

## EAJS 関連記事要約

### **“Europe is interested in Japan irrespective of its economic fate”**

(Article in the Delo Saturday Supplement, pg. 12, 30 August 2014)

The article is an interview with Dr. Andrej Bekeš about the 14th EAJS (European Association for Japanese Studies) Conference and the development of the field of Japanese Studies in Slovenia. Around 900 people attended the conference, most of them from Europe, about a quarter from Japan, and one-fifth from America and other regions. EAJS covers all aspects of Japanese studies from teaching Japanese language to economics, philosophy, art, and film. The conference is attended by experts, lecturers and university professors, and PhD candidates. Interest in Japan is increasing in Europe, while it varies in America depending on Japan's economic situation. The Chair of Japanese Studies in Ljubljana is relatively small, as it currently consists of 8 people. It is part of the Department for Asian and African Studies. Next year, the Department will introduce Korean Studies and thus cover the most important part of East Asia. They would like to study East Asia as a region with a population of 1.6 billion people. Slovenia has many business contacts with the region, and in recent years, economic relations with Japan are developing more rapidly. For a company that wants to do business with Japan, it is useful to employ a person who knows the language and the culture. In 19 years of the Chair's existence, about 150 people graduated from Japanese Studies. Some students spend a longer time during their studies also at Japanese universities, and some Japanese students take part in exchanges in Slovenia. The latter are generally short, mostly lasting up to one month, as a result of the Japanese method of recruitment and employment of graduates in companies. As a rule, more female than male students come to Slovenia. Here, they quickly notice a more relaxed atmosphere. According to dr. Bekeš, the Japanese language is relatively easy, at least in terms of pronunciation. It has a relatively simple sentential structure, more difficult is the writing. One character represents a single word. The basic, standardized stock of characters, which is sufficient for everyday use, is approximately 1,900, which is about the upper limit of human cognitive abilities.