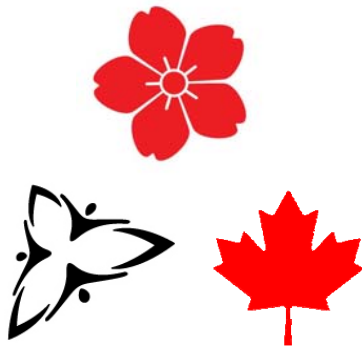




CONSUL-GENERAL OF JAPAN

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2016 Year-end Letter from the Consul-General of Japan in Toronto



Dear Friends:

As I welcome my third holiday season as Consul-General of Japan in Toronto, I am very pleased to recount some of 2016's highlights regarding the extremely positive relations enjoyed by Japan and Canada.



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau



Ms. Akie Abe with
Ms. Sophie Grégoire Trudeau

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on May 24, just prior to the G7 Summit in Ise-Shima, and the two leaders agreed to cooperate in such areas as security, advancing discussions on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change. Prime Minister Abe also noted that Japan wishes to support Japanese studies at Canadian universities in order to promote mutual understanding between the two countries, and Prime Minister Trudeau welcomed this support.

I would also like to add how gratifying it was to see Prime Minister Trudeau enjoying Japan with his wife on their wedding anniversary.



Minister for Foreign Affairs
Fumio Kishida with Minister of
Foreign Affairs Stéphane Dion



G7 Foreign Ministers lay wreaths at
the Cenotaph for
the Atomic Bomb Victims

Our Foreign Ministers, Mr. Fumio Kishida and Mr. Stéphane Dion met twice this year, once in February in Ottawa and again in April at the G7 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Hiroshima. Hiroshima is Mr. Kishida's hometown, and it was very touching to see him accompany the G7 Foreign Ministers to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.



With Ontario Premier
Kathleen Wynne
and Economic Development and
Growth Minister Brad Duguid



With Ontario Minister of
International Trade Michael Chan;
Premier Wynne; and Governor of
Osaka Prefecture Ichiro Matsui;

At the provincial level, Premier Kathleen Wynne successfully led a business mission to Japan at the end of November, where she met with Japanese private sector leaders and announced new business agreements valued at \$120 million that are expected to deliver 170 jobs in Ontario. She also met with Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike and discussed how Tokyo and Ontario can work together on common goals, including making the transition to a low-carbon economy, building and maintaining infrastructure, and leading the way in innovation. Prior to their trip, I had the privilege of giving a briefing to the members of this mission on Japanese business activities in Ontario and opportunities for Ontario companies to do business with Japan.

Back in September, Governor Ichiro Matsui of Osaka Prefecture met with Premier Wynne here in Toronto, and also hosted the Osaka Industry Seminar, promoting the economic potential of his region.



With Toronto's Mayor John Tory



With Markham's
Mayor Frank Scarpitti

At the municipal level, Toronto Mayor John Tory visited Japan in April, and Mayor Frank Scarpitti of Markham will also be leading a business mission to Japan next spring. I had an opportunity to give a presentation to members of Markham's business community to provide background information on economic relations between Japan and Ontario.



At the Mississauga Japan Festival



Mississauga's Mayor Bonnie Crombie

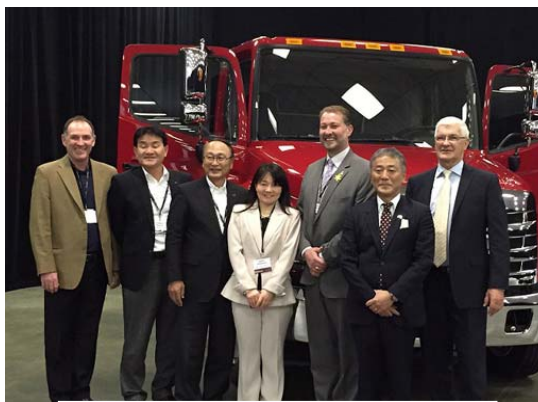
Mayor Bonnie Crombie of Mississauga also led an investment mission to Japan in April. In Mississauga's Celebration Square, a huge Japan festival was held in July. It was a tremendous success, attracting 40,000 people. I am delighted to hear this has now become an annual event.

There were also milestone anniversaries being celebrated in the Japanese business community in Ontario:

In April, MHI Canada Aerospace celebrated the 10th anniversary of its establishment in Mississauga. Hino Motors also celebrated its 10 years in Woodstock. Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada, with plants in Cambridge and Woodstock, celebrated its 30th anniversary in September. And in October, Mitsui & Co. (Canada), headquartered in Toronto, celebrated its remarkable 60th anniversary.



At the 10th Anniversary of
MHI Canada Aerospace



At the 10th Anniversary of
Hino Motors Canada



At the 30th Anniversary of
Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada



At the 60th Anniversary of
Mitsui & Co. (Canada)

We also celebrated new beginnings this year. Canadian fans of Uniqlo saw their dream come true when the apparel chain opened its first store in Canada in September in Toronto's Eaton Centre. MUJI Canada also opened their third store in Yorkdale Shopping Centre. Each of these openings attracted a lot of attention, resulting in long queues of customers.



