

Short-term Language Training Programme

Michelle Dalley, from Kaikorai Valley College in Dunedin, attended the 'Short-Term Training Programme for Foreign Teachers of the Japanese Language' at the Japan Foundation's Japanese-Language Institute in Urawa, Saitama Prefecture, from 10 May to 29 June 2006. The programme is designed to provide teachers of the Japanese language with an opportunity to improve their Japanese-language skills and teaching methods, and to deepen their knowledge of Japan. These are Michelle's comments on the programme.

May 10, 2006 was the day my seven week Japanese adventure began. I had been chosen as one of two New Zealanders to attend The Japanese Foundation's Spring course for teachers of Japanese. I arrived at Narita, Tokyo Airport with a suitcase full of gifts and lots of summer clothes (it was Japan's spring and I had just come from the start of a Dunedin winter), ready to spend my seven weeks improving my language skills, learning more about Japanese customs, making new friends, seeing more of Japan and having a good time. And looking back now that's exactly what I did!



Michelle tries on a traditional Japanese kimono with Sri Lankan participant Sandamali.

After two hours on the ON-Liner bus I was met at Omiya station by Andoo-san and the Japan Foundation bus. Andoo-san and I travelled the 15 minutes to the Institute in Kita Urawa, Saitama prefecture, my home for the next seven weeks. During that day 38 other people arrived from 15 countries around the world (including parts of Asia, Oceania, North America, South America, Africa and Russia.)

The institute was cosy. I had my own room with television, video, CD player, cupboards, drawers, bed and bathroom. It was 'Japanese sized' but very comfortable. Every week someone came in to clean and change the towels and sheets. No housework for me for seven weeks!

On the first (ground) floor of the institute was the cafeteria. We were given a swipe card to pay for our three daily meals (this was topped up weekly) and just had to show up at the allocated times to be served our very substantial meals. No cooking or doing dishes for seven weeks! The food was good – lots of international dishes and Japanese style food as well. Even the odd steak to keep the meat eaters happy. We were given an allowance to eat meals out during the weekend when the cafeteria was closed.

Classrooms were on the 2nd and 3rd floor of the institutes. We attended classes Monday to Friday from 9.30 to 3.30. The institute had a cooking room, laundry rooms, recreation room with Karaoke and ping pong, as well as a tennis court, a volleyball court and beautiful gardens to spend time in. On the ground floor the 'baiten' sold snack food, omiyage, teaching materials and stamps.

There were also computer suites, one of which had 24 hour access, and a library.

The institute is about a 10-minute walk from Kitaurawa station. Around the station there are restaurants and shops including two very good 100 yen shops and a supermarket. Also within walking distance there is a department store (with a supermarket), a video rental shop and a sports gym (you can get a free pass once a week from the Institute's reception) and a park.

The course itself is broken into three parts: Japanese language, teaching methodology and Japanese culture. During the first few days at the institute one whole day is spent sitting placement tests. The results from these tests are used to place you in a Japanese language class of teachers whose Japanese language needs are similar to yours. During language classes there are many opportunities to better your speaking with group work and presentations, as well as a lot of grammar work.

Teaching methodology is quite beneficial as you have the opportunity to see how Japanese is taught in other countries. Part of this class involves finding and preparing resources that you can use in your own classes back home.

Cultural classes were very interesting. We looked at topics such as food, music, transport, leisure and school life, as well as Kabuki theatre, the tea ceremony, traditional dress, sumo and ikebana.

We went on many excursions, including a day of sightseeing around Tokyo (Tokyo tower, Asakusa, Tokyo Edo Museum) and another day sightseeing around Saitama prefecture (papermaking, white-river boating). We spent time at a sumo tournament and at Kabuki theatre, as well as having a weekend with a host family and doing a four-day trip around the Kansai region at the end of the seven weeks of study.

My seven weeks in Japan were fabulous: I had a wonderful time; I made new friends from all around the world; my Japanese language skills have improved; I have learnt so much more Japanese culture and I have had some awesome experiences (sumo, kitsuke demonstration). My thanks to ILANZ and the Japanese Foundation for an amazing experience.



Sightseeing at Asakusa, Tokyo, with Kylie Swan from Australia, Michelle (left)

Fukuoka Day – 20th Anniversary Celebrations, Saturday, 20 May 2006



Auckland's Haere Mai taiko drummers perform at the Auckland Town Hall on Saturday, 20 May 2006.



