



JAPAN FRESH NEWS

No. 19 (October 2015)

by the Embassy of Japan in Slovenia

(*Aki matsuri: 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.)



- * New laws passed for **Japan's proactive contribution to peace**. (Sec. I)
- * **Japanese week in "Gostilna išče šefa"** will be held between 3-7 October. (Sec. IV)
- * **Japan Film Week** was a big success. (Sec. III)
- * **Slovenian Business Forum for Tokyo Olympic 2020** established. (Sec. II)
- * Participants of **Young Bled Strategic Forum** at the Japanese residence. (Sec. I)



I. Fresh/important news

~ Approval of New Laws for the Development of Legislation for Peace and Security ~

On 19th September, the New Laws for the Development of Legislation for Peace and Security were approved in the diet. The legislation will enable seamless responses to any situations to secure the lives and peaceful livelihood of the Japanese people. Japan will be able to contribute more proactively to the peace and stability of the international community under the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace". [Video](#)

~ World Assembly for Women: WAW! 2015 ~

The World Assembly for Women: WAW! 2015 was held in Tokyo on August 28 and 29 in order to further promote the realization of 'A Society where Women Shine,' which Japan is engaged in at home and abroad. The event was attended by Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kishida as well as approximately 150 leaders and others active in women-related fields from approximately 40 countries participated. They addressed the common issues relating to women throughout the world.

[Details](#)



~ Meeting with Participants of Young Bled Strategic Forum ~

On August 30th, Ambassador Jomori hosted a dinner meeting for young leaders participating in Young Bled Strategic Forum at the residence. The Ambassador explained Japan's key policies including "Proactive Contribution to Peace" and introduced Japanese culture like Japanese cuisine and waka (Japanese poetry). Many fruitful discussions followed in a friendly atmosphere. [Details](#)



II. Economic/Business News

~ Establishment of Slovenian Business Forum for Tokyo Olympic 2020 ~

On September 10th, the 3rd regular meeting of Slovenia Japan Business Council was held at the residence of the Japanese Ambassador. In this meeting, "Slovenian Business Forum for Tokyo Olympic 2020 (SBF TO 2020)" was established under the SJBC. Mr. Miroslav Cerar, Honorary President of Slovenian Olympic Committee, gold medallist of pommel horse of Tokyo Olympic in 1964, also father of Prime Minister Cerar, was appointed Honorary President. Also, the "Committee for Promotion of Japanese Investment" was established.

~ Completion of Japanese financing to the project "IMF Technical Assistance in South Eastern Europe" ~

The Government of Japan has been financing the project to strengthen public finance systems in South Eastern European countries through "IMF Technical Assistance in South Eastern Europe" from 2009. This project was successfully completed and handed over to the European Commission. On September 17, the reception was organized by the Center of Excellence in Finance (CEF) to express gratitude to Japan. Dr. Dušan Mramor, Minister of Finance, Dr. Boštjan Jazbec, Governor of Bank of Slovenia and Ambassador Jomori attended. [Details](#)

III. Recent events and other

~ Japanese afternoon in Logatec ~

The second "Japanese afternoon" in Logatec organized by Aikido klub Logatec took place on Sunday, 6 September 2015. The many visitors learnt about Japan and Japanese culture by listening to different lectures, observing martial arts demonstrations, tasting Japanese food and tea, participating in different workshops, listening to Japanese fairy tales and more. [Details](#).



~ Japan Film Week 2015 ~

The very successful Japan Film Week 2015 took place between 10 and 15 September 2015 at Kino Bežigrad. The main theme of this year's selection was food. Four contemporary Japanese films were screened and they attracted more than 450 people. The opening screening was followed by a small reception at which visitors enjoyed Japanese ramen and award-winning sake. [Details](#).



~ Ninja lecture and demonstration ~

Professor Yuji Yamada from the Mie University, Japan and Jinichi Kawakama, the ninja grandmaster, held a lecture and demonstration of ninjutsu on Saturday, 26 September 2015. The event was organized as part of MokuMatsuri: Gakuen Edition in Maribor in cooperation with the group Animoku. Many visitors, especially young people, were fascinated by the world of ninja. [Details](#)

IV. Future events

~ Japanese week in "Gostilna išče šefa" ~

A whole week in the reality show "Gostilna išče šefa" is going to be dedicated to Japan! Contestants will learn about Japanese cuisine and prepare their own Japanese dishes. In addition, other aspects of Japan and Japanese culture will be introduced. So don't forget to tune in to POP TV between **3 and 7 October 2015** in the evening and discover the tastes and culture of Japan!

~ Haiku contest for children in Slovenia ~

JAL Foundation has announced the **14th biennial "World Children's Haiku Contest"**. For the first time, also children from Slovenia can apply! The theme of this year's contest is »Morning« and each child up to 15 years of age can participate with one haiku. Children, send your haikus to the partner school in Slovenia (OŠ Franceta Bevka, Tolmin) until **15 February 2016**! For more information, visit the contest's official website [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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*Aki Matsuri (秋祭り), "Autumn festivals"

It is very natural that after a rich harvest, people wish to celebrate with a joyful festival, the festival of autumn. In Japan we also have such tradition in every region.

Aki Matsuri in Japan is usually celebrated to express gratitude to the local god for a rich harvest. This festival is marked with joyful celebrations including the colourful parades with so-called "**Mikoshi**" (Shinto shrine). The Mikoshi contains the local shrine's kami (Shinto deity) and is carried through local streets so that people can worship it and thus thank for the rich harvest. Mikoshi can be preceded by a "**Dashi/Daijiri**", colourful float, which is pulled through the town to make way for the Mikoshi, accompanied by people dressed in traditional style, performing traditional music and dances.

During the Aki Matsuri, local area and shrines are full of festive atmosphere, with numerous cultural events and small stands. People enjoy delicious festival food like okonomiyaki, ikayaki, and cotton candy.



A "mikoshi" parade.



The delicious Okonomiyaki



Festive dance and music

One of the most famous Aki Matsuri is the autumn festival in Takayama, "**Takayama Festival**", visited by many people from all over Japan. Giant Dashi floats are pulled through the streets. There is usually a daytime procession of the floats, but the most elaborate part takes place at night-time when the Dashi are lit with hundreds of traditional lanterns. Along with the floats are marionettes that are performed on top of the floats, traditional marching bands, musical performances, and the shishimai lion dance.



Children and the marionettes



Shishimai lion dance



Beautifully decorated Dashi floats



Dashi boats by night