

**THE PRINCE TAKAMADO JAPAN CENTRE FOR TEACHING AND
RESEARCH**

**ANNUAL REPORT
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MISSION OF THE CENTRE

Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research continues its efforts to fulfill the following revised mandate:

1. To provide opportunities for interdisciplinary study and research which promotes Japan Studies, including language, business, culture, politics, history, technology and science;
2. To strengthen research which situates Japan in a global, transnational and/or comparative context;
3. To become the focus of a network of expertise in these areas in Canada

SUMMARY

During the 2018-2019 academic year, the PTJC organized several key events. Its highlights were the hosting of the Japan Studies Association of Canada's Annual Conference, "Japan's World/World's Japan: Images, Perceptions, and Reactions" in October 2018, the 10th Anniversary of the Japan Canada Academic Consortium (co-organized by Queen's University and the Embassy of Japan in Ottawa) in February 2019; the Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest in March, Annual PTJC lecture (by Dr. Olenka Bilash) in April; and a series of brown bag lunch seminars in which UAlberta researchers on Japan studies, including graduate students, met together to share their projects.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS (2018-2019)

Major Activities:

Academic / Research

- Started collaboration project – Yokai in the Edo Period (with Dr. Walter Davis and Dr. Anne Commons)
- Started collaboration project – Heritage Practices: Identification, Diversity, and Digitalization (with Dr. Srilata Ravi)

Programs and Events

- Hosted seven talks in the Asian Studies Brown Bag Lunch series (Ryan Dunch, Christopher Lupke, Mei Nan, Anne Commons, Ashley Esarey, David Quinter, Daniel Fried)
- Hosted the Annual Lecture by Professor Olenka Bilash (Faculty of Education) in Calgary
- Sponsored a guest lecture for the Department of East Asian Studies (Professor Kirk Kanesaka, UCLA)
- Organized two Japanese Language Proficiency Tests
- Hosted the Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest (funded by the Japan Foundation, Mitsui Co Foundation, the Alberta Japanese Business Association, and the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary)
- Sent 7 students to Ritsumeikan Summer Program, offering 5 scholarships
- Sent 14 students to Ritsumeikan field school (offered by Professor Walter Davis, EASIA)

Japan-Canada Academic Consortium:

- Co-organized the 10 Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum with Queen's University and the Kwansei Gakuin University
- Began preparation for the eleventh forum with Hosei University and Seinan Gakuin University

Undergraduate Scholarships:

Ritsumeikan Summer Program Scholarships:

University of Alberta: Vidal Tavares, Yiqing Zhou, Victor Mai, Victor Uong, Eric Sanfacon (some pending)

JPEX/JACOS Scholarships in Engineering:

University of Alberta: Chenni Zhao, David John Boon, Aliessa Iana, Dorothea Johnson, and Kallie Alexandra Heniuk

Keyano College: Megan Bayley, Mitchell Noel and Rebecca Turner

University of Calgary: Akshat Yugin, Connor Toppings, Kevin Brereton, and Richard Lee

National Japanese Speech Contest Grand Prize (Travel Grant):

Will Yang, University of Toronto

Comments:

“The National Japanese Speech Contest was nothing short of an eye-opening experience. While the intense competition did indeed help everyone up their game, it was who we met, rather than how we competed, that left the greatest impression. Being in the company of like-minded learners who shared our passion for Japanese language and culture forged a strong sense of belonging; it was a welcome reminder that despite the long and arduous journey, we were not alone in our quest for mastery. I am sure that everyone departed from the contest reinvigorated and inspired, knowing that the connections we forged will last many a lifetime.”

Event Details:

July 1, 2018: Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

This was the sixth year the University of Alberta hosted a summer edition of the JLPT. As the sole institution that organizes this exam in summer, we received 186 applicants from many parts of North America. It provided both high school and university students with a great opportunity to visit the U of A campus. At the same time, it offered U of A students who took courses as the Department of East Asian Studies a chance to get qualifications to search for jobs in Japanese industries and to study in Japanese universities.

