

# THE PRINCE TAKAMADO JAPAN CENTRE FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH

## ANNUAL REPORT 1 JULY 2022 - 30 JUNE 2023

Affiliated Faculty: Faculty of Arts

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### 1. MISSION OF THE CENTRE

Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research (PTJC) was established by the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund in 2004 with an agreement between Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado and former President Roderick D. Fraser. As one of few Japanese centres in Canada, it continues its efforts to promote the diversity of fields in the Faculty of Arts, focusing on academic collaboration and exchange of students and scholars between Japan and Canada, with the following 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

### 2. SUMMARY

In the academic year of 2022-2023, the PTJC organized several research and teaching projects. As a partner centre of the multi-year 2.49 million SSHRC Partnership Grant project, led by Dr. Jordan Stanger-Ross at the University of Victoria, the PTJC continues collaborating with researchers globally on racism and historical injustice. At the same time, its key events included a webinar series funded by the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary, “Popular Culture as Japan’s National Brand: Possibilities and Challenges.” In February, PTJC co-organized the 14<sup>th</sup> Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum

with Josai International University under the theme, “Canada and Japan: Towards 100 Years of Diplomatic Relations” in Chiba, Japan. In March, the Centre organized the 32nd Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest as well as the 34<sup>rd</sup> National Japanese Speech Contest funded by Mitsui Canada Co, Japan Foundation, and the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary. The PTJC also organized the University of Alberta’s President Mission to Japan from 25 February to 1 March 2023. For the event details, please see our bi-annual newsletters ([December 2022](#), [June 2023](#))

### 3. ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

#### 3.1 University of Alberta’s Japan Mission, 25 February-1 March 2023

The PTJC organized the University of Alberta's Japan mission with the University of Alberta International. In this mission, President Bill Flanagan travelled to Japan with Dr. Cen Huang (AVP International) and Dr. Aya Fujiwara (Director) and met with Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado, Ambassador Ian Mackay, the members of the PTJCMF advisors, President Teruo Fujii (University of Tokyo), Mr. Daylin Breen (Director, the Alberta-Japan Office, the members of the Japan Foundation, and the University of Alberta alumni and friends. In Kyoto, the PTJC facilitated the signing of the MOU between the Kule Institute for Advanced Studies and Ritsumeikan Centre for Game Studies. University of Alberta researchers, Dr. Geoffrey Rockwell, Department of Philosophy and Dr. Eleni Stroulia, Department of Computer Science were major contributing scholars from the University of Alberta. This project strengthens the relationship between two universities through Replaying Japan Conference and opens a new collaboration towards AI-based solutions for healthy aging. The MOU was signed by President Bill Flanagan, the University of Alberta and President Yoshio Nakatani at Ritsumeikan University.

#### 3.2 Academic / Research-Related Activities/Events:

- Guest Lecture:
  - “The Lock on the Northern Gate”: Militarized Settler Colonialism on the Russo-Japanese Border” by Dr. Michael Roellinghoff, Post-doctoral Researcher
  - “Canada-Japan Relations in the Indo-Pacific Era,” by Jonathan B. Miller, Senior Fellow, Japan Institute of International Affairs, Directory and Senior Fellow on Indo-Pacific, Macdonald Laurier Institute, Senior Fellow, Asian Forum Japan
- Projects:
  - SSHRC-funded Past Wrongs, Future Choices (institutional partner)
  - The Hirabayashi Anti-Racism Project

#### 3.3 Public Events:

- Webinar Series: “Popular Culture as Japan’s National Brand: Possibilities and Challenges,” funded by Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary. Speakers: Dr. Will Carrol, University of Alberta, Dr. Akinori Nakamura, Ritsumeikan University, Dr. Akiko Sugawa-Shimada, Yokohama National University, and Dr. Daisuke Yasui, Ritsumeikan University, 13-25 March 2023

- Film Discussion, “Nausicaa of the Valley of the Winds: Movie Night and Discussion,” as part of the International Week, organized by the University of Alberta International. Speakers: Dr Will Carrol and Dr. M Derek Mackenzie, University of Alberta, 9 February 2023

#### 3.4 Students’ Programs:

- Japanese Language Proficiency Tests (July and December)
- The 14<sup>th</sup> Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum, “Canada and Japan: Towards 100 Years of Diplomatic Relations,” Josai International University Chiba, Japan and Embassy of Canada in Tokyo, 21 February-1 March 2023
- Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest (funded by the Japan Foundation, Mitsui Co Foundation, Alberta Japanese Business Association, and the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary), 11 March 2023

#### 4. SCHOLARSHIPS / GRANTS

##### 4.1 Ritsumeikan Summer Program Scholarships:

Karen Vuong  
 Cameron Dribnenky  
 Sara Jenna Liron Hafer  
 Cameron James Matthew  
 Jessica Rachel Tan

##### 4.2 JPEX/JACOS Scholarships in Engineering:

###### University of Alberta (2022-2023)

Maria Perez  
 Mohammed Ali Haider  
 Paola Becerra  
 Abby Grace Chauvet Holman

###### Keyano College (2022-2023)

Christina Sibley  
 Jessica Sparks  
 Ellen M. Fabros

###### University of Calgary (2022-2023)

Abdel Rahman Abbas  
 Maria Law  
 Spencer Tourigny  
 Mila Mrljic

##### 4.3 Princess Takamado Essay Contest

- Gregory Blomquist, University of Alberta

“Wild MEWTWO appeared! A Transmedia Character Study of Pokémon”

- Atsuo Nakayama, Waseda University  
“Play to earn/Play to gain – How Blockchain game 2021’s expansion synchronize with Social game 2010’s expansion”

#### 4.4 National Japanese Speech Contest Grand Prize

- Risha Pelchat, York University

### 5. People

#### Director

- Dr. Aya Fujiwara

#### Administrative Assistant

- Ms. Rei Kondo
- Mr. Nikita Sleptkov (PhD student)
- Mr. Sean Patterson (PhD student)

#### Administrative Board

- Dr. Marie Carriere, Associate Dean Research, Faculty of Arts
- Dr. Daniel Fried, Chair, Department of East Asian Studies
- Dr. Sandra Bucerius, Director Centre for Criminological Research, Department of Sociology