



(\*Momiji: see at the end)

## JAPAN FRESH NEWS

No. 7 (October 2014)

by the Embassy of Japan in Slovenia

~ fresh news, recent events and useful sites ~



The fall has arrived and we can enjoy the beautiful autumn colours. We have collected fresh news for September/October, so please enjoy our newsletter No.7!

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



### I. Fresh/important news

#### ~ Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kishida in the United Nations General Assembly ~

From 21 to 26 September, Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kishida visited New York to attend the 69<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations. PM Abe delivered [a speech](#) at the General Debate as well as participated in several meetings to discuss international issues such as climate change, Ebola virus disease outbreak and others. FM Kishida also attended several ministerial meetings and issued some statements about current global matters. [Details](#).

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#### ~ World Assembly for Women in Tokyo: WAW! Tokyo 2014 ~

The World Assembly for Women in Tokyo (WAW! Tokyo 2014) was held in Tokyo from 12 to 14 September. The event was attended by Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kishida as well as political, business and opinion leaders from several countries across the world, and addressed the common issues relating to women throughout the world. You can read more about it [here](#).



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#### ~ Abenomics: We Are Accelerating the Implementation of Our Commitment on Reforms ~

Under the economic policy Abenomics, many measures have been implemented over the past year to facilitate economic growth. In June 2014, the growth strategy was revised with expanded and strengthened measures. Click [here](#) for updates on Abenomics.

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#### ~ Abductions of Japanese Citizens by North Korea ~

A new pamphlet on the issue of abductions of Japanese citizens by North Korea and a related short animation movie "Megumi" are now available. During the 1970's and 1980's, many

Japanese citizens disappeared under unusual circumstances. Click [here](#) for an overview of the issue and [here](#) to watch the animation "Megumi".

## II. Economic/Business news

### ~ Yaskawa Slovenija Donates to Ribnica ~

Yaskawa Slovenija, the Ribnica-based Japanese industrial robot manufacturer, donated 5,000 euro for construction of the new kindergarten in Ribnica on Sunday, 7 September 2014. Ambassador Jomori welcomed the donation as a strengthened partnership between Yaskawa Slovenija and the people in Ribnica. [More information.](#)



## III. Recent events

### ~ Exchange of sister cities Slovenj Gradec and Myoko ~

Between 7 and 13 September, Slovenj Gradec hosted a delegation of 11 inhabitants of Myoko (Niigata Prefecture, Japan), including 8 high school students, who learned about the history of Slovenj Gradec and its surroundings. Ambassador Jomori attended the opening ceremony and discussed with Mr. Andrej Čas, Mayor of Slovenj Gradec, the possibilities of future cooperation between the two sister cities. [Details.](#)



### ~ 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference of EAJS ~

The 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the European Association of Japanese Studies (EAJS) took place between 27 and 30 September 2014 in Ljubljana. Around 900 participants from Europe, Japan, and all over the world discussed different Japan-related topics and exchanged ideas on the future development of Japanese studies in Europe. In addition, Ambassador Jomori hosted a reception with some prominent guests at his residence. [Details.](#)

### ~ Four major genres of Japanese classical performing arts ~

Dr. Michiko Hirama, lecturer at the prestigious Toho Gakuen School of Music gave a lecture about four major genres of Japanese classical performing arts: gagaku, noh, bunraku, and kabuki. The lecture was held at the Oton Župančič Library in Ljubljana on Thursday, 28 August 2014 and attracted many people. [Details.](#)



### ~ Global Culture Nasu: Performance and workshop ~

Members of the Japanese non-governmental organisation "Global Culture Nasu" gave a presentation of characteristic sound and dance styles in Japanese traditional performing art. After the short introductory performance, the interested participants were able to try to play some of



the traditional instruments and learn some dance moves. The event took place on Saturday, 30 August 2014 at the Slovene Philharmonic. [Details](#).

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~ **New Books at the Embassy's Library** ~

We are happy to inform you about **eleven new books** we received for the Embassy's library! Among them, there are many popular books written by the famous Japanese writer Haruki Murakami. In addition to books by Japanese authors, we also offer books about Japan and educational DVDs. You can borrow all the items for free, so visit us at the Embassy! [Details](#).

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**IV. 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.)*

~ **16th Festival Slowind 2014 – Confronting Silence** ~

The **16<sup>th</sup> Festival Slowind with the title Confronting Silence** is dedicated to music from Japan. The main part of the festival is the concert programme that will feature outstanding Japanese musicians performing on traditional Japanese instruments. In addition to music by **Toru Takemitsu**, the festival will introduce two Japanese composers, Toshio Hosokawa and Dai Fujikura. A number of concerts, film screening, lectures and discussions will take place **between 11 and 21 October at various locations in Ljubljana**. [Details](#).

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~ **New Media Culture Festival Speculum Artium** ~

This year's New Media Culture Festival Speculum Artium carries the title "The Shape of Things to Come", addressing the issue of aliveness through mechanical and virtual paradigms. The festival will take place **between 2 and 4 October at Delavski dom Trbovlje** and will also present the famous humanoid robot ASIMO and the prestigious art-science project of the Japanese group ARART. The event is organized by Zavod za kulturo Delavski dom Trbovlje and is free of charge [Details](#).

~ **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](mailto:matej.crnjavic@s2.mofa.go.jp).

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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)
  4. [Keynote speech at the 13th IISS Asian Security Summit](#) ("The Shangri-la Dialogue")
  5. [Speech at the Australian Parliament \(July 2014\)](#)

- 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. 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](#)
  - 4. [Nihongo Starter \(Online Japanese Course\)](#)
- ⑦. [Japanese restaurants in Slovenia](#)



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

#### \* MOMIJI (紅葉, maple tree):

During the peak of the autumn season in Japan, the leaves of the maple trees and ginkgo trees turn red and yellow creating beautiful scenery at every turn. The leaves are called, "kouyou" or "momiji". The Japanese admire "momiji" in autumn just as they admire cherry blossoms in spring. Their beauty has been expressed in poems and songs throughout Japanese history. The Japanese also enjoy "momiji-gari" (autumn leaf viewing), which is regarded as a seasonal event as important as "hanami" (cherry blossom viewing).





(Kiyomizu-dera, a temple in Kyoto, which President Pahor also visited during his stay in Japan)