Demonstration by the Kimono Koryu Kyokai: the lady in the centre is wearing a traditional 12-layer kimono.



The Asian Ensemble from Fukuoka performs at the Auckland Town Hall.

By Mr Stephen Duxfield, President, NZ Japan Society of Auckland

Fukuoka Day was presented by Auckland City, with help from the New Zealand Japan Exchange Programme, the New Zealand Japan Society of Auckland Inc, the Japanese Society (Nihonjinkai) and the Consulate-General of Japan. Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Auckland City and Fukuoka City, a large delegation arrived from Japan. The Mayor of Fukuoka, his wife and other civic leaders made a flying visit and were welcomed by Mayor Dick Hubbard and other Auckland civic leaders.

The Auckland Town Hall, designed in the English Baroque style, is Auckland's premier concert venue. Performers and visitors alike were impressed by the magnificent pipe organ above the stage. Support from local artists and members of the Japanese community in Auckland made possible stage events, food stalls, martial arts, displays and shops. Over

100 volunteers, some from Fukuoka, were proud to be involved.

Off-stage, Hakata Doll painting was a highlight as people were shown how to paint their own dolls. The demand outstripped supply and many missed this opportunity. The Hakata Doll Master had demonstrated and taught in many countries, and he was impressed with Kiwi's appreciation of this particular art.

The Auckland - Fukuoka sister city agreement was formally signed in 1986 with a variety of trade, cultural, educational, tourism and sporting programmes now in place.

Auckland City Council:

www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/auckland/introduction/sister/fukuoka.asp

Mr Stephen Duxfield: Tel. 021-276-7687, www.auckland.nzjapan.net

New Zealand Japan Societies Conference in Auckland

By Mr Stephen Duxfield, President, NZ Japan Society of Auckland

The NZ Japan Society of Auckland hosted the 10th Biennial Conference of New Zealand Japan Societies on Friday, 19 May 2006, at the Auckland University of Technology. The conference provided an opportunity to report on activities and to promote new initiatives, and was attended by Consul-General Okabe.

Highlights of the conference included presentations by representatives from two NZ "sister city" organizations: Russell and Linda Duff, from the Dunedin-Otaru Sister City Society, and Hiromi Morris from the Wellington-Sakai Sister Cities Association. These associations have staged events at school, civic and community levels and in so doing have strengthened the relationships with their sister cities and built wider cross-cultural understanding between New Zealanders and Japanese.

The presentation by the National Japanese

Language Advisor, Dr Kayamoto, was another feature. Dr Kayamoto spoke about the Japanese language being an optional subject at secondary schools and how it has to compete with other subjects such as computer studies and music.

NZ Japan Society representatives from Whakatane, Taranaki, Mercury Bay (Whitianga), Wellington, Auckland and Tokyo reported on their societies' activities over the past two years, and discussed collaboration with both each other and with the sister city associations.

Over sixty percent of New Zealand's active Sister City relationships are with Japanese cities. Given that the sister city groups have similar 'bridge building' philosophies to the NZ Japan Societies, we anticipate working more closely with them in areas such as "sharing" visitors from Japan. Such collaboration should enhance both the value that New Zealand gains from these valuable visits, and the experience that we are able to offer the visitors in return.



(Photo from left to right) Jillian York (Tokyo - NZ Society of Japan); Russell and Linda Duff (Dunedin/Otaru Sister City Assn); Donald Reid (Whakatane); David and Hisae Lynch (Mercury Bay); Stephen Duxfield (Auckland); Paul Sisson (Wellington), Sue Lytollis (Wellington); Matthew Laurenson, (Auckland); Dr Kayamoto, (Japanese National language advisor - Wellington based); Hiromi Morris (Wellington Sakai City Association); Brian and Pam King (Taranaki); Bernard Feehan (Wellington / Auckland).

(Consul General Okabe (Consulate in Auckland); Kumiko Imai-Duxfield (Auckland); Miyuki Stonebridge (Auckland) and Keisuke Nishikawa (Auckland) also attended parts of the conference.)

Mr Stephen Duxfield, Tel. 021-276-7687; New Zealand Japan Societies, www.nzjapan.net

Please also refer to the Embassy website: www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/culture_education/relatedorgs.html

Sister Cities New Zealand Holds Annual Conference in Wellington

By Mr Brian Cross, Executive Officer, Sister Cities NZ

Members and supporters of the sister city movement from around New Zealand gathered in Wellington in May to attend their 25th anniversary annual conference. Delegates representing cities and districts from the Far North to Southland were joined by many friends from abroad, to be informed, inspired, challenged and entertained. 2006 is a particularly auspicious year for Sister Cities, being also the 50th anniversary of the founding of the international movement.

The conference theme, **Capitalising on the Gains**, was a very appropriate one for the occasion, set as it was in our capital city, and with a programme that reflected on the lasting benefits of New Zealand's numerous sister city-type links, while challenging participants to consider ways of delivering on their vast potential in the future.

In opening the conference, Prime Minister Helen Clark recalled a range of memorable visits she has made to New Zealand's international partner cities. Emphasising the social, cultural and economic links that Sister Cities build between international communities, Prime Minister Clark stressed their additional importance at national level, as "a key part of our vital web of contact worldwide". And in linking Sister Cities to domestic issues, she stated: "The values we adhere to in the Sister Cities programme are values we need to live by in our own diverse communities as we strive to build social cohesion and a strong sense of nationhood".

Highlights of the business programme were many and varied:

"Our Stories" included a description by Janie Storey of how Whakatane

works with Kamagaya, Chiba Prefecture – a wonderful example of grassroots community cooperation.

"Sister City Best Practice" included a lively presentation by students of Titahi Bay Intermediates School, still bubbling with enthusiasm after a recent trip to Nishio, Aichi Prefecture.

"Technical Cooperation at Community Level" included Rotorua's innovative projects with an economic emphasis – RuaNew Zealand at Nagareyama, Chiba Prefecture, and Rotorualand, Beppu, Oita Prefecture.

The conference closed with a moving speech by Mayor Tadatashi Akiba of Hiroshima city, an inspirational note on which to end three days of successful networking for all delegates."

The Southland District Council will host the next Sister Cities New Zealand Conference in Te Anau, 26-29 April 2007. The theme will be based on a Ngai Tahu proverb, "Mo tatou a mo nga uri a muri ake nei", which means "For all of us and for the generations that follow".

Sister Cities New Zealand, www.sistercities.org.nz

Southland District Council, Tel. (03) 225-8069, www.southlanddc.govt.nz

Contact: Ms Shirley Manson, Liaison Officer – Friendship Committee,

Email: shirley.manson@southlanddc.govt.nz



Ambassador Saito, Mrs Hiromi Morris (President of the Wellington Sakai Association), Mrs Ikehara and Mr Murata from Sakai, and Ms Saori Sampa from Wellington. (Photo: Neil Price, WCC)

New Jets Leave for Japan

More than 110 young New Zealanders joined the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme in 2006 (29 from Christchurch, 47 from Wellington and 38 from Auckland). Most are Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) and will spend 1-3 years at schools in cities, towns and villages throughout Japan. Six are Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs), a position that requires fluent Japanese, and they are based in local government offices. A Sports Exchange Advisor (SEA), who is a yachting coach at Miyako High School in Iwate Prefecture, was also part of the group. The JET participants left New Zealand in July and August.

Applications for the 2007 JET programme close on Friday, 8 December 2006. Please contact the Japan Information and Cultural Centre in Wellington, the Consulate-General in Auckland or the Consular Office in Christchurch for more information about the programme and for application forms. Applications can also be downloaded from the Embassy website www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/culture_education/index.htm.

H.E. Mr Masaki Saito (centre) with new Wellington region JETs. The Ambassador hosted a farewell reception for them at his Residence on Friday, 28 July 2006.



Consul Tomoo Hirakawa hosted a farewell reception for Christchurch JETs at the Holiday Inn on Friday, 4 August. Mr Hirakawa addressed the group, followed by JET interviewer Mr Geoffrey Price. Ms Paula Ede, a CIR, replied on behalf of the departing JETs.



The Auckland JETs attended a pre-departure orientation at the Kingsgate Parnell Hotel in Auckland on Saturday, 5 August. Consul-General Takamichi Okabe hosted a farewell reception at the hotel for the new JETs later that day.

Japanese Library In Christchurch

Contributed by Mr Takayoshi Kamiya, JP, Christchurch

There is a unique private library in Christchurch called the "Osamu Takeda Memorial Library", named after the late Mr Osamu Takeda.

Mr Takeda held a doctorate degree in history and worked as a history teacher at various high schools in Tokyo, Japan, for over 35 years. He loved New Zealand and its people, and in 1994, after his retirement, decided to immigrate here with his wife. They settled in Christchurch, of which they were particularly fond, and greatly enjoyed their new life there. Unfortunately Mr Takeda fell ill and passed away in 2001.

