



(*AJISAI: see at the end)

JAPAN FRESH NEWS

No. 3 (June 2014)

by the Embassy of Japan in Slovenia

~ fresh news, recent events and useful sites ~



Here is "Japan Fresh News" No. 3! Please enjoy it!

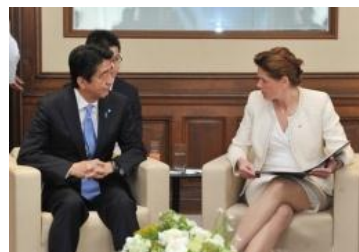
(This newsletter will be issued every end of month, and if your colleagues/friends want to receive this, please tell them to send their email address to: info@s2.mofa.go.jp.)



I. Fresh/important news

~ Japan-Slovenia Summit Meeting ~

On May 6 2014, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was visiting France, held a meeting with H.E. Ms. Alenka Bratušek, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia, on the occasion of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting. They discussed various topics related to both, bilateral and international issues. Details ([Slovenian](#) and [Japanese](#) site)



~ OECD Ministerial Council Meeting ~

On 6-7 May 2014, Japan chaired the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting with the support of Slovenia as a vice-chair country. The cooperation between two countries brought success of the Meeting. Details ([Slovenian](#) and [Japanese](#) site)

~ Minister Omerzel visited Japan ~

From 20 to 26 April 2014, Minister of Infrastructure and Spatial Planning Samo Omerzel visited Japan and participated in Slovenian-Japanese Investment Forum. He had consultations with Vice-Minister of the Economy, Trade and Industry, and others. [Details](#)

~ NEDO and SPIRIT agreed on smart community feasibility study in Slovenia ~

On 15 May 2014, NEDO and SPIRIT agreed to conduct a feasibility study for a smart community system demonstration project in Slovenia and signed to the letter of Intent between Mr. Kuniyoshi, Executive Director of NEDO and Mr. Tomaž Klemenc, Acting Director of SPIRIT. Ambassador Jomori encouraged both sides to continue their close cooperation. For details check the [Embassy](#) and [SPIRIT](#) website.



~ Japan's ODA White Paper 2013 ~

The Japanese government issued *Japan's Official Development Assistance White Paper 2013*. Japan is committed to continuing to earn the trust of the world by dynamically implementing "investment in the future" through ODA. [Details](#)

II. Upcoming events

~ Japan Day 2014 ~

The Embassy is organizing already the third "Japan Day", which will take place **on Saturday, 21 June 2014 between 10:00 and 19:00** at the Marmorna Hall of the Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre. Visitors will be able to join different workshops, taste Japanese tea and food, play Japanese board games, wear Japanese clothes, see martial arts demonstrations and listen to interesting lectures about Japan. A special corner will be dedicated to children. Entrance is free of charge. So join us and discover Japan more and more! [Details](#)



~ Ambassador's Interview on Radio Slovenia International (Radio Si) ~

Ambassador Jomori will give another interview for Radio Slovenia International! He will speak about his personal life and professional career, and will play some of his favourite music. Tune in to 100.8 FM in Ljubljana (check the frequency in your regions) and listen to the show "My life, my music" **on Sunday, 15 June at 11:00 and Thursday, 19 June at 21:00**.

~ Evening with jazz and Japanese songs ~

Come listen to jazz and Japanese songs performed by Yasuto Ohara, one of the leading Japanese jazz pianists, and famous Japanese sopranos Kaoru Matsumoto and Tomomi Ota. The concert, organized by this Embassy will be held **on Thursday, 10 July 2014 from 19:00** at the Club CD in Cankarjev dom and is free of charge. More details will be announced in next Japan Fresh News and on the Embassy's website.

(Mr. Ohara will also have a concert the following day in Stari trg, Ljubljana, as one of the performers of the International Cycle Imago Sloveniae.)

III. Economic/Business News

~ Hand in hand in the development of new technologies ~

On Monday, 19 May 2014, business daily Finance published an article about the successful cooperation between the Slovenian National Institute of Chemistry and Japanese HONDA. The Ljubljana-based institute is researching advanced battery systems which may one day power Honda's electric cars. You can read the entire article [here](#).

