



JAPAN FRESH NEWS

No. 15 (June 2015)

by the Embassy of Japan in Slovenia

(*Tsuyu: see at the end)

~ fresh news, recent & future 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.)

(If your institution/group is organizing a Japan-related event, we welcome to include it in this newsletter! Please send your info to matej.crnjavic@s2.mofa.go.jp.)



- * **Don't miss Japan Day this Saturday, 30 May 2015!!** (Sec. III)
- * Ambassador Jomori visits **Gorenje**. (Sec. II)
- * **Ambassador Jomori's lecture** about Japan's Security Policy was a success. (Sec. II)
- * Japanese Nissan and Mitsubishi electric cars at the **Ambassadors' EV Rally**. (Sec. II)
- * **Literary evening** at Sanje bookstore on 10 June 2015. (Sec. III)
- * The **Japanese Popculture Convention** on 20 June 2015. (Sec. III)



I. Fresh/important news

~ PM Abe paid an official visit to US ~

Between 26 April and 3 May 2015, Prime Minister Abe paid an official visit to US. At the summit meeting between PM Abe and US President Obama, they confirmed that Japan and US are working closely together to ensure a peaceful and prosperous future for the region and the world. During his visit, PM Abe also gave a [historical address to a Joint Meeting of the U.S. Congress](#) titled "Toward an Alliance of Hope", which was warmly welcomed by members of US Congress with many standing ovations. [Details](#)

~ Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee ("2+2" Ministerial Meeting) ~

On 27 April 2015, the Security Consultative Committee ("2+2" Ministerial Meeting) was convened in New York City which was attended by Japanese Foreign Minister Kishida, Japanese Defence Minister Nakatani, US State Secretary Kerry and Defence Secretary Carter. The Ministers had discussions over a range of topics including bilateral security and defense cooperation as well as approved the new Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation and issued the Joint Statement. [Details](#)

~ FM Kishida attended the 2015 Review Conference for the NPT ~

On 28 April 2015, FM Kishida attended the 2015 Review Conference for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) at the United Nations Headquarters, and gave a [general statement](#). He stated his determination as a foreign minister from Hiroshima, the site of the atomic bombing, to achieve progress towards a world free of nuclear weapons with thoughts of the bombed cities in mind. [Details](#)

~ Legislation for Peace and Security ~

In order to contribute more proactively to the peace and stability of the international community, the Abe government decided on the "Legislation for Peace and Security" and submitted the draft legislation to the Diet on 14 May 2015. The legislation will enable seamless responses to any situations to secure the live and peaceful livelihood of the Japanese people. There is no change in Japan's basic posture and orientation for the past 70 years, including peace-loving nation. [Details](#)

~ New Videos on Japan's Foreign Policy ~

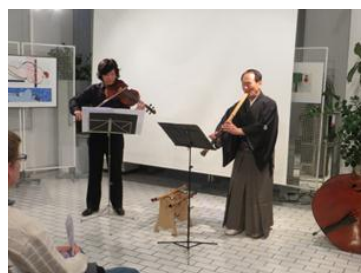
Four new videos are available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan homepage. Please check:

- [Communication and Reconciliation in the Post War Era](#)
 - [Proactive Contribution to Peace: Helping Resolve Global Issues](#)
 - [Japan-China Relations: Towards a Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interest](#)
 - [Pursuing a Forward-Looking Relationship between Japan and the Republic of Korea](#)
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II. Recent events

~ Shakuhachi and strings concert ~

The Embassy of Japan organized a concert of traditional Japanese instrument Shakuhachi and strings on 27 May 2015 at 19:30 at Knjižnica Prežihov Voranc in Ljubljana. The shakuhachi is famous for its beautiful haunting tones and is a testament to the elegance of traditional Japanese culture. All the guests were fascinated by the collaboration of Shakuhachi and Strings. [Details](#)



~ Participation of Ambassador Jomori in Electric Car Rally ~

On 27 May, Ambassador Shigemi Jomori participated in the "Ambassadors' EV Rally", rally of electric vehicles. Various manufacturers of electric vehicles, including Nissan and Mitsubishi from Japan took part in the event. Ambassador Jomori drove the electric vehicle "Leaf" produced by Nissan. [Details](#)



~ Visit of Ambassador Jomori to Gorenje d.d. ~

On May 25, Ambassador Jomori visited a home appliance manufacture Gorenje d.d. and had a meeting with Mr. Franjo Bobinac, President & CEO. During the visit, Ambassador Jomori had an opportunity to familiarize himself with the status of ongoing cooperation between Panasonic and Gorenje based on a strategic alliance agreement signed between the two companies in July 2013. [Details](#)



~ Lecture by Ambassador Jomori about Japan's Security Policy ~

Ambassador Jomori held a lecture about Japan's security policy on 21 May 2015 at the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor. Ambassador introduced the main policies of the Abe government and explained the current situation in East Asia and the latest security policy of Japan based on "Proactive Contribution to Peace", which drew a lot of attention by the audience.

After the lecture, members of the Faculty's Judo club made an interesting demonstration. [Details](#)



III. Future events

~ Japan Day 2015 ~

The Embassy of Japan and Genki center are organizing the already **4th Japan Day** that will take place on **Saturday, 30 May 2015 from 10:00 to 17:00** at the **Marmorna Hall** of the **Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre**. Visitors will be able to experience even more Japan than in previous years! So come and enjoy delicious food and drinks at a special food corner, discover the rich Japanese culture, including origami, language, literature, games and more at a special culture corner and take your little ones to the children's corner to try out traditional Japanese toys. This and much more will await you at this unique event dedicated to the Land of the rising sun! Entrance is **free of charge**. [Details](#)

~ Literary evening at Sanje bookstore ~

The Embassy of Japan and Sanje publishing house are kindly inviting to a literary evening, dedicated to Kenzaburo Oe, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, and his impressive debut "Nip the Buds, Shoot the Kids", published in the Slovenian language this year. The evening will introduce also other Japanese authors whose works were published by Sanje publishing house: Haruki Murakami, Natsume Soseki, Yasunari Kawabata and others. Join us at the **Sanje bookstore** (Trubarjeva 29, Ljubljana) on **Wednesday, 10 June 2015 at 19:00**. Admission **free**. [Details](#)

~ Sakuga Gaiden ~

The **Japanese Popculture Convention Sakuga Gaiden**, organized by Zavod za japonsko kulturo GENOROS, will be held **on 20 June 2015 between 9:00 and 22:00 at the Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Center!** Aiming to spread love and appreciation for Anime and Japanese Culture, the organizers welcome you to a cultural exchange over full day of activities, exhibits, panels, and performances. These include art, animation, comics, contests, costuming, cultural displays, dance, gaming, musical performances, and much more. The Embassy will also set up its stand, so come and join us! More information about the event and the tickets [here](#).

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. 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. [J-GoodTech \(Matching website for leading companies\)](#)
 4. [World Heritage in Japan](#)
 5. [Web Japan](#)
 6. [Nihongo Starter \(Online Japanese Course\)](#)
- ⑦. [Japanese restaurants in Slovenia](#)



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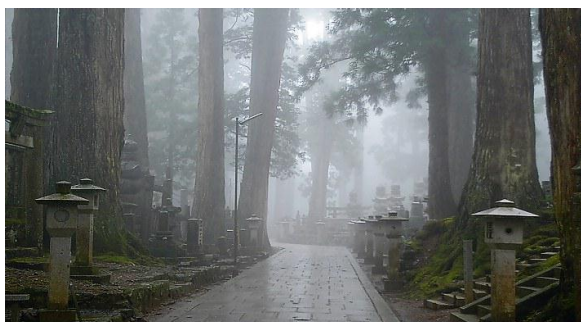
***Tsuyu**: 梅雨, rainy season

In most of Japan, the beginning of June to mid-July is marked by a rainy season, called *tsuyu*. It can begin as early as May in Okinawa but doesn't affect the northern parts, the Hokkaido Island. *Tsuyu* literally means plum rain, named after the Japanese plums that ripe in this season. Despite being called a rainy season, it doesn't actually rain every day and when it rains, it's not strong. In fact, we might say that last year there was more heavy rain during *tsuyu* period in Slovenia than in Japan. So, you may have more *tsuyu*-like rainy season here than in Japan.

How many expressions for different types of rain do you have? Heavy rain, medium, light, maybe 4 or 5? In Japan, people live with rain more closely; you can find 21 different names for rain mentioned in Wikipedia.

Some of the more curious are: "kirisame" (rain like fog), "sasame" (continuous very light rain. This name for this type of rain was used for a very famous novel by Jun'ichirō Tanizaki, "Sasame Yuki" or "Sestre Makiokove" in Slovene), "kosame" (weak rain, not for long time), "shigue" (passing winter shower, not so strong), "murasame" (type of rain that falls hard, then gently, and stops immediately), ..., "ooame" (heavy rain), "gou-u" (very heavy), "rai-u" (thunderstorm), "naga-ame" (long, continuous rain), etc.

Although most Japanese don't like the *Tsuyu*, they do appreciate some sights, which can be very attractive in rain, especially some temples and gardens. Some shrines or temples really show their mysterious atmosphere in such "kirisame" or "sasame".



Okunoin Temple (Mount Koya)



Japanese garden

In this season, Japanese make special **Teru teru bōzu** dolls, which they hang on the balconies or windows trying to cheer up the clouds to let the sun through again.

"Teru" is a Japanese verb which describes sunshine, and a "bōzu" is a Buddhist monk or in modern slang, "bald-headed"; it is also a term of endearment for addressing little boys.

This little traditional handmade doll made of white paper or cloth identical to ghost dolls, is supposed to have magical powers to bring good weather and to stop or prevent a rainy day. Children hang them before a school picnic day singing the Teru teru bōzu song (see at the end):



Sunny, sunny monk boy, sunny monk boy,
Tomorrow, make the weather nice for me
Like a heavenly dream once upon a time
If it clears, I'll give you a gold bell.

Sunny, sunny monk boy, sunny monk boy,
Tomorrow, make the weather nice for me
If you listen to my wish
We'll drink lots of sweet sake.

Sunny, sunny monk boy, sunny monk boy,
Tomorrow, make the weather nice for me
If it should get cloudy and you weep*
Then I'll cut off your head, Snip!

*if it rains

