



JAPAN FRESH NEWS

No. 18 (September 2015)

by the Embassy of Japan in Slovenia

(*Chūshū no meigetsu: 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.)



- * **Japanese Film Festival 2015** between 10 and 15 September 2015 at Kino Bežigrad (Sec. III)
- * **Ninja lecture and demonstration**, Saturday, 26 September 2015 (Sec. III)
- * Many visitors at the **Asian Culinary Day in Zbilje** (Sec. II)
- * **New books now available at the Embassy's library** (Sec. II)



I. Fresh/important news

~ Statement by Prime Minister Abe on 70th Anniversary of the End of WWII ~

On August 14, the [Statement by Prime Minister Abe](#) was issued on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the World War II. In this statement, Prime Minister Abe expressed deep remorse and heartfelt apology for Japan's action during the war. Based on the recent 70 years history of Japan as a peace proactive country, he pledged to a more active role in "Proactive Contribution to Peace".

~ Foreign Minister Kishida at the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings ~

On August 6, Foreign Minister Kishida attended the 22nd ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Meeting, the Fifth East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the 16th ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Participants candidly exchanged views, primarily on regional and international affairs including the South China Sea and North Korea. [Details](#)

~ World Assembly for Women in Tokyo: WAW! 2015 ~

"The World Assembly for Women in Tokyo: WAW! 2015" will be held **from 28 to 29 August**. This symposium is one of the efforts to achieve 'A Society where Women Shine', which is one of the most important initiatives of the Government of Japan. Last year's WAW 2014 was a big success. This year, about 100 active leaders in the field of women's issues from Japan and the world are expected to participate. [Details](#)

II. Recent events and other

~ Open-air jazz concert: Koncert: The Yabuno Ettun Project ~

On Friday night of 14th August 2015, open-air jazz concert took place at Stari trg in Ljubljana, organized by Imago Sloveniae and Embassy of Japan. Japanese pianist Haruka Yabuno and Israeli bassist Ehud Ettun united in "The Yabuno Ettun Project" performed their own original pieces and jazzy-arranged Japanese songs for children. [Details](#).



~ Asian culinary day ~

On Sunday, 23 August 2015 a special day dedicated to Asian cuisines was held at Lake Zbilje. Visitors could taste Japanese, Chinese, Indian and Thai dishes as well as buy some Japanese sweets, ingredients, spices and kitchen appliances to be able to prepare Japanese and other Asian food at home. The different Japanese stands offered many traditional Japanese dishes and were very popular among visitors. The event was organized by Touhou Association, TD Zbilje and Embassy of Japan. [Details](#).



~ New books in Embassy's library ~

We are happy to inform you that we expanded our Embassy's library and added new books by Japanese authors. Come visit us and borrow some books to read and enjoy at home. Please, check the list of available books [here](#).

III. Future events

~ Japanese afternoon in Logatec ~

Join us at the second Japanese afternoon in Logatec on **Sunday, 6 September 2015 between 13:00 and 17:00**. Don't miss the different martial arts demonstrations, haiku readings, origami workshop, Japanese food and tea tastings, Japanese language lessons and much more! Organized by Aikido klub Logatec with support of the Embassy of Japan. **Entrance is free of charge.** [Details](#).

~ Japanese Film Festival 2015 ~

The main theme of this year's selection is food, but the focus of the films is elsewhere. We follow the lives of main characters, we learn about ordinary Japanese families, their relationships, dreams and desires. Don't miss this special selection of contemporary Japanese cinema between **10 and 15 September 2015 at Kino Bežigrad**. **Entrance is free of charge.** [Details](#).



~ Ninja lecture and demonstration ~

Enjoy the unique opportunity to attend the lecture and demonstration of ninjutsu, better known in the world as ninja! Professor Yuji Yamada from the Mie University, Japan and Jinichi Kawakama, the last ninja grandmaster, will present this fascinating Japanese martial art on **Saturday, 26 September 2015** (the exact hour will be published on our website). The lecture and demonstration are organized as part of MokuMatsuri: Gakuen Edition at **Zveza prijateljev mladine Maribor** in cooperation with the group Animoku. **Entrance is free of charge.** [Details](#).

~ MokuMatsuri: Gakuen Edition ~

Stop by at **Zveza prijateljev mladine Maribor** on **Saturday, 26 September 2015 between 10:00 and 20:00** and celebrate with Animoku their sixth anniversary. The main theme of the event is Japanese schools (school system and school clubs) and the organizers promise it to be very interactive, featuring anime/manga bazaar, kimono lecture and workshop, cosplay competition, Japanese sweets, Go game, Ninja lecture and demonstration, and more! **Entrance is free of charge.** [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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***Chūshū no meigetsu (中秋の名月), "The beautiful moon in the middle of autumn"**

Japanese have a custom of admiring not only the cherry blossoms, but also the moon, especially in autumn. **Chūshū no meigetsu** is the full moon in mid-September and is thought to be the most beautiful and brightest moon during the year. The day is usually after harvesting all summer vegetables and before start harvesting rice. That is why it is also called **the Harvest moon**.



On that day, Japanese gather with friends and family, placing ornaments and offerings next to windows or verandas, and in other places where you can see the moon. Vases are filled with **Susuki** (pampas grass) and seasonal foods like **Tsukimi-dango** (moon viewing dumplings), pears, and sweet potatoes are placed on dishes.



According to the old Japanese stories, a rabbit lives on the moon. It is called a **Tsuki no usagi** (Moon rabbit). When you look at the moon, you can see a shape of a rabbit pounding the ingredients for **mochi** (rice cake). So, next time there is a full moon, look for the rabbit.



Many cultures through time have developed stories about the features they observed on the Moon. For example, as mentioned before, the Japanese see a rabbit, people in South Europe see a crab, and Arabians see a lion.