~ About Yaskawa and Daihen in Slovenia ~

On Wednesday, 21 May 2014, business daily Finance reported about the growing Japanese presence in the Slovenian industry, focusing on Yaskawa Ristro, a developer and manufacturer of robotic cells from Ribnica, and on welding systems manufacturer Varstroj from Lendava that has just recently been taken over by the Daihen corporation. You can read the entire article [here](#).

IV. Open calls

~ The Fifth Japan-EU English HAIKU Contest ~

Have you some experience in writing haiku? We invite you to submit your English haiku on the topic "Wonderful Encounter" and you might travel to Japan and visit Matsuyama City, the birthplace of modern haiku in Japan. The Contest is organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Delegation of the EU to Japan. Submission deadline is **27 June 2014** (2:00, CET). [Details](#)

~ Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships for 2015 ~

If you would like to study in Japan, we encourage you to apply for the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships for 2015. The Japanese Government offers scholarship for Research students, Undergraduate students, and Specialized Training College Students. Don't miss the application deadline: **13 June 2014!** [Details](#)

V. Recent Events

~ Lecture by Ambassador Jomori about Japan's security issue ~

On 7 May 2014 Ambassador Jomori made a lecture about Japan's security issue and situation of the East Asia at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. The participants were curious about the geopolitical atmosphere in East Asia and were very interested in the Ambassador's explanation about the situation of Japanese security policy and territory, especially. [Details](#)

~ The Fourth Japanese Speech Contest ~

The 4th Japanese Speech Contest, organized by the Embassy of Japan and Department of Asian and African Studies, was held on Saturday, 17 May 2014 at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana. A total of 14 individuals learning Japanese have demonstrated their knowledge and were highly praised by the judges for their preparation and performance. [Details](#)



VI. Other news

~ Review of »Tokyo piknik« restaurant ~

Have you visited the Asian restaurant Tokyo piknik, yet? Located in the city center (Cankarjevo nabrežje 25, Ljubljana) the restaurant offers a unique mix of Asian cuisines, including some Japanese dishes. NeDelo recently spotted this interesting restaurant. Here is their [article](#).

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.)

~ The Second Samurai Evening ~

Kensei Club Griže is organizing the Second Samurai Evening that will take place **on Saturday, 28 June 2014 from 15:00** in Griže. Visitors will be able to see martial arts and tea ceremony demonstrations, participate in origami and kanji-writing workshops, taste sushi, and enjoy exhibitions of bonsai, Japanese swords and Kobudo weapons, and Japan-inspired art. The entrance is free of charge. For more information, contact: kensei.kjm@gmail.com.

~ Japanese Culture Day in Café Kolaž ~

Café Kolaž (Gornji trg 15, Ljubljana) is inviting to attend their Japanese culture day that will take place **on Saturday, 31 May from 14:00**. You will be able to enjoy Japanese calligraphy, tea ceremony, origami and kendo, all free of charge. In the evening the café will have a special offer of some Japanese tsumami tapas, set of Kirin beer and edamame, and cocktails made with sake! For more information, check the café on [Facebook](#).

~ 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)
- ②. Japan and its relations with other countries:
 1. [Senkaku Islands](#)
 2. [Takeshima](#)
 3. [Northern Territories](#)
- 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](#)
- ⑦. [Japanese restaurants in Slovenia](#)



Please send your opinions or questions to: info@s2.mofa.go.jp



If you no longer wish to receive the Japan Fresh News, please send us an e-mail:
info@s2.mofa.go.jp.

* **AJISAI (紫陽花, Hydrangea):** June marks the beginning of *Tsuyu*, rainy season in Japan. Many tend to dislike Tsuyu mainly because of its uncomfortable humidity. However, Japanese love to appreciate ajisai hydrangea blossoming in quiet, gentle rain. So, ajisai viewing spots gather lots of people in Tsuyu season.