

THE PRINCE TAKAMADO JAPAN CENTRE FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

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Faculty of Education

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Missions of the Centre

The Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research continues its efforts to fulfill the four mandates as listed below:

- ♦ To promote teaching and research in Japan Studies;
- ♦ To provide opportunities for interdisciplinary study and research which calls upon knowledge of Japanese language, culture, and/or Japan Studies;
- ♦ To provide support for teachers in Japanese language and culture at all levels; and,
- ♦ To become the focus of a network of expertise in these areas

Activities and Events undertaken in 2011-2012

August 12 – 15, 2011: Accompany UofA Provost Dr. Carl Amrhein on his mission to Japan

The main purpose of the trip was to meet Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado and His Excellency Jonathan Fried, Canadian Ambassador to Japan. Central to those meetings were the U Alberta's secretariat work for the Japan Canada Academic Consortium and the strategies for the fundraising for the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund, as well as the development of a database of researchers in Canada who work with Japanese partners.

December 4, 2011. Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT).

The tradition of hosting the JLPT continued this past year. Under the recently introduced 5-tier system, the test continues to be a major event for the Prince Takamado Japan Centre. The Centre works in collaboration with the Japan Foundation offices both in Toronto and Tokyo, as well as with institutions from across Alberta to make the event every year. This year, registration in the test came mostly from the Edmonton and Calgary regions, with some participants also taking part from Regina, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Promotion

of the test throughout the Edmonton Public School Board brought registration into the contest from two Edmonton region high schools. In 2011, a total of ninety students registered for the test.

January 16, 2012. Princess Takamado English Essay Contest.

This year has seen the successful completion of the Prince Takamado Japan-Canada Memorial Fund sponsored annual English Essay Contest. The theme of the competition was to "*Consider and discuss the significance of English education Japan*". It was commented by the judging committee that although the number of applicants was lower than expected, the quality of the essays was superior to past years. Both the first- and second-place winners will receive a semester of English Language Program tuition through the University of Alberta's Faculty of Extension. The contest is organized with support from various organizations and individuals both in Japan and Canada, including the Faculty of Extension, the Canadian Embassy in Japan, and the International Education Centre in Tokyo, who serves as the local contact.

February 19-26, 2012. 3rd Annual Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum and the Closing Ceremony.

The 3rd Annual Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum was hosted this year by Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan. Fifteen students from eight Canadian universities and fifteen from ten Japanese universities attended the week-long event from February 19-26, 2012. The theme of this year's forum was Cooperation and Mutual Understanding Between Canada and Japan in Post-Disaster Era. Students discussed Canada-Japan relations in a global context with a special focus on the impact of the Great East Japan Earthquake, with subtopics in Tourism in Canada, Japan and the Global Society, and Intercultural learning for Successful International Cooperation.

The goal of the JACAC Student Forum is to provide students with the opportunity to interact with their peers from a different culture, in order to gain insight into their current areas of academic interest and to encourage a flow of ideas between Canada and Japan. Students who attended this year's forum participated in lectures given by academic and industry professionals, as well as having participated in group projects among their peers both from Canada and Japan.

Students were divided into 6 groups, with 5 members in each group and were assigned to a forum subtheme. Each group then chose from a set of questions posed by the Organizing Committee regarding their topics, and worked on a 15 minute presentation. The students' presentations provided an overview of the understanding acquired through attending the forum lectures, group discussions, and students' own research, and addressed the issues from several perspectives, including social, business, and environmental. At the closing ceremony, one group was awarded as having the best presentation through peer evaluation, based on originality of their ideas, profoundness of their discussion and the best team effort.

The opportunity for interaction between both undergraduate and graduate students at the forum allowed participants to discuss issues relevant to their studies and research with their peers from a different country, gaining valuable insight from a multicultural viewpoint. Cultural exchange was also evident as students socialized both during organized and casual events.

This year, the Forum had the notable honour of having Princess Takamado attend the closing ceremonies. During the ceremony, the Princess spoke to the students and gave an inspirational talk to both Japanese and Canadian students. It was a privilege to have Her Imperial Highness in attendance and something to which the Prince Takamado Japan Centre was grateful.

For the fourth forum, the venue moves back to Canada and is currently scheduled for February 2013 and will be hosted by York University, in Toronto, Ontario.

March 7-19, 2012. MEXT Japan Tour.

The MEXT Japan Tour program was developed by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) after the Great East Japan Earthquake to help dispel the anxiety about study and travel in Japan. Over 200 students of 40 countries were invited to Japan in order to help the global community to correctly understand and perceive the current situation of universities in Japan through various activities in the Tokyo metropolis and Tohoku region. The University of Alberta was lucky to receive the rare opportunity of having two of our student applicants chosen by the Japanese Government to participate in the program. During the program, participants attended seminars held by national and local governments and universities, visited the disaster-stricken areas, talked with the local residents, and interacted with Japanese students and international students studying in the areas. They also had the chance to experience Japanese cultural activities such as seeing a Kabuki play, upon other activities.

March 8, 2012. East Asia Speaker Series – Dr. Sharalyn Orbaugh, Department of Asian Studies, University of British Columbia: *Killer Kitsch: Kamishibai in Japan’s Fifteen-Year War, 1931-1945.*

Providing administrative support and funding for visiting speakers, the Prince Takamado Japan Centre helped to arrange the visiting speaker presentations as part of the Talks in the East Asia Speakers Series organized by the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Alberta. Dr. Orbaugh’s presentation acted as the opening speaker to this year’s Speaker Series.

March 10, 2012. The 21st Annual Alberta District Speech Contest (Hosted at the University of Alberta).

Twenty-one participants from the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Regina, and Grant MacEwan University took part in the regional speech contest. Support was received from the Japan Foundation, the Alberta Japanese Businessmen’s Association, Alberta Education, and Mitsui & Co. (Canada) Ltd. The event was attended by my friends and family of the participants, as well as Edmonton region high school students and community members. Cultural performances were provided by Japanese language students from Harry Ainlay High School and Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School. University of Alberta student Seulki Shin placed first in the intermediate category with her speech, “A Gift From Buddha”.

March 30, 2012. East Asia Speaker Series - Dr. Thomas Pellard, French National Centre for Scientific Research: *The Ryukyuan Languages and Their Relationship with Japanese.*

The Prince Takamado Japan Centre continued to make visiting speaker arrangements and fund travel for guests. Dr. Pellard’s talk on the Ryukyuan languages was the last speaker of the year’s series.

March 31, 2012. The 23rd National Japanese Speech Contest (Hosted by the University of British Columbia).

The National Japanese Speech Contest was co-organized by the Prince Takamado Japan Centre and the Department of Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia. Hosted at the University of British Columbia, a total of twenty-two students participated in the competition from all across Canada. First prize winners for each of the four categories (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced and Open) in the regional speech contests were invited to participate in this national event. This year’s grand prize of a \$3000 travel certificate was provided by the Prince Takamado Japan-Canada Memorial Fund and was awarded to Miss Yeonsu Koh of St. Mary’s University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Funding for prizes, airfare and accommodations were provided by Astellas Pharma, Mitsui & Co. (Canada) Ltd, the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund

and Japan Airlines. For the first time, this year's Contest was webcast across the world and was enjoyed by an online audience of over one thousand viewers. Using this technology, the contest will be able to reach out to a much greater audience and further promote the Centre's commitment to Japanese language and cultural education in Canada.

April 26, 2012. Disaster Recovery & Future of Japan: Fundraiser Event (Co-organized with JAGSA).

To commemorate the efforts of University of Alberta students and community members in the raising of funds for the disaster relief in Japan at the Evening of Hope for Japan in April 2011, the Centre co-organized the Disaster Recovery & Future of Japan Fundraiser Event. Working along side the Japanese Association for of Graduate Students at Alberta (JAGSA), the Centre invited Dr. David Welch, Chair of Global Studies, Balsillie School of International Affairs, University of Waterloo to give a talk entitled, *3/11 One Year Later: Challenges and Opportunities for Japan*. University of Alberta students who participated in the JACAC Student Forum and the MEXT Japan Tour were invited to give presentations and sit on a panel to discuss their experiences in Japan and comment on the recovery efforts that had been made since the Great East Japan Earthquake. Refreshments and a sushi dinner provided by Mikado after the event gave community members a chance to talk one on one with the participating students and members of JAGSA and truly discuss the recovery of Japan in a meaningful way.

The event was successful in raising over \$2,200 for the Red Cross, via donations and T-shirt sales. Funding support for the event was received from the Prince Takamado Japan Centre and the University of Alberta.

May 22 – June 22, 2012. Kyoto Summer Program in Japan at Ritsumeikan University

The summer program allows students from outside of Japan the chance to learn and study Japanese while living in Kyoto, Japan. The opportunity for students to be fully immersed in the Japanese language and culture enables students to truly focus on learning the language while allowing them to learn about both the traditional culture and modern lifestyle within the country. This year, fifteen University of Alberta students attended the program. As part of the Government of Japan's support program for foreign students, twelve University of Alberta students received the Japanese Student Services Organization (JASSO) Scholarship for Short-Term Visit/Short-Term Stay. The award, worth approximately \$1950, was given to the top thirty percent of applicants to the program, the majority of which went to students from the University of Alberta. An additional University of Alberta student received the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund Summer Travel Award, worth \$750. Students participated in daily Japanese language classes as well as multiple cultural field trips, including lessons in taiko drumming, traditional noodle making, tea ceremony as well as an assortment of traditional Japanese art forms.

May 16-28, 2012. Director's Japan Mission (business meetings).

The Director had several key business meetings with Centre partners, including Ambassador Jonathan Fried (Canadian Ambassador to Japan), Meiji University (Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Japanese secretariat), the Alberta Japan Office, Ritsumeikan University (Summer Program in Kyoto partner), and various Japanese university representatives. The Director also acted as guide and host to Mr. Jim Corrigan, Curator of the University of Alberta's Art Collection. Below are some details about the meetings and activities conducted by the Director during her Japan Mission:

- Meiji University: planning for the 2013 Japan-Canada Academic Consortium (JACAC) Student Forum, the JACAC exchange program
- Japan Foundation: meetings regarding JACAC membership and current institutions, JACAC Exchange Program, and the JACAC Student Forum

- Meetings with Japanese Artist Ryoji Ikeda, along with Jim Corrigan from the University of Alberta's Museums and Collections to discuss a proposed joint exhibit between Mr. Ikeda and University of Alberta's Walter Jule.
- Meeting with Ambassador Fried: discussions regarding the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund and Japan-Canada Academic Consortium, as well as an up-coming art exhibit to be hosted at the Canadian Embassy showcasing the works of University of Alberta professor, Walter Jule, as well as the Japanese artist, Ryoji Ikeda.
- Ritsumeikan University: planning for the 2013 Summer Program, additional summer course options for University of Alberta students at Ritsumeikan University, as well as attending the opening ceremony for the Summer Program in Kyoto 2012
- Art Research Centre (Ritsumeikan University): meeting and discussing with Dr. Hosoi from Ritsumeikan University about his up-coming visit to University of Alberta, discussion concerning the University of Alberta's Japanese Gaming Symposium (August 2012)

Major Achievements

Japan-Canada Academic Consortium:

- Acted as Canadian Secretariat and worked along side partner universities in Japan and Canada to create guidelines for the administration of the Japan Canada Academic Consortium Exchange Program.
- Co-organized the third Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum in Kyoto, Japan.

Community Outreach:

- Supported the activities of the Japanese Association of Graduate Students at Alberta (JAGSA)
- Maintained and nurtured partnership with the Japan Association for Alumni and Friends of the University of Alberta (JAAFUA).

Donations:

- Received donation from Mitsui & Co. (Canada) Ltd. of \$5000 for the continued development of Japanese Language Education at the University of Alberta.
- Coordinated with Mitsui & Co. (Canada) Ltd. for their donation of \$15,000 in funding as well as electronic dictionaries to the speech contests (support for Regional and National contests).
- Coordinated with Astellas Pharma Canada for their donation of \$10,000 for the National Japanese Speech Contest.
- Raised donations from the Alberta Japanese Businessmen's Association for the Alberta District Speech Contest (transportation costs for out-of-town participants).

Media:

- Implemented a new website for the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium (www.jacac.com). The project received funding from the DFAIT through Meiji University, who serves as a secretariat on the Japan side of the consortium. Completed in September 2011.
- Implemented a new website for the National Japanese Speech Contest to organize and centralize information pertaining to the nation-wide event (www.cajle.info). As the chair of the NJSC organization committee, the director of the PTJC worked with the Japan Foundation Toronto, who provided funding of \$5600 for the project. Completed in February 2012.

- Gathered research and information, as well as implemented a new website for the University of Alberta's Japan-Canada Research Collaboration Database (www.jacarc.com). The project was funded by the provost office (\$16000). Completed in March 2012.

Centre Logistics:

- Moving the Prince Takamado Japan Centre from Pembina Hall to the TELUS Centre
- Formation of the Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research Advisory Group
- Re-formation of the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund Management Committee

Annual Plan for 2012-2013

Below is a list of events that will be undertaken by the PTJC in 2012-2013:

Ongoing Activities:

- ♦ Liaise with the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary, Canadian Embassy in Japan, Japan Foundation Toronto Office and other governmental and industrial organizations in Canada and Japan
- ♦ Fundraising activities for the Centre
- ♦ Canadian Secretariat for the Japan Canada Academic Consortium
- ♦ Supporting the Japan Association for Alumni and Friends of the University of Alberta
- ♦ Supporting the Japanese Association of Graduate Students at the University of Alberta
- ♦ Involvement in the PTJCMF
 - ♦ Fundraising in Canada
 - ♦ Liaise with the Provost's office

Ongoing Annual Events:

- ♦ Princess Takamado English Essay Contest (September 1, 2012 – November 2, 2012)
- ♦ Japanese Language Proficiency Test (December, 2012)
- ♦ Assisting with the organization of the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum (February 17-25, 2013)
- ♦ Organization of Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest (March 2, 2013)
- ♦ Organization of National Japanese Speech Contest (March 23, 2013)
- ♦ Promote, plan and organize University of Alberta student involvement in the Summer Program in Kyoto at Ritsumeikan University (Dates TBD)
- ♦ Organization of Japan Studies lectures (all year).

Special Events:

- ♦ Japanese Language Proficiency Test - Summer pilot test; first in North America (July 1, 2012)
- ♦ Co-organize & host the Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education (CAJLE) Annual Conference in Banff, Alberta (August 2-3, 2012)
- ♦ In Coordination with Dr. Geoffrey Rockwell & the Humanities Computing Program, hosting the Japanese Gaming Symposium at the University of Alberta (August 21-22, 2012)
- ♦ 4th Annual Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum hosted by York University (February 17-23, 2013)
- ♦ Japan-China Crossover Concert & Calligraphy Event and Biwa-Pipa Music Event (Date TBD)

- ♦ Summer Course in Kyoto: Special topics in Japan – pilot year of an additional University of Alberta course to be hosted at Ritsumeikan University. In 2012 the theme of the course will be Japanese gaming culture and will be taught by the University of Alberta professor Dr. Geoffrey Rockwell (Date TBD)