

# Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund

Newsletter

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## 1) Message from the Prince Takamado Japan Centre Director, Dr. Kaori Kabata

November 21, 2012 marks the 10th anniversary of the passing of His Imperial Highness Prince Takamado, a long-time friend of the University of Alberta and Canadian post-secondary institutions. The late prince dedicated himself to the promotion of Japanese language and culture across the world and was a supporter of Canadian post-secondary educational institutions.

We are pleased to issue the 5th annual newsletter for the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund, a fund established to honour the legacy of His Imperial Highness and encourage student mobility, fostering new teaching, research and cultural exchange programs with relation to Japan, and thereby building a stronger bond between Japan and Canada. It is with great respect and admiration that we continue to manage and create student and teacher programming in memory of His Imperial Highness and all for which he stood.

## 2) Report from the Third Japan Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum (February 19-26, 2012)

The 3rd Annual Japan-Canada Academic Consortium (JACAC) Student Forum was hosted this year by Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan. For the first time since the establishment of the Forum, it was hosted by a non-secretariat institution, and was an absolute success. Fifteen students from eight Canadian universities and fifteen students from ten Japanese universities attended the week-long event from February 19-26, 2012. The theme of the 2012 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 Inter-cultural Learning for Successful International Cooperation.



Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado and His Excellency Jonathan Fried, Canadian Ambassador to Japan, with JACAC student participants and guests

The goal of the Forum was 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 last year's forum participated in lectures given by academic and industry professionals, as well as having worked on group projects alongside their peers both from Canada and Japan.

Both lectures and group sessions were held at Ritsumeikan University. Towards the end of the week, the group participated in a field trip and tour of the Kobe region. Students also had a city tour of the historic and world-renowned cultural sites, temples and castles of the city of Kyoto. The forum was wrapped up at Suzaku campus, where students gave their final group presentations and a closing ceremony and reception were held. During the closing ceremony students, faculty and industry professionals were honoured and delighted to receive closing remarks from Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado, as well as His Excellency Jonathan Fried, Canadian Ambassador to Japan.

The communication and partnership observed amongst students at the 2012 forum was evidence that students were gaining valuable insight and learning the important benefits of multiculturalism. Throughout their daily activities and projects, participants discussed issues relevant both to their studies and their life at home and were able to do so with their peers from across the globe. Cultural growth and understanding followed the students as they studied and socialized throughout organized forum events and in their casual outings.

For the fourth forum, the venue moves back to Canada and will be hosted by York University in Toronto, Ontario from February 16 to 24, 2013. For more information about past and future Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forums, please visit the Consortium website at <[www.jacac.com](http://www.jacac.com)>.

## Continued from Cover: Report from the Third Japan Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum

### Comments from Participants:

“One week to experience a people, a culture, a forum – and branching from these, hundreds of ideas from perspectives I could never consider on my own. JACAC provided an opportunity for me in one week that I never thought possible. Japan inspired me, and it was because of JACAC and the phenomenal work that was done to organize and encourage thought and insight. For those involved in making the program a reality: Thank You! To put so much effort into organizing such an event for the benefit of 30 young minds is exactly what inspires those same 30 to reach out and do something just as inspiring and influential in their own lives.”

- Robyn Biggar, University of Prince Edward Island



Forum participants at the closing ceremony at Ritsumeikan University

“It was a wonderful eye-opening experience that has definitely changed my perspective for the better. Now we are responsible for making use of our experience during the JACAC Forum towards our future. It is important to gradually build mutual trust between other countries. I would like to contribute to “Cooperation and Mutual Understanding between Canada and Japan in Post-Disaster Era” throughout my life by doing a job in which I would use my specialized knowledge. Thank you once again for this wonderful opportunity.”

- Yuuhi Miyauchi, Ritsumeikan University

The following students participated in the Third Annual JACAC Student Forum:

### Canada

Tae Ahn, University of Alberta  
 Peter Arbaugh, University of British Columbia  
 Jasmine Belanger-Gulick, University of Montreal  
 Robyn Biggar, University of Prince Edward Island  
 Samuel Briere, University of Montreal  
 Simon Brodeur, University of Montreal  
 Gabriel Chen, University of British Columbia  
 Yuumi Currah, University of Alberta  
 Andijana Djokic, York University  
 Samuel Lemieux, Laval University  
 Katy Shum, York University  
 Murielle Timbo, Laval University  
 Angel Tse, Queen's University  
 Alexandre Turcotte, Laval University  
 Heather Wogden, University of Waterloo

### Japan

Reiko Ando, Sophia University  
 Yukari Asano, Kwansei Gakuin University  
 Naho Fujisawa, Josai International University  
 Shinya Hayashi, Kwansei Gakuin University  
 Masatake Hirono, Ritsumeikan University  
 Minaho Kubo, Tsuda College  
 Suzana Matsuyama, Hokkaido University  
 Yuuhi Miyauchi, Ritsumeikan University  
 Yuri Mizutani, Kyoto University of Education  
 Saika Nagai, Sophia University  
 Hitomi Okano, Hosei University  
 Tomomi Shimmura, Nagoya University  
 Sho Tsujimoto, Meiji University  
 Kana Yamase, Meiji University  
 Risa Yoshimoto, Nagoya University