At the Grand Opening of
the first Uniqlo store in Canada



At the Grand Opening of
the third MUJI store in Canada



At the Toronto International Film Festival's Japan Film Night with directors Mr. Hirokazu Kore-eda (second from left), Mr. Kiyoshi Kurosawa (third from left) and Mr. Koji Fukada (third from right)



At the Toronto Japanese Film Festival

Let us turn now to the field of culture. First, with respect to cinema, there were six acclaimed Japanese films featured at this year's Toronto International Film Festival. Four directors came from Japan, including those pictured above.

At the same time, I am delighted that the best of Japanese films can be seen also at the Toronto annual Japanese Film Festival held at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. A remarkable total of 24 Japanese films were shown during the festival this year.



Presenting the Special Fashion Award



Consul-General's Commendation

In the field of pop culture, this year's Anime North was once again attended to its full capacity of 30,000 people. The Consulate-General of Japan participated in celebrating its 20th anniversary by providing a shojo manga poster exhibit as well as by organizing a panel discussion on ramen. I also was pleased to present a special award at their fashion show, and also hand a certificate of commendation to Anime North founder Donald Simmons for promoting understanding of Japan and deepening Japan-Canada friendship.



Woodblock print artist David Bull



Master percussionist
KATADA Shinjuro and his company

With respect to traditional Japanese culture, it was very rewarding to see so many people enjoying the aspects of Edo Culture we showcased at the Royal Ontario Museum in March. We were particularly pleased to have Master percussionist KATADA Shinjuro and his company from Japan to perform Ohayashi. We were also delighted to have celebrated woodblock artist David Bull from Tokyo to demonstrate his art.

The ROM was highly acclaimed this year for the excellent ukiyo-e exhibit. The museum's Japanese art collection consists of approximately 10,000 objects, which are presently in need of a curator to catalogue and display them. The ROM is currently undertaking fundraising to secure such a position, and we hope we can count on your strong support.

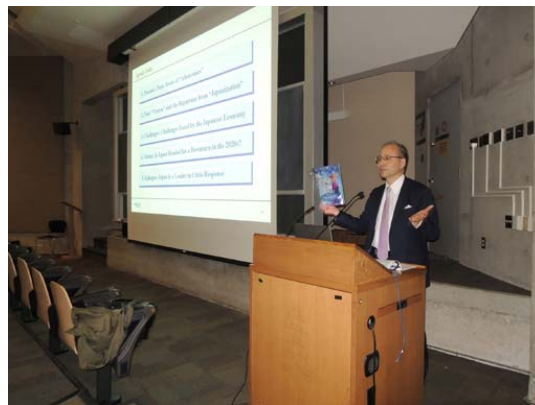


An outdoor tea ceremony held by the
Urasenke Tankokai Association



Dignitaries enjoy the day.

The tea ceremony was showcased at a reception celebrating the arrival of spring held at my official residence in May. Dignitaries comprising of mayors and respected representatives from government, business and cultural communities were in attendance. Unfortunately, the Sakura we had been eagerly anticipating did not blossom this year in Toronto, but I certainly hope they will be helping us welcome spring next year.



Top left and right: Mr. Yukio Okamoto, former advisor to two Japanese Prime Ministers;
 Dr. Masashi Nishihara, President of the Research Institute for Peace and Security;
 Centre: Mr. Hajime Takata, the Chief Economist of the Mizuho Research Institute;
 Bottom left and right: Dr. Masayuki Tadokoro, Professor in the Faculty of Law, Keio University;
 Dr. Kiyohiko Nishimura Professor of Economics at the University of Tokyo and
 Former Deputy Governor of the Bank of Japan

We once again had the great pleasure to be working with the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs in continuing the JAPAN NOW lecture series with participation from such esteemed scholars and experts as those pictured above.

JAPAN NOW aims to draw greater academic attention to contemporary Japan, which remains an extremely important partner for Canada. Japan and Canada are not only key partners in terms of international politics, security and economy, but also still have a lot to learn from each other in areas such as the environment, immigration, technology and the aging society. We therefore try to facilitate insightful exchange through this lecture series.

As Japan and Canada explore ways to work together for mutual benefit as well as for the world community, it is imperative that the youth of the two countries understand each other clearly. Youth exchange programs are therefore extremely important.

In March, students from the Munk School went to Japan on the Kakehashi Project, on exchange with their counterparts from Japan's National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies who in turn came to Toronto. Kakehashi was held again in May, this time focusing on economic relations, as graduate students from business and policy programs of the University of Toronto, York University and Wilfred Laurier University visited Japan.



Kakehashi Project in March with Munk School of Global Affairs and National Graduate Institute for Policy students



Kakehashi Project in May with U of T, York University and Wilfred Laurier University students

We also continued with the Japan Exchange and Teaching, or JET, Programme this year. In July, 75 new JET participants departed for Japan from Toronto as representatives of Ontario. They will be a part of 194 participants from across Canada who joined the Programme this year.



With 2016 JET Programme participants from Ontario

The importance of the goodwill between Japan and Canada cannot be overstated.

As you may recall, in April, two big earthquakes struck the Kumamoto area of Kyushu. Canadians reacted quickly with kindness and sympathy. Aid was extended through various channels, including our office where generous donors contributed over \$14,000 in support of the victims. Words cannot express my appreciation for their generosity.



Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress meet with evacuees of the Kumamoto earthquake

I would like to close my message by thanking you also for your contributions toward making Japan-Canada, and Japan-Ontario, relations more fruitful. I sincerely look forward to working further with you in the future. Please accept my wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Yasunori Nakayama

Yasunori Nakayama
Consul-General of Japan in Toronto