Mr. Takeda left behind many books which he used for his own teaching and research. It was his desire that these books be made available for public use. "Books have lives. I hope that these books that have been so central to my own life can be of use to both New Zealanders

and Japanese people living in New Zealand," he wrote in his will. In accordance with his wishes, Mrs Hiroko Takeda devoted two years preparing the books and used her personal funds to establish the library which was formally opened on 16 August 2003.

The library holds over 3,000 books. In addition to a large collection of books on Japanese history from ancient to modern times, there is a substantial holding of books on classical and contemporary Japanese literature, including several collections on modern Japanese literature. There are also many Japanese dictionaries, Japanese paperbacks, and English books on various aspects of Japan and Japanese culture.

"I hope this library is loved by many people and that it can contribute to cultural exchange and mutual understanding between the Japanese and New Zealand people," said Mrs Takeda. "This is what my husband, Osamu Takeda, who loved New Zealand very much, hoped for".



Ms Haruko Morita and Mrs Hiroko Takeda at the front desk of the Osamu Takeda Memorial Library

If you wish to become a member of the Osamu Takeda Memorial Library, please feel free to contact the library.

Suite 7 St. James Court, 77 Gloucester Street, Christchurch, Tel. (03) 652-5876, Email: otmlibrary@yahoo.co.jp, Website, <http://otmlnz.com>

New Zealand Haiku

The last poem in this series of New Zealand haiku. Comments by Dr Cyril Childs.

mending his fence ...'
the neighbour's mouth
full of nails

Patricia Prime

This is one of those moments, I suspect all of us know, when the design

of the human body proves just less than adequate and we could do with three hands rather than two. We make do by using our mouths – perhaps to hold pins while we set a hemline, a packet of seeds while we prepare the soil, a pen while we search in our briefcase... or the nails while we mend a fence. This carefully crafted haiku is deceptively simple, as are all good haiku. I find it reminiscent of a haiku by Kobayashi Issa: 'the man pulling radishes/points my way/with a radish'.

Patricia Prime lives in Auckland and is co-editor of the poetry journal Kokako. This haiku was published in the English haiku journal Presence in 2005.

Spring Breeze from Japan

The Embassy of Japan has organized a celebration of Japanese culture at the Embassy's Information and Cultural Centre from the beginning of August until the end of November 2006. This series of events, called a **Spring Breeze from Japan**, has introduced modern and traditional aspects of Japan and its culture to people in the Wellington region. In this Japan Bulletin, we will cover the events held in August.

Tsuriki – Thursday, 10 August – Wednesday, 23 August 2006

This exhibition showcased the work of graphic artist Mr Shinsuke Shiozawa. Mr Shiozawa, who was born in Shizuoka in 1938, was a graduate of the Musashino College of Art. He used his design skills in the advertising world and received awards for his creative work from a number of major newspapers, including Sankei and Nikkei. He is now Director-General of a studio, called Sealand, in Tokyo, which does a variety of design and creative work, including advertising and interior design. Mr Shiozawa has exhibited in many cities throughout the world, including Copenhagen and London.

His theme for the Tsuriki exhibition was "finding aesthetic emotion in nature and transient life". It reflects the literary and aesthetic ideal cultivated during the Heian period (794-1185) known as **mono-no-**



Mr and Mrs Shiozawa (right) and Mr Hamada at the opening reception on 9 August 2006.

Tsuriki continued from page 8

aware. At its core is a deep, empathetic appreciation of the ephemeral beauty manifest in nature and human life.

Mr Shiozawa selected images from two of his books: **The Rainbow in the Village of Kagero**, a fairy-tale about the wedding between a fox and young girl; and **Animals Casting a Shadow over Tokyo**. This is again in fairy-tale form and is about the many animals he associates with the history of this huge city. Some are mythical, like the kappa, others real, some are statues, while others look out from signboards, like the three quaint camels on the Toraya Confectioners' sign in Aoyama Avenue.

Mr Hidehiko Hamada, Minister at the Embassy, opened the exhibition on Wednesday, 9 August. Large artwork panels were the main feature, but the graphics were also used on cushions, tee-shirts and bags. The exhibition was very popular. The fantasy elements, as well as the clarity, charm and beautiful colours in Mr Shiozawa's work appealed to visitors of all ages

The winners of the survey competition were:

Jenny Mainwaring, Marsela Wiltshire, Tim Hansen and Ken Mercer

“Kimono and Seasons of Japan”

Kimono master Aiko Imaizumi and her colleagues arrived in Wellington on 23 August to demonstrate the subtleties of Japan's national costume. The three shows at the Information and Cultural Centre were at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, 24 and 25 August, and at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, 26 August 2006.

