



JAPAN FRESH NEWS

No. 20 (November 2015)

by the Embassy of Japan in Slovenia

(*Shichi-go-san: 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.)



- * After more than 2.5 years, Ambassador Jomori has concluded his duties as Ambassador of Japan to Slovenia and returned to Japan.
Newly appointed Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Keiji Fukuda, already arrived in Slovenia and will continue to further deepen the friendly relations between our countries.
- * Japan Foundation has published its program for the financial year 2016-2017! (Sec. IV)
- * **Lecture on Noh theatre** and **demonstration** of the traditional Japanese craft of making **wooden Noh masks** in Slovene Ethnographic Museum on 19 November 2015. (Sec. III)
- * Two Japanese films at **Liffe 2016!** (Sec. IV)
- * Conference on **Japan-EU EPA and SPA** with Ambassador of Japan to the European Union Mr. Katakami and Member of the European Parliament Mr. Lojze Peterle (Sec. II)



I. Fresh/important news

~ The 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly ~

Between 26 and 30 September, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida visited New York to attend the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. During his visit, the Prime Minister delivered an [address](#) at the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly for the third consecutive year, and also delivered a [statement](#) at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. [Details](#)

~ Agreement in Principle on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations ~

On 5 October, at the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Ministerial Meeting held in Atlanta, United States, an agreement in principle was reached on the TPP Agreement. Japan intends to continue cooperating closely with the other participating countries, and to aim for the TPP Agreement to be signed at an early date. [Details](#)

~ Election of Japan as a Non-permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council ~

On 15 October, Japan was elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) at the elections held during the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York. As a result, Japan will serve a two-year term in the UNSC starting from January 1 of next year. Japan will contribute to make proactive contributions on a wide range of issues concerning international peace and security while on the Security Council. [Details](#)

II. Economic/Business News

~ Conference on Japan-EU EPA and SPA ~

On 16 October, Mr. Keiichi Katakami, Ambassador of Japan to the European Union, gave a keynote speech at the "EU and Japan: Opportunities for Economic and Social Cooperation" conference in Ljubljana. At the conference, Mr. Alojz Peterle, member of the European Parliament and Special Rapporteur on Japan-EU/SPA (former Prime Minister of Slovenia) and other distinguished guests, participated as panellists. During his speech, Ambassador Katakami discussed the importance of the Japan-EU relationship, the ongoing SPA and EPA negotiations between Japan and the EU. [Details](#)

III. Future events

~ Contemporary expression of the traditional woodcarving art ~

The Embassy of Japan and the Slovene Ethnographic Museum are pleased to invite you to the **lecture on Noh theatre and demonstration of the traditional Japanese craft of making wooden Noh masks**. Hideta Kitazawa, a woodcarving artists specialized in masks and Shinto temples, will for the first time in Slovenia demonstrate how the famous wooden Noh masks are made! Don't miss this unique opportunity and join us at the **Slovene Ethnographic Museum (Administration building)** on **19 November 2015 at 11:00**. Entrance is **free of charge**. [Details](#).



~ Japanese rock band Ganglion in Ljubljana ~

All fans of Japanese music are invited to attend the concert of the Japanese all-girl rock band Ganglion! The band is known for their fast and dynamic concerts, and their unique and futuristic rock sounds. The concert is organized by Touhou Association and Dirty Skunks and will take place on **25 November 2015 at 21:00 in Orto Bar** in Ljubljana. For more information and tickets click [here](#).

IV. Other news

~ Japan Foundation Program for 2016–2017 ~

Japan Foundation has published its program for the financial year 2016-2017! You can apply for 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](#).

~ Two Japanese films at Liffe 2016 ~

This year's edition of the Ljubljana International Film Festival will feature two Japanese films! The films "Sestrica" (Umimachi Diary), directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda, and "Ryuzo in sedem veličastnih" (Ryuzo to 7 nin no kobun tachi), directed by Takeshi Kitano, will be screened with Slovene subtitles as part of the Kings and Queens section of the festival, which presents films by notable and award-winning virtuosos of contemporary cinema. [Details](#).



"Sestrica"



"Ryuzo in sedem veličastnih"

~ Sakefan world: application for smart phone ~

Would you like to know more about Japanese Sake? The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan has published an application dedicated to Japanese Sake for smart phone, which is now available on App Store! Scanning the label of Japanese sake bottle, you can get easily basic information of Sake quality, as well as how to drink. [Detail](#)



~ TeaTime store at a new location ~

TeaTime is informing all tea lovers that the location of their store has changed. You can now find them at **Stari trg 10 in Ljubljana old town**. You are kindly invited to visit the store and discover the great variety of teas and premium tea accessories in their offer! [Details](#).

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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info@s2.mofa.go.jp.

*Shichi-Go-San (七五三), "Seven-Five-Three"

Shichigosan is a festival day in Japan for three- and seven-year-old girls and three- and five-year-old boys, held annually on November 15. It's usually celebrated on the closest weekend.

One of the common explanations for why these ages are celebrated is related to the period when the children were given a **kimono (着物)**. Kimono is expensive and buying one for a child was considered a milestone on the road to adulthood. Even now, Shichigosan is the day that most children receive their first kimono.

Shichigosan is celebrated at a family's neighbourhood Shinto Shrine, where a short ceremony is held to ask the kami (god, spirit) to watch over the children. Children wear their kimonos and three-year-old girls usually wear **hifu (被布 - a type of padded vest)** with their kimono. Western-style formal wear is also worn by some children.



Children are given good luck charms and a **Chitose Ame** (千歳飴 - "**thousand year candy**"), a special type of long, thin, red and white candy that symbolizes health, growth and longevity. Afterwards, families usually have a little party at home. It's also common for families to have their photo taken at a photo studio around this time. Most parents in Japan consider Shichigosan a generally auspicious day for children. It's a day to wish for their health and happiness.

