



(\*Kiku: see at the end)

## JAPAN FRESH NEWS

No. 6 (September 2014)

by the Embassy of Japan in Slovenia

~ fresh news, recent events and useful sites ~



The summer is almost over, did you make the most of it? Take a look at our new issue, no. 6!

(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

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

The World Assembly for Women in Tokyo (WAW! Tokyo 2014) will be held in Tokyo from **12 to 14 September 2014**, jointly hosted by four institutions including the Government of Japan and will be participated by international organizations like IMF, UNDP, UN Women. Through the symposium, messages and ideas on how to further promote women's active roles will be sent out to the world. You can read more about it [here](#) and [here](#).



*In addition, the period from 8 to 19 September has been designated as the Shine Weeks and a series of women-related events will be held in Japan by various groups including civil society. We hope the Shine Weeks events will generate a movement for "[A Society Where Women Shine](#)" across all of Japan.*

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#### ~ Prime Minister Abe's Visit to Latin America and the Caribbean ~

From 25 July to 2 August 2014, Prime Minister Abe visited Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, Chile and Brazil and held meetings with the leaders of these countries. In Brazil, the Prime Minister also made a policy speech "Juntos!! Bringing infinite depth to Japan – Latin America and the Caribbean Cooperation". Click [here](#) to see more details and [here](#) to read the speech by Prime Minister Abe.

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#### ~ Foreign Minister Kishida's Attendance at ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings, and Visit to Indonesia ~

From 8 to 12 August 2014, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida attended ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings held in Myanmar and discussed strengthening Japan-ASEAN cooperation and regional cooperation issues with his counterparts. In Indonesia he made a courtesy call on President-elect and held a foreign ministers' meeting. [Details](#)

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## II. Upcoming events

### ~ School Program to Resume in the New School Year ~

With the new school year, the Embassy of Japan will resume the school program, offering lectures on Japan to primary and high school students in Slovenia. We are also introducing some changes with which we hope to make the program even more interesting for you and your students.



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

Come and listen to Dr. Michiko Hiramata from Toho Gakuen School of Music talk about four major genres of Japanese classical performing arts: gagaku, noh, bunraku, and kabuki. The lecture is organized by the Embassy of Japan. It will be held in English. **Entrance is free of charge, no reservation needed. Join us at the Oton Župančič Library (3<sup>rd</sup> floor) in Ljubljana on Thursday, 28 August 2014 from 19:00.** [Details](#).



*The lecture will also be an introduction to the workshop taking place on Saturday, 30 August, where you will be able to experience the traditional Japanese performing arts first-hand. See below for more information.*

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

Join us on **Saturday, 30 August between 9:30 in 12:00 at the Marjan Kozina Hall in the Slovenian Philharmonic** for a presentation and workshop on characteristic sound and style in Japanese traditional performing art. You will be able to actively participate in one of the three workshops: dance, kotsuzumi (small drum) and shamisen. The event is sponsored by the Embassy of Japan. **Entrance is free of charge, no reservation is needed.** [Details](#).



Photo: Kiyoto Takamatsu

*On the day after the workshop (31 August) you will be able to see a professional performance of traditional dance and music at SNT Drama Ljubljana. See below the news ~ Global Culture Nasu: Music and dance from traditional Japan ~ for more information.*

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### ~ Contemporary Japanese Cinema ~

Are you interested in Japanese cinema? If yes, visit the Japanese film week that will take place **between 17 and 24 September in the Kosovel Hall in Cankarjev dom**. We will screen seven characteristic Japanese films the likes of which are infrequently featured at European film festivals. Please, find the program [here](#). Entrance fee applies.



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### III. 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.)*

#### ~ Global Culture Nasu: Music and dance from traditional Japan ~

For a genuine experience of traditional Japanese music and dance, you have a chance to enjoy directly the performance by the Global Culture Nasu, the Japanese non-governmental organization that preserves and promotes Japan's cultural heritage. The evening dedicated to music and dance from traditional Japan will take place on **Sunday, 31 August from 20:00 at SNT Drama Ljubljana**. Entrance fee applies. [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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#### **\* KIKU (菊, Japanese Chrysanthemums):**

Is the most celebrated of all Japanese fall-flowering plants. This flower is most appreciated by the Japanese for its beauty and was used as a medical plant already in the Heian period (794-1191). In the Edo period (1603-1867) Kiku cultivation became very popular, and varieties of chrysanthemums were introduced. At that time skilful techniques were developed for displaying and enjoying chrysanthemum flowers. People made large dolls using kiku trained into human forms, usually of famous people and characters from folklore. They still are commonly seen at kiku-matsuri (kiku festivals) even now. Japanese enjoy the variety of Kiku exhibits in autumn, where they can admire their beauty and observe a Kiku flower measuring up to 20cm in diameter.

Some Kiku flowers are edible and can be prepared as tempura or cooked as a soup. Kiku is also a symbol of the Japanese Imperial family.







