



JAPAN FRESH NEWS

No. 5 (August 2014)

by the Embassy of Japan in Slovenia

(*Gozan no Okuribi: see at the end)

~ fresh news, recent events and useful sites ~



While enjoying your summer holidays, check also our latest issue, No. 5!

(This newsletter will be issued every end of month, and if your colleagues/friends want to receive this, please tell them to send their email address to: info@s2.mofa.go.jp.)



I. Fresh/important news

~ Prime Minister Abe's remarks to the Australian Parliament ~

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited New Zealand, Australia and Papua New Guinea from 6 to 12 July 2014. On 8 July, Prime Minister Abe addressed the Australian Parliament and explained Japan's recent policies including "Proactive Contribution to Peace" and "Three Principles of the Rule of Law at Sea" (click [here](#) to watch Prime Minister Abe's remarks), which were appreciated by Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott (click [here](#) to watch Prime Minister Abbott's remarks).

~ Jurij Franko receives a commendation by the Japanese Foreign Minister ~

Jurij Franko, a famous Slovenian skier and the winner of the Olympic medal, will be awarded a commendation by the Japanese Foreign Minister for his contribution to the development of skiing skills in Japan and other contribution for Japan-Slovenia relations. Jurij, congratulations! [Details](#).

II. Economic/Business News

~ Abenomics: "There will be no fiscal consolidation without economic recovery" ~

On 30 June 2014, Prime Minister Abe's article on his economic policy Abenomics, contributed to the Financial Times, was published. Please read the entire article [here](#).

~ The Slovenia-Japan Business Council website~

As we published in Number 1 of this Japan Fresh News, on 20 March 2014, the Slovenia-Japan Business Council was established. Now their [website](#) is ready. Please visit it and have fruitful contacts with this Council.

~ Japanese companies in Slovenia ~

Business daily Finance featured Japanese companies active in Slovenia. You can read entire articles on Sumida Slovenija, an affiliate of Sumida Corporation, Japan's leading coil company (click [here](#)), and Daihen-Varstroj, an affiliate of Daihen Corporation, Japan's leading welding and robotics company (click [here](#)).

III. Recent Events and other

~ Evening with jazz and Japanese songs ~

On 10 July 2014, the Embassy organized the concert "Evening with jazz and Japanese songs" at Cankarjev dom in Ljubljana. Nostalgic Japanese songs and standard jazz numbers were performed by Yasuto Ohara, one of the leading Japanese jazz pianists, and famous Japanese sopranos Kaoru Matsumoto and Tomomi Ota. The audience of about 230 was fascinated by the clear voices of Japanese soprano singers, and the marvellous jazz session of the renowned pianist. [Details](#).



~ New e-book from the Prime Minister's Office where you can find topics of culture, politics, cooperation, etc. ~

The Summer 2014 edition of the e-book "We Are Tomodachi (Friends)" is now available! This latest edition is filled with a rich variety of content, including a special feature on fireworks (so you can learn many kinds of fireworks); a feature on women's active role in society; and information about disaster reconstruction and tourist accommodations. [Details](#).

~ Learn Japanese online! "NIHONGO STARTER" by Japan Foundation ~

The Japan Foundation and The Open University of Japan jointly produced e-learning material *NIHONGO Starter*, an English-written introductory material for Japanese-language learning. The material presents various basic learning tasks and provides opportunities to learn Japanese language from the very beginning. Please, try a new tool to learn Japanese online! [Details](#).

IV. Upcoming events

~ EAJS (European Association for Japanese Studies) International Conference ~

The 14th International Conference of EAJS will be held at University of Ljubljana **between 27 and 30 August**. The EAJS aims to stimulate interest in and encourage research in Japanese studies in Europe, the USA and Japan, promoting the flow of information and communication through its triennial international conferences, symposia and workshops. Details about the Conference can be found [here](#) and more information about the EAJS [here](#).

~ Four major genres of Japanese classical performing arts ~

Would you like to learn more about Japanese classical performing arts? Dr. Michiko HIRAMA, lecturer at the prestigious Toho Gakuen School of Music will talk about gagaku, noh, bunraku, and kabuki. The lecture is organized by the Embassy of Japan. It will be held in English. Entrance is free of charge, no reservation needed. Join us at the **Oton Župančič Library (3rd floor) in Ljubljana on Thursday, 28 August 2014 from 19:00**. [Details](#).



