



JAPAN FRESH NEWS

No. 9 (December 2014)

by the Embassy of Japan in Slovenia

(*Winter illumination: see at the end)

~ fresh news, recent events and useful sites ~

(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.)



- * **Tomorrow** (Saturday, 29 November 2014), **SILA Bazaar!!** Please come to the Japanese stall. There will be many small Japanese goods, also for children. (Sec. V)
- * Rakugo (in English) is coming to Ljubljana, for the first time in Slovenia! The performer is Canadian with Slovenian roots. (Sec. VI)
- * Japanese whisky Yamazaki (Suntory) won the "World Whisky of the Year". (Sec. II)
- * Two Japanese companies in Slovenia were awarded for their achievements. (Sec. III)
- * Anime event "Makkon 2014" on 13 December 2014 in Kino Šiška (Sec. V)



I. Fresh/important news

~ The 22nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting ~

The 22nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting was held in Beijing, China on 10 and 11 November 2014. [Details](#). Prime Minister Shinzo Abe also participated and met Mr. Xi Jinping, President of China and Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation. Details [here](#) (Japan-China Summit Meeting) and [here](#) (Japan-Russia Summit Meeting).

On 7 and 8 November, APEC Ministerial Meeting was held where Foreign Minister Kishida participated. For more details check the [Foreign Ministry's website](#).

~ ASEAN-related Summit Meetings ~

Between 12 and 13 November 2014, PM Abe visited Myanmar to attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-related summit meetings. During the meetings, PM Abe exchanged opinions on the deepening of cooperation among countries concerned and explained Japan's concepts concerning the further development of a regional order. [Details](#)

~ G20 Brisbane Summit ~

Between 15 and 16 November 2014, PM Abe visited Brisbane in Australia to attend the G20 Summit. At the summit, PM Abe sent out a message about Japan's efforts to contribute to the global economy. [Details](#)

~ Expansion of the Quantitative and Qualitative Monetary Easing ~

At the Monetary Policy Meeting held on 31 October 2014, the Bank of Japan decided the measures for accelerating the pace of increase in the monetary base and increasing asset purchases and extending the average remaining maturity of Japanese government bond (JGB) purchases. [Details](#)

II. Recent events

~ Lecture by Ambassador Jomori about Japanese Democracy ~

On 21 November 2014, Ambassador Jomori held a lecture about Japanese Democracy at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. The participants were curious about the political system in Japan and were especially interested in Japanese history of democracy and the Constitution. [Details](#)

~ Japanese whisky named "Best in the world" ~

Japanese whisky "**Yamazaki Single Malt Sherry Cask 2013**" was named "World Whisky of the Year" by the Whisky Bible 2015, which is compiled by whisky expert Mr. Jim Murray. This is the first time that a Japanese whisky has received the prestigious accolade in the Whisky Bible's 11-year history. The winning whisky comes from Japan's oldest malt whisky distillery Yamazaki, which is part of Suntory, a Japanese brewing and distilling company group. For further information, please click the following [link](#). You can buy Japanese whisky also in Maxi or Mercator Hipermarket in Ljubljana.

III. Economic/Business News

~ Lendava Municipality presents "Top 5" award to DAIHEN VARSTROJ ~

On 8 October 2014, the Municipality of Lendava presented the TOP 5 municipal award to DAIHEN VARSTROJ, fully owned subsidiary of Japanese company DAIHEN Corporation. TOP 5 municipal awards are presented for the highest achievements in the fields of the economy, tourism, ecology and sustainable development, culture and social services, and solidarity. Daihen Varstroj won the award in the field of economy. [Details](#)

~ "Invest Slovenia FDI Award" to Sumida Slovenia ~

On October 27, SPIRIT Slovenia, presented "Invest Slovenia FDI Award" to the Japanese owned producer of electrical components for cars Sumida Slovenija d.o.o. Sumida Slovenija, which is based in Blejeska Dobrava, hired 35 people in the past year and a new investment is expected to create another 15 jobs. [Details](#)

IV. Invitation/Programs

~ Japan Foundation Program for 2015-2016 ~

Japan Foundation call for application for the financial year 2015-2016 is coming to an end! You can still apply for some funding in three major areas: Arts and Cultural Exchange, Japanese-

Language Education Overseas, and Japanese Studies Overseas and Intellectual Exchange. For detailed information, application conditions and deadlines click [here](#).

~ Japan Foundation Fellowship for Intellectual Exchange 2015-2016 ~

Are you a scholar, researcher, journalist, or professional engaged in research activities in the fields of humanities or social sciences, or have practical experience in research, media, or non-profit organizations? If yes, then you can apply for **funding to visit Japan and conduct individual research** on a chosen topic as well networking/exchange activities. **Application deadline is 1 December**. More information [here](#).

V. Upcoming events

~ SILA Bazaar ~

The Slovenian International Ladies Association (SILA) is organizing their 21st annual international charity bazaar **on Saturday, 29 November 2014, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**, at Gospodarsko razstavišče. This year, more than 40 countries are expected to join and raise money for charity. Each participating country will sell the items or food coming from that country, including Japan. Visit us at the Japanese stall, where you will be able to buy different kinds of goods, mainly purchased from Japan.



~ Makkon 2014 ~

An event centred on anime, manga and Japanese culture. Visit us on **13 December 2014 from 12:00 to 20:00 at Kino Šiška**. This year's program contains various lectures, presentations, workshops, performances and competitions, including a drawing and reading corner and an exhibition of Slovenian artists inspired by Japanese art, anime and manga. Try your hand at arcade dancing and video games or visit our fair. Organized by Animov association, entrance is free of charge. More information [here](#) and [here](#).



photo by Davor Kirbiš

VI. Various coming events

(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.)