11-14 October, 2018: Japan Studies Association of Canada Annual Conference

Funded by the Japan Foundation, the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary, and the University of Alberta, the PTJC and the University of Calgary co-hosted this year’s Japan Studies Association of Canada’s Annual Conference at the University of Alberta. The theme was “Japan’s World/World’s Japan: Images, Perceptions and Reactions.” Mr. Shigenobu Kobayashi, Consul-General of Japan in Calgary and Dr. Laura Beard, Associate Vice-President Research, University of Alberta, gave the opening remarks. Keynote presentations were “Revival of Indigenous Ainu Culture and Ethnic Harmony” by Professor Teruki Tsunemoto of Hokkaido University, “Put to the Test: Abjection and Sexual Citizenship in Japan” by Professor John W. Treat of Yale University, “Transmedia Storytelling within the Media Mix system in Japanese Pop Culture” by Professor Akinori Nakamura of Ritsumeikan University, and “Japan’s Ambivalent Pursuit of American-Style Capitalism” by Professor Stephen Vogel of University of California, Berkeley. We also invited Professor Masumi Izumi, Doshisha University as a special guest for this conference. Her talk dealt with Japanese Canadians who were deported to Japan after World War II. The conference concluded on the final day with a community roundtable discussion regarding Edmonton and Japan. A number of professors, students, and community members participated in this conference.

November 2018-April 2019: PTJC Brown Bag Lunch Talk Series

PTJC organized four lunch-time talks in order to create a place for UAlberta professors and students to get together. It was the first time that PTJC organized such an event, but it was quite successful. Presentations included:

- Christopher Lupke, Chair and Professor, EASIA, “How Transition Can Rescue the Humanities: Personhood, Narrative, Global Modernity in Soseki’s Kokoro.”
- Ryan Dunch, Chair and Professor, History and Classics, “Making Books to Make Readers to Make Converts: Early Protestant Missionary Publishing in Chinese, 1818-1843.”
- Mei Nan, MA student, EASIA, “Making Sense of Non-sense: Revisioning Liu Na’ou (1905-1940) from a Sinophone Perspective.”
- Ashley Esary, ATS, China Institute and Political Sciences, “Struggle for 100% Freedom: The Legacy of Nylon Cheng and Taiwan’s Democratization.”
- Anne Commons, Associate Professor, EASIA, “Cautionary Tales: Danger and Didacticism in the Toshiyori Zuino.”
- Daniel Fried, Associate Professor, EASIA, “Signs of Sublimation: Text and Materiality in Medieval Daoism.”
- David Quinter, Associate Professor, EASIA, “Performing Icons and Bodies: Chogen Kujo Kanazane and the Restoration of the Todaiji Great Buddha.”

December 3, 2018: Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

PTJC organized the winter edition of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test. 95 students, mainly from the University of Alberta applied for the test.

February 16-23, 2019: Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum

The Japan-Canada Academic Consortium held its tenth annual Student Forum under the theme, “Japan-Canada Relations in an Era of Global Challenge,” at Queen’s University. Sponsored by the JACAC, Queen’s University, the Japan Foundation, the Embassy of Japan in Canada, the Japan Student Services Organization, and JACAC membership universities, we had a successful forum which celebrated both the 90th anniversary of Japan-Canada diplomatic relations and the 10th anniversary of the forum. Fourteen student participants from the consortium’s ten Canadian universities joined fourteen students from Japanese universities to discuss the future roles of G7 countries in global politics.

March 2, 2019: Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest

PTJC organized the 28th Alberta Japanese District Speech Contest at the University of Alberta, which attracted approximately 100 participants. It received financial support from the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary, Alberta Japanese Business Association, and Mitsui Canada Foundation. Consul-General Shigenobu Kobayashi and Mr. Koji Matsukawa, Idemitsu Corporation participated in the event. It also offered a place for

students and Japanese language instructors from five universities: University of Alberta, University of Calgary, Mount Royal University, and University of Saskatchewan. Participants presented excellent Japanese speeches that were highly praised by the audience.

March 24, 2018: National Japanese Speech Contest

The PTJC supported the 30th National Japanese Speech Contest at the Embassy of Japan in Ottawa, offering its financial support. Ambassador Kimihiko Ishikane attended the event as a Chief judge. Its contestants represented more than ten universities from seven provinces (Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Ottawa area, Manitoba, Alberta-Saskatchewan, and British Columbia).

April 5, 2019: Department of East Asian Studies Lecture Series, “The Maiden At Dojoji Temple: Performance Interpretations” by Dr. Kirk Kanesaka (Nakamura Gankyō), UCLA

This lecture examined the relationship between text and performance, analyzing the interpretations of the kabuki dance drama *The Maiden at Dōjōji Temple* that have been transmitted among generations of kabuki actors but are not textually transcribed. Through an introduction of modern kabuki stars Sakata Tōjūrō IV and Bandō Mitsugorō, performer and actor Nakamura Gankyō examined the kata and kaishaku, or “form” and “interpretation,” of famous scenes in the play *The Maiden at Dōjōji Temple*.

April 24, 2019: Annual Public Lecture: “Cultural differences as revealed through team teaching in English education in Japan” by Professor Olenka Bilash, University of Alberta.

Professor Bilash gave a lecture based on her decade-long project in Hokkaido, Japan, examining cultural differences and challenges that Canadian teaching assistants who participated the JET program were facing. In this lecture, she tried to identify the methods by which Canadian teaching assistants could make more contributions to English education in Japanese high schools. Approximately fifty people, including the former JET members and the President of the JET Alumni Association in Calgary participated in this lecture, which ended with an interesting discussion. The event also helped expand the centre’s network with the Calgary community.

May 13 -June 14, 2019: Ritsumeikan Summer Program

Seven students were selected to attend this year’s Ritsumeikan Summer Japanese Program, which took place in Kyoto, Japan. PTJC offered four scholarships this year to qualified participants with high GPAs. These students participated in a language course, field trips, and Japanese cultural classes.

June 17-28, 2019: INT D 225 Ritsumeikan Summer Field Course

This year, fourteen students attended a field course held at Ritsumeikan University. Professor Walter Davis (EASIA) taught this course on the topic of “Ukiyoe.” This course focused on painting, especially yoga, *nihonga*, and *nanga*, but also considered architecture,

sculpture, and such phenomena as collecting, the merchandizing of traditional culture, the *mingei* movement, Sinophile culture, Japanese orientalism, and modern print movements. Lectures and discussions at Ritsumeikan were supplemented by on-site sessions at the National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto and the Kyoto Prefectural Insho-Domoto Museum of Fine Arts.

DIRECTOR'S MISSIONS

Organized Meetings/Events:

1 July 2018: Japanese Language Proficiency Test, Edmonton
23 September 2018: Brown Bag Lunch Talk I, Edmonton
11-14 October 2018: Japan Studies Association of Canada Annual Conference, Edmonton
21 November 2018: Brown Bag Lunch Talk II, Edmonton
3 December 2018: Japanese Language Proficiency Test, Edmonton
16 January 2019: Brown Bag Lunch Talk III, Edmonton
5 February 2019: Brown Bag Lunch Talk IV, Edmonton
16-23 February 2019: Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum, Kingston/Ottawa
2 March 2019: Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest, Edmonton
6 March 2019: Brown Bag Lunch Talk V, Edmonton
20 March 2019: Brown Bag Lunch Talk VI, Edmonton
5 April 2019: The Department of East Asia Lecture Series, Edmonton
10 April 2019: Brown Bag Lunch Talk VII, Edmonton
24 April 2019: PTJC Public Lecture, Calgary

Main Meetings / Event Participation (external)

16-17 July 2018: Delegation, Hokkaido Legislative Assembly, Edmonton
27 August 2018: Meeting with Queen's University, Kingston
28 August 2018: Ms. Yukako Ochi, First Secretary and Mr. Atsushi Murata, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan, Ottawa
7 September 2018: Dinner meeting with Hitachi High-Tech Delegates, Edmonton
19 September 2018: Go Global Fair (Ritsumeikan Summer Programs Promotion), Edmonton
27 September 2018: Lunch meeting with Consul-General of Japan in Calgary, Deputy Consul-General of Japan in Calgary, Edmonton
12 October 2018: The Japan Studies Association of Canada Executive Board
28 November 2018: Lunch Discussion with the Consul-General of Japan in Calgary with the Government of Alberta representatives, Government House, Edmonton
28 November 2018: Consul-General of Japan in Calgary – Official Visit to the University of Alberta International, Edmonton
22 February 2019: Lunch Meeting with Ambassador Kimihiro Ishikane, Professor Takamichi Mito (KGU), Professor David Welch (University of Waterloo), and Professor Andrew Grant (Queen's), Ottawa
29 May 2019: National Japanese Speech Contest Organizing Committee (video)

10 June 2019: The Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Annual Meeting, Tokyo
10 June 2019: The Embassy of Canada, Tokyo
11 June 2019: Meeting with Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado
17 June 2019: Meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Letters, Ritsumeikan University
25 June 2019: Meeting with the President of Seitoku University
28 June 2019: The Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund Advisory Council