~ Global Culture Nasu: Performance and workshop ~

Join us on **Saturday, 30 August between 9:30 in 12:00 at the Marjan Kozina Hall in the Slovenian Philharmonic** for a presentation of characteristic sound and dance styles in Japanese traditional performing art. You will also be able to actively participate in a workshop following the short introductory performance. The event is sponsored by the Embassy of Japan. Entrance is free of charge. [Details](#).

~ Contemporary Japanese Cinema ~

This year's Japanese film week will present a series of seven characteristic Japanese films the likes of which are infrequently featured at European film festivals between **17 and 24 September, every night at 20:30 at the Kosovel Hall in Cankarjev dom**. A rare opportunity to get an insight into Japanese cinematic art that does not cater for the tastes of the Western viewers. Please, find the program [here](#). Entrance fee applies.

(The events listed below are organized by various institutions/groups. This Embassy is not responsible for these notices/events. Please contact the organizer for details.)

~ Japanese bento box offered at "Open Kitchen" ~

Gallery of Asian flavors Svilna pot is introducing a new dining concept called bento, in cooperation with chef Sato Shin. Their culinary creations combine fresh, fast, simple, delicious, refreshing and healthy food. Get your own Japanese bento box at **"Open Kitchen" food market at Pogačarjev trg in Ljubljana every Friday between 11:00 and 20:00**. More information about the "Open Kitchen" can be found [here](#).



(Kakiage – fried vegetables)

~ Japanese afternoon in Logatec ~

As part of Logatec Summer, the Aikido association Logatec is inviting to a **Japanese afternoon on Sunday, 24 August between 14:00 and 18:00 in the castle park (restaurant Vitez)**. Visitors will see a presentation of aikido and kyudo, will participate in origami workshop, haiku reading, see a bonsai exhibition, taste Japanese food and tea, listen to Japanese music and learn the basics of Japanese language. Entrance is free of charge. [Details](#).

~ Global Culture Nasu: Music and dance from traditional Japan ~

For a genuine experience of traditional Japanese music and dance, you have a chance to enjoy directly the performance by the Global Culture Nasu, the Japanese non-governmental organization that preserves and promotes Japan's cultural heritage. The evening dedicated to music and dance from traditional Japan will take place on **Sunday, 31 August from 20:00 at SNT Drama Ljubljana**. Entrance fee applies. [Details](#).

(The event is organized by the Department of Asian and African Studies of the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana and SNT Drama Ljubljana. Please contact organizers for details.)

~ Inform us about your Japan-related event! ~

If your institution/group is organizing a Japan-related event, we welcome to include it in this newsletter! For more information, please send an e-mail to matej.crnjavic@s2.mofa.go.jp.

For more information about Japan, please visit these websites:

- ①. Prime Minister Abe's government policies
 1. [Abenomics](#) (Prime Minister Abe's economic policy)
 2. [Proactive Contribution to Peace](#)
 3. [A Society in Which Women Shine](#) (Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality)
 4. [Keynote speech at the 13th IISS Asian Security Summit](#) ("The Shangri-la Dialogue")
 5. [Speech at the Australian Parliament \(July 2014\)](#)
- ②. Issues related to Japanese territory:
 1. [Senkaku Islands](#)
 2. [Takeshima](#)
 3. [Northern Territories](#)
 4. [Sea of Japan](#)
- ③. Tourist information:
 1. [Japan National Tourism Organization](#)
 2. [Visit Japan Links](#)
 3. [Guide to Japanese Visas](#)
- ④. Study in Japan:
 1. [Study in Japan](#)
 2. [Gateway to Study in Japan](#)
- ⑤. Cultural exchange:
 1. [Japan Foundation](#)
 2. [Japan: Fascinating diversity](#)
- ⑥. Other useful sites:
 1. [JETRO \(Japan External Trade Organization\)](#)
 2. [World Heritage in Japan](#)
 3. [Web Japan](#)
 4. [Nihongo Starter \(Online Japanese Course\)](#)
- ⑦. [Japanese restaurants in Slovenia](#)



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*** GOZAN NO OKURIBI (五山の送り火):**

is a traditional event that takes place in Kyoto during the Obon Festival (Festival of the Ancestors) on August 16 every year. On each of the five mountains that surround the city, giant bonfires are set alight. 5 kanjis (ideograms) are depicted by fires lit to illuminate the mountains. One of the characters is »Dai« (»large«): there are three lines for Dai and the largest one (top to the bottom left) measures 160 meters. So you can see it from far distance. The Okuribi were meant to guide the souls of the ancestors, who return to this world during the Obon period, back to the world beyond. The Okuribi are also believed to protect against evil. Please check online with "gozan no okuribi" where you can get more info on Wikipedia, Kyoto travel guide's website, etc.