Many women and girls had replied to advertisements asking for volunteers to be dressed in kimonos for the shows and eight had been chosen for each session. Arriving about two hours before their particular show, each was transformed into a Japanese lady by the skilful hands of Imaizumi-sensei and her assistants, two of whom were trained in traditional hairstyling. Some were dressed in simple yukata, while others were tied, tugged and padded into the layers and accessories that make up a traditional kimono. Unmarried women wear kimonos with long sleeves while shorter sleeves are usual for married women. Different colours represent different seasons and there are kimonos for special occasions, such as Coming-of-Age. This was all explained during the demonstrations as the kimono-clad ladies paraded in front of their audience. Green tea and sweets were served at the end of the hour-long shows.

The sessions were well-attended and the audience included some men. The Japanese husband of Dominion Post reporter Rebecca Palmer came to take photos of his wife and found himself being dressed in a yukata – he was just the right size for the garment Imaizumi-sensai had brought from Japan!

The Japanese visitors also gave tea ceremony and kimono demonstrations to students at Queen Margaret College, Massey University and Victoria University. Three students were dressed in kimonos at each event and the shows were received with interest and enthusiasm.

Imaizumi-sensei has her own school in Ishioka-city, Ibaraki prefecture, where she has taught the arts of ikebana, chado (the tea ceremony) and the kimono for many years. She enjoys introducing people to Japan's culture and traditions and her visit to New Zealand is not the first time she has brought her knowledge and skills to another country. She has also given demonstrations in Nepal and Denmark.



World of Wearable Arts Origami Dress



This origami dress, made from 1,000 cranes, was on display in the window of the Information and Cultural Centre from 23 – 29 August 2006. Ms Rachael Galuszewski, who lives in Auckland, was a student at UNITEC when she created it for the children's section of the WOW Awards Show 2005. She was inspired by the story of a young girl, Sadako Sasaki, who lived in Hiroshima when the atomic bomb was dropped in 1945. An entry in the photo album that accompanied the dress explained Rachael's approach. It said:

"In this true story of hope, Sadako Sasaki gets leukemia, and her friend tells her that apparently, if you fold a thousand paper cranes, the gods will grant your wish – her wish was to get better and rid of the sickness. She folded 644 cranes in hospital before she died. Her friends then folded the remainder and buried the thousand with her.

"Sadako's courage and faith inspired her friends and students from across the world to raise money for a memorial to the children who were innocent victims of the atomic bomb. Every year thousands of people around the world fold paper cranes as an expression of hope for a world at peace.

"For most people the origin of the paper crane as a symbol of peace probably lies with the story of Sadako Sasaki. Born 1943. Died 1955. I thought it appropriate to create a symbol of peace and hope through a child's eyes."

This WOW Art Awards dress, which was on loan from Rachael, attracted a lot of interest from people attending the kimono shows.

Hiroshima city website: <http://www.city.hiroshima.jp/shimin/heiwa/crane.html>

World of Wearable Arts (WOW) website: www.worldofwearableart.com

Current Events

A Spring Breeze from Japan

- Exhibition of art calendars by a graphic artist from Japan, as well as artists from some other countries

A collection of light-hearted images, this exhibition is the last in the series of events making up a Spring Breeze from Japan. It is also a farewell to the offices of our Information and Cultural on the Mezzanine Floor and to the Year of the Dog (2006).

When: Friday, 24 November, to Friday, 30 November 2006

Where: Japan Information and Cultural Centre, Mezzanine Floor, Majestic Centre

Monthly Film Show

- **Tora-san takes a Vacation:** our last movie for this year. A short video will be shown before the feature film.

When: 6:00 p.m., on Tuesday, 28 November,
6:00 p.m., on Thursday, 30 November

Where: Japan Information and Cultural Centre, Mezzanine Floor, Majestic Centre

- **Please note that, next year, films will be screened at our new theatre on Level 18 of the Majestic Centre.**

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

Japan Information and Cultural Centre
Mezzanine Floor, The Majestic Centre
100 Willis Street, Wellington 1
Tel: (04) 472-7807
Fax: (04) 472-3416
Email: japan.cul@eoj.org.nz
Website: www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp

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