~ Traditional art rakugo in Slovenia ~

On **8 December 2014, SiTi Theatre (BTC City Ljubljana)** will stage a performance of rakugo, **Japan's traditional art of solo comic storytelling**. The performer Katsura Sunshine, a 44-year old Canadian with Slovenian roots, has completed an apprenticeship in the art and has been performing for already six years. Don't miss this traditional Japanese comedy in English! More information and tickets [here](#).



~ 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 Sixty-Ninth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations](#)
- 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. [Japanese Inn Group](#)
- 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. [The Slovenia-Japan Business Council](#)
 3. [World Heritage in Japan](#)
 4. [Web Japan](#)
 5. [Nihongo Starter \(Online Japanese Course\)](#)
- ⑦. [Japanese restaurants in Slovenia](#)



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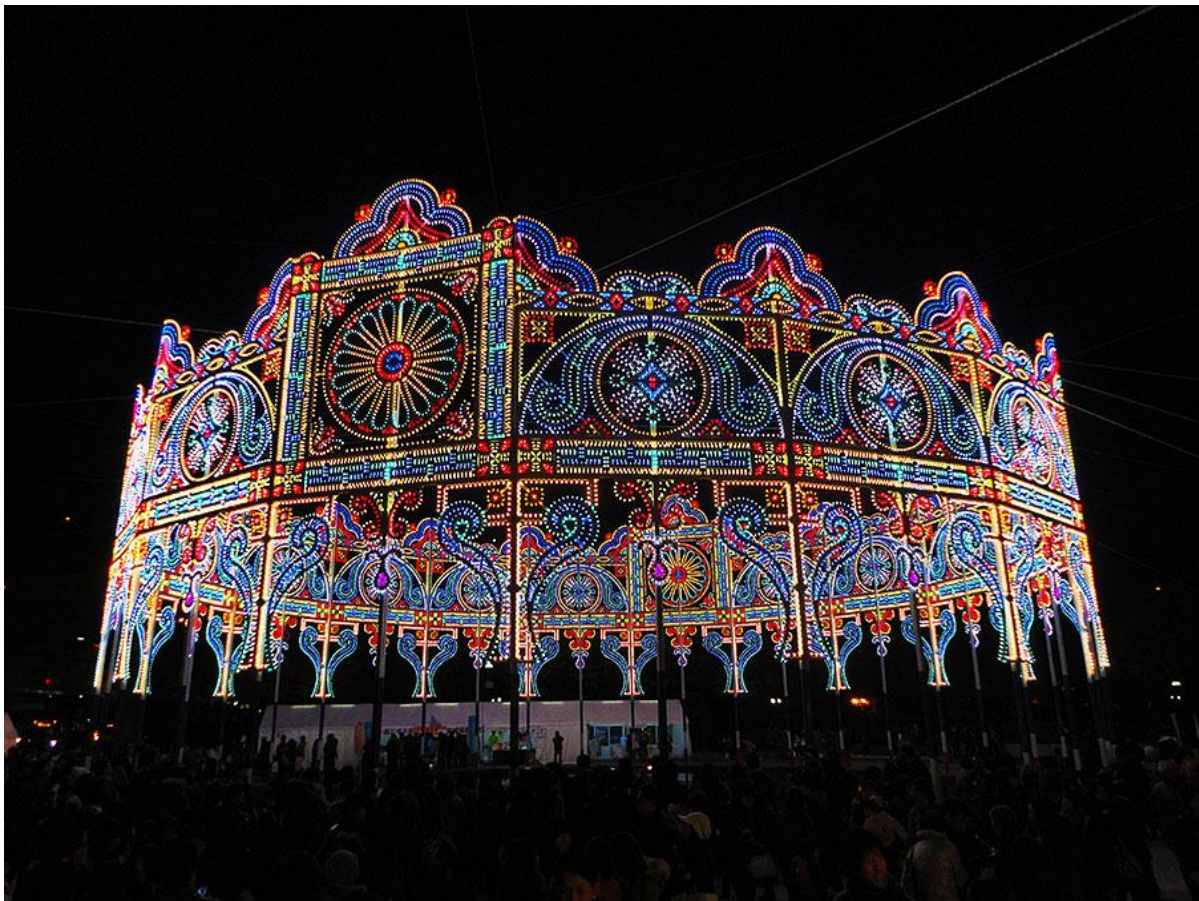
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***Winter illumination:**

Seasonal illuminations have become a very popular attraction in Japan. Illuminations are typically displayed from November to Christmas or New Year, while a few are kept up until Valentine's Day in February. The Japan's first light show is **Kobe's Luminarie**. This light festival in Kobe was first held in 1995 in commemoration of the Great Hanshin earthquake. The show is truly enchanting and attracts many people and tourists. Nowadays, we have many spectacular illuminations, like:

Festival of the light in Osaka, **Sapporo White Illumination** where the light structures symbolize themes such as the starry skies and Christmas, **Toki no Sumika** illumination in Shizuoka known for its 450m long light tunnel including more than 4 million LEDs (this year a very famous Champs Elyse illumination will use 600.000 LEDs) and **Nabana no Sato**, illumination in a botanical garden on the island of Nagashima. The light structures don't necessarily symbolize Christmas or winter themes but can also form a shape of different animals, buildings or even cartoon characters.

[Here](#) you can see their ranking (in Japanese, but including many photos).



Kobe's Luminarie



Kobe's Luminarie



Kobe's Luminarie



Festival of the light



Festival of the light



Sapporo White Illumination



Sapporo White Illumination



Toki no sumika



Toki no sumika



Nabana no Sato



Nabana no Sato