

## MESSAGE FROM CONSUL-GENERAL SASAYAMA TAKUYA

October 2021

### Toronto's Japan

There are many Japan-related facilities, institutions, and organizations in Ontario. This month, I would like to introduce some of their unique activities.

Dr. Phillip Lipsky: Director, Centre for the Study of Global Japan

The Centre for the Study of Global Japan (CSGJ) was founded in 2017 in the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. CSGJ's aim is to facilitate the flow of pertinent information on Japan to researchers, educators, and the public.

In 2019, Dr. Phillip Lipsky assumed the position of CSGJ's first Director.

Dr. Lipsky spent his childhood in Japan and later studied the country intensively at Harvard and Stanford. Today, he is considered one of the most promising scholars on Japan in North America. The CGSJ hosts the Japan NOW Lecture Series which explores contemporary Japan's role within the international community, as well as its current state of affairs. The next presentation will take place in mid-November and will take up a topic pertinent to the current COVID-19 pandemic: global health governance.

Dr. Lipsky teaches graduate courses at the U of T on relations between Japan and Canada and between Japan and the US. He kindly gave me an opportunity to give an hour-long presentation on my views on Japanese diplomacy to his class on Oct. 12.

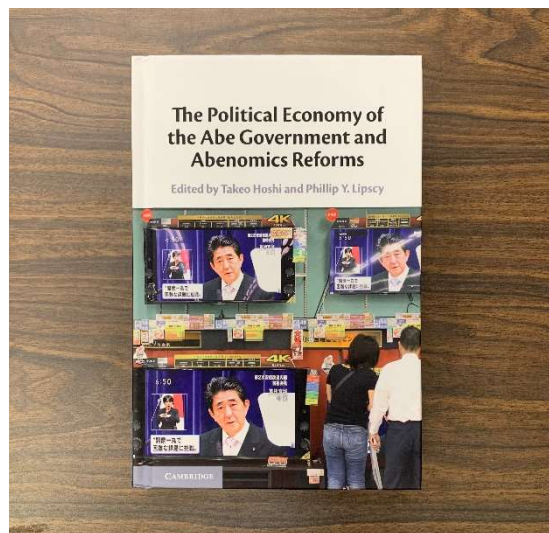




(Photo Credit: University of Toronto)

Receiving numerous insightful questions from enthusiastic students, I was pleasantly surprised by their deep interest in Japan-Canada relations and the breadth of their knowledge.

This year, Dr. Lipsky published a research volume on the administration of former Japanese Prime Minister ABE Shinzo, entitled *The Political Economy of the Abe Government and Abenomics Reforms* (edited by Takeo Hoshi and Phillip Y. Lipsky; Cambridge University Press).



There are a number of notable research institutions focusing on Japan in North America, such as Harvard University. The CSGJ at the U of T is now among the top North American institutions that are studying and disseminating information on Japan. I plan to pay close attention to its activities in the future.



Dr. TAKESUE Akiko; Bishop White Committee Associate Curator of Japanese Art & Culture, Royal Ontario Museum

The Prince Takamado Gallery of Japan is situated in the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) and is named after His Imperial Highness the late Prince Takamado, who studied at Queen's University and enjoyed many close ties with Canada. The Gallery is currently closed due to the museum's planned renovations, but in July Dr. TAKESUE Akiko was appointed as its curator of Japanese art and culture.

Dr. Takesue studied at York University and the University of Toronto and has worked at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. She has also worked before at the ROM so this appointment can be considered a full-scale resumption of her work as a curator.

ROM's collection of Japan-related artifacts is said to be among the best both in quality and quantity not only in Canada but in all of North America. Dr. Takesue's task is to carefully study each item in the collection, then present new perspectives and educate the public on its contemporary significance. Dr. Takesue passionately shared with me her view that museums can no longer simply disseminate information unilaterally but also must consider the perspectives of its visitors so that together they can explore the significance and meaning of its exhibits. She is apparently undertaking a number of projects at the moment. I have high expectations for the reopening of the Prince Takamado Gallery under the new curatorship of Dr. Takesue.

Speaking of exhibits on Japanese culture, an exhibit entitled “Hiroshige’s ‘Edo Hyaku’: Perspectives of Landscape Ukiyo-e Prints in Portrait Layout” is currently being held at the Japan Foundation, Toronto (2 Bloor Street East, Suite 300, Toronto). I hope everyone interested in Japanese art will go have a look. In-person visits are currently possible on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

I should mention that Dr. Takesue has also studied ukiyo-e extensively.

## **Visiting Japanese Companies in Ontario**

### Canon Canada

Numbers of new COVID-19 infections appear to have settled down, and there have been more opportunities recently to meet in person with members of the Japanese business community.

This month, I was able to visit the Brampton headquarters of Canon Canada, one of the world’s leading corporations representing Japan.

The five-story atrium building fully utilizes the latest green technology. Many of the employees are still working from home, but there are apparently plans to increase opportunities for them to meet in-person at work.

There is a showroom on the ground floor. (It is currently closed to the public as a safety measure against the pandemic.) Among the exhibit showing the company’s history was a photo of Canon Chairman MITARAI Fujio smiling with former Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion. I was moved by this shot of two iconic individuals who personified the concentration of Japanese companies in suburban Toronto.

Canon today is a global corporation which deal not only in the field of optics but also health care and printing. Their foundation, however, still lies with cameras. The technology utilized in camera lenses resulted in superior photocopying technology, and Canon’s technology today remains unrivalled. They are currently delivering products ranging from cameras and printers to medical equipment and business printers to every corner of Canadian society.

Upon entering the atrium, I had the opportunity of having my picture taken with Canon Canada President KITAJIMA Nobuhiko. At the end of my visit, as I was about to leave, I was presented with the photo already beautifully printed and set in a frame. It was a memento made possible only by the high technology and quick service of Canon Canada.



(I would like to continue reporting on my visits to various Japanese businesses operating in Ontario in my future monthly messages.)