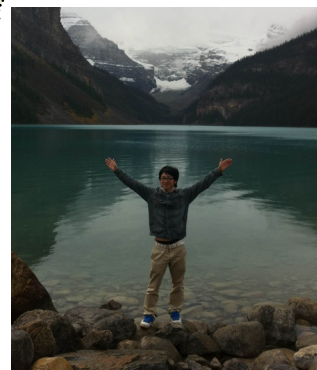
### 3) PTJCMF Student Mobility Program Awardees - October 2011 to September 2012

#### Princess Takamado English Essay Contest December 2011

The theme of the 2011 English Essay Contest was to discuss the significance of English education in Japan. The winner of this year's contest was Mr. Katsuya Kobaru from Kwansei Gakuin University with his essay, “The Potential of English Education”. Our runner-up was second place winner Mr. Takuya Mitsushige from the International University of Kagoshima with his essay, “Changing English Education in Japan from the Grass Roots”. Katsuya has one a \$750 travel scholarship, as well, both placing winners will receive one semester's tuition at the University of Alberta's English Language Program to study English in Canada. We are happy to welcome Takuya to Edmonton, as he is currently attending the September 2012 semester. Further information on the Essay Contest is available on the Memorial Fund website. You can even read the winning essays yourself!

#### The 3rd Annual Japan Canada Academic Consortium (JACAC) Student Forum February 19-26, 2012

The Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund provided funding and support to the 2012 JACAC Student Forum to help make the event one of the most memorable forums yet. Students participants, guests and organizing committee members were honoured at the closing reception to which Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado gave closing remarks. More details on the 2012 JACAC Student Forum can be found in section 2 of this newsletter.



Essay contest Takuya enjoying the scenery of Jasper, Alberta during his stay in Canada

**The 23rd National Japanese Speech Contest** March 31, 2012

The 2012 Canadian National Japanese Speech Contest was co-hosted between the University of British Columbia and the Prince Takamado Japan Centre in the city of Vancouver, British Columbia. The Grand Prize award of a three thousand dollar travel award was presented to Yeonsu Koh of St. Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia for her speech "Habitat For Humanity Guatemala".

**Summer Program Travel Awards** May 22-June 22, 2012

The Memorial Fund supports students travelling to Japan to participate in Ritsumeikan University's Summer Program in Kyoto. Students entering this five week-long program participate in intensive Japanese language classes with a keen focus on Japanese culture, history and tradition. This year, Mr. Quang Vinh Luong received the award for his exemplary effort and dedication to his studies.

**JACOS/JAPEX Scholarship in Engineering** September 2012

Since the development of the JACOS/JAPEX Scholarship was first approved at the University of Alberta in 2008, the award has grown and is now distributed annually at three Alberta institutions: the University of Alberta, Keyano College, and beginning this year, the University of Calgary. Students with superior academic achievement entering their second, third or fourth year of study are eligible for the award who are studying Mining Engineering, Petroleum Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Materials Engineering, Geotechnical Engineering or Environment Engineering. Congratulations to all of the following students who were awarded the JACOS/JAPEX Scholarship this year. Please note the University of Calgary has nominated students from the 2011/12 and 2012/13 allotment for the JACOS/JAPEX Scholarship.

**University of Alberta**

- Kristen Antonio
- Marcus Ivey
- Tessa-Rae Omelchenko

**Keyano College**

- Stephanie Chaulk
- MacKenzie Cross
- Angelica Gonzales

**University of Calgary**

- Eliezer Mar Yumol Manarang
- Kevin Robert Schostek
- Eric Man-King Wu
- Ian Cameron Haigh
- Simon Robert Schmitt
- Gordon Jewett
- Ningyu Yu
- Kihyun Kim

**5) Special Events Hosted by the Prince Takamado Japan Centre**

Every year the Prince Takamado Japan Centre organizes and coordinates local and national events in the areas of teaching and research of the Japanese language and culture of Japan. Working alongside our partners in academic, private and government sectors throughout Canada, our goal is to provide the best opportunities available for the interdisciplinary study and research of Japan studies across the country.

**East Asia Speaker Series 2012** March, 2012

With the support of the Prince Takamado Japan Centre, the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Alberta organized the East Asia Speaker Series - Winter 2012. The following presentations were made possible by the support and funding of the Memorial Fund:

March 8, 2012

Dr. Sharalyn Orbaugh, University of British Columbia, "Killer Kitsch: Kamishibai in Japan's Fifteen-Year War, 1931-1945."

Originally a form of street entertainment for children, kamishibai is made up of three intertwined elements: pictures, script and performance. This presentation analyzed the role of kitsch in kamishibai plays used as propaganda in Japan during the second Sino-Japanese War and World War II.

