



(*KOINOBORI: see at the end)

JAPAN FRESH NEWS

No. 2 (May 2014)

by the Embassy of Japan in Slovenia

~ fresh news, recent events and useful sites ~



Here is "Japan Fresh News" No. 2! Our first issue was welcomed by many people.

(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.)

~ 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! So please, send to info@s2.mofa.go.jp ① name/title, ② time/date/period, ③ name of organizing institution/group, and ④ website link/email address where people can find details of the event.



I. Fresh/important news

~ US President Obama visited Japan ~

President Obama visited Japan on 23 – 25 April as a State Guest. The President of the USA and Prime Minister Abe have committed further Japan-US alliance, security in Asia, trade liberalization, economic growth and the rule of international law. (see [U.S.-Japan Joint Statement](#))

~ Visit of State Secretary Senčar to Japan ~

From 8 to 10 April 2014, Mr. Igor Senčar, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited Japan where he met the Deputy Foreign Minister, Akitaka Saiki, and the Director General of the European Affairs Bureau, Toyohisa Kozuki. [More.](#)

~ Japan's 50th Anniversary as a Member of the OECD ~

The year 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of Japan's accession to the OECD. In this commemorative year, Japan will chair the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting with Slovenia, vice-chair country **on 6 and 7 May 2014 in Paris.** [Details.](#)

II. Upcoming events

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

Ambassador Jomori will make a lecture about Japan's security issue and situation of the East Asia **on Wednesday, 7 May 2014 from 17:00**, at the Faculty of Social Sciences (room: FDV 2), University of Ljubljana. The lecture is also open to public and you can attend without reservation.

~ 4th Japanese Speech Contest ~

Do you speak Japanese as your second language? If yes, you can attend the 4th Japanese Speech Contest that will take place on Saturday, **17 May 2014 from 10:00** at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana (Room No. 15). You can compete in one of the three categories – Beginner, Intermediate, and 3rd Year Students of Japanese Studies at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana. Application deadline: **9 May 2014**. Everybody, who would like to attend this speech contest as a listener (not competitor), is also most welcome! [Details](#).

~ Japan Day in June ~

The Embassy is organizing its traditional Japanese cultural event, "Japan Day", **on 21 June 2014 from 10:00 to 19:00**, at Gospodarsko razstavišče in Ljubljana (not at Zbilje lake this year). Details in the next Japan Fresh News.

III. Economic/Business News

~ Ambassador visited Japan related companies ~

Ambassador Jomori visited Sumida Slovenija (26 February 2014), BIA Separations (31 March 2014) and Avče Pumped Storage Hydropower Plant/Soške Elektrarne Nova Gorica (9 April 2014) in hope that collaboration with Japanese companies will develop further. [More](#).



~ Japanese Daihen new owner of Varstroj~

Japanese corporation Daihen took over Varstroj, Lendava-based welding machine manufacturer in February 2014. The official ceremony of this acquisition is scheduled in June 2014.

IV. Open calls

~ Japanese Language Program for Overseas Students 2014 ~

The Japanese Language Program for Overseas Students of Japan Foundation offers outstanding students of the Japanese language an opportunity to visit Japan and to deepen their knowledge of the Japanese language, society, and culture. [Details](#).

~ 8th International Manga Award ~

Do you draw Manga and would like to show it to an expert jury for consideration? If yes, then you are the perfect candidate for the 8th International Manga Award organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Submit your work **by 31 May 2014**, compete for the Gold or Silver Awards and travel to Japan! [Details](#).

V. Recent Events

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

Ambassador Jomori gave an interview for Radio Slovenia International about relations between Japan and Slovenia, Japanese cuisine, music, culture, way of life, and his impressions of Slovenia. They also played 7 famous Japanese pop songs! Do not worry if you missed the interview, you can still listen it on the Radio Si website. [Details](#).

~ All Japan Kendo Federation donated equipment to Kendo Federation of Slovenia ~

In recognition of efforts to promote kendo in Slovenia, the All Japan Kendo Federation donated kendo equipment to the Kendo Federation of Slovenia. Ambassador Jomori officially handed over the donated equipment on Saturday, 29 March 2014. [Details](#).



Are you interested in KENDO? Please visit the [Kendo Federation of Slovenia website](#) for more information!

~ Hanami – Cherry Blossom Festival ~

The cherry blossom festival took place on 5 April 2014 at the University Botanic Gardens Ljubljana. Despite rainy weather, more than 200 people attended the event and joined various workshops and bento box competition. [Details](#).



(Bento box)

VI. Various news

~ Japanese cuisine article published in Delo ~

On Sunday, 20 April 2014, Delo published an interesting article about Japanese cuisine in Ljubljana. According to the author, sushi is definitely here to stay; not only it is healthy but the traditional Japanese cuisine has even been added to UNESCO's cultural heritage list recently. You can read the entire article [here](#). Japanese restaurants in Ljubljana are [here](#).

~ Have you tried Japanese "Ramen"? ~

Asian restaurant "Tokyo Piknik" (Cankarjevo nabrežje 25, Ljubljana) began to offer "Ramen" menus (Japanese noodles in soup), which is very popular in Japan. There is one Japanese chef who is preparing "Ramen", so you can enjoy "Ramen" in a real Japanese style.



Ramen (Photo: Tokyo Piknik Facebook)

~ New information on the Senkaku Islands and Takeshima ~

New pamphlets and video are available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan homepage. Please check them:

1. [Senkaku Islands pamphlet](#)
2. [Takeshima pamphlet](#)
3. [History of the Senkaku Islands video](#)

~ What's new on Abenomics? ~

You can find the latest progress and achievements of the Prime Minister Abe's economic policy, "Abenomics" [here](#).

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**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](#)
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[info@s2.mofa.go.jp](mailto:info@s2.mofa.go.jp).

\* **KOINOBORI (鯉幟)**: Carp-shaped windsocks, which Japanese display from April to early May, in honor of sons, hoping they will grow up healthy and strong like carp. A carp set is flown above roof of house, with a big black koinobori as father, next big red as mother, and ranging down to the smallest carp for youngest kid. See more details in Wikipedia.