March 30, 2012

Dr. Thomas Pellard, French National Centre for Scientific Research, "The Ryukyuan Languages and Their Relationship with Japanese."

The Ryūkyūan languages have long been considered to be just dialects of Japanese, and their importance for both synchronic and diachronic linguistics has usually been underestimated. However, they exhibit many linguistic features absent from the Mainland Japanese dialects, and some of these features are even cross-linguistically rare. In this talk, Dr. Pellard overviewed some of these questions: what are the Ryūkyūan languages, how do they differ from Japanese, and what do they tell us about the history of Japanese? He presented some of the most salient and interesting features of the phonology and grammar of the Ryūkyūan languages, as well he showed that the Ryūkyūan languages separated from Japanese before the eighth century, and that the Ryūkyūan data are thus vital for the reconstruction of the prehistory of the Japanese language.

**Disaster Recovery and Future of Japan** April 26, 2012

The Prince Takamado Japan Centre and the Japanese Association of Graduate Students at Alberta (JAGSA) co-organized a guest lecture and presentation to teach the community about the current state and condition of Japan after the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. Dr. David Welch from the University of Waterloo came to the University of Alberta to speak about the disaster and recovery effort in Japan and

**4) Financial Report**

As of March 31, 2012, the book value of the endowment was \$1,692,977.84. The amount in the spending allocation of the fund was \$80,268.12. Of this amount, \$63,500 has been budgeted for spending in 2012-13. Since March, there has been an additional contribution of \$55,000.

University of Alberta students Ms. Yuumi Currah and Mr. Tae Ahn who participated in JACAC 2012 Student Forum were invited to speak on their experiences in Japan during this recovery effort. A T-shirt sale was also conducted and \$2,233.57 was raised for the Japanese Red Cross.

#### **Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education (CAJLE) Conference** August 2-3, 2012

The annual CAJLE conference aims to provide opportunities for researchers and teachers to exchange ideas and opinions on research surrounding the Japanese language, language education and Japan studies, as well as to develop an international network for Japanese language educators. The Prince Takamado Japan Centre co-organized this year's conference, the theme of which was "Bridging Theory and Practice". Included in the proceedings was a keynote address by Dr. Yukiko Hatasa (Hiroshima University), a teacher workshop by Yoshimi Hirata and Haruyo Taucar (Japan Foundation) and a special exhibit by Dr. Koichi Hosoi (Ritsumeikan University).

#### **Replaying Japan: Gaming Symposium** August 22, 2012

Replaying Japan was a one day symposium hosted at the University of Alberta on topics of Japanese game culture, game studies and the gaming industry. Researchers from across Canada and Japan met in Edmonton to discuss the challenges and opportunities in the cross-cultural study of game culture. More information on presentations and speakers is available at <[bit.ly/Nuq6TL](http://bit.ly/Nuq6TL)>.

### **6) Updates on the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium**

It is our pleasure to announce Waseda University as the most recent institution to join the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium. This addition extends the network of institutions to twenty-two different universities: ten Canadian and twelve Japanese. For more information about JACAC member institutions and our programming, visit <[www.jacac.com](http://www.jacac.com)>.

The current members are (as of July 1, 2012) :

#### **JAPAN**

Meiji University  
Josai International University  
Sophia University  
J.F. Oberlin University  
Kwansei Gakuin University  
Hosei University  
Ritsumeikan University  
Hokkaido University

Kyoto University of Education  
Nagoya University  
Waseda University  
Tsuda College

#### **CANADA**

University of Alberta  
University of British Columbia  
University of Manitoba

York University  
Queen's University  
Université de Montréal  
Concordia University  
Université Laval  
University of Prince Edward Island  
University of Waterloo & Renison  
University College

### **7) Upcoming Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund Events**

#### **Princess Takamado English Essay Contest**

Application for the annual Princess Takamado English Essay Contest has just closed and judging committee members are now reviewing entries. Japanese students attending an accredited Japanese university are welcome to apply to this annual event and have the chance to win a grand prize worth three thousand dollars to attend the University of Alberta's English Language Program. This year's essay topic was to "discuss the role of Canada on the international stage".

#### **Annual Japan Canada Academic Consortium (JACAC) Student Forum** February 16-24, 2013

This coming February the Fourth Annual JACAC Student Forum will be hosted by York University in Toronto, Ontario. Senior undergraduate students representing each of the twenty-two member institutions from across Canada and Japan will come together in the spirit of mutual cooperation to exchange their thoughts and ideas on the year's annual topic. This year, the forum topic is "current economic dynamics and challenges between Japan and Canada and the implications for the youth of today". Subthemes of the forum will include international human capital development, the current global economic partnership agreements and the global economic climate at large. During this one-week event, students will aim to get a deeper understanding of the forum topics, as well as the benefits of intercultural communication and the potential of international relationships.

#### **Canadian National Japanese Speech Contest** March 23, 2013

Both contestants and audience eagerly await this annual event. Even now, students from across Canada are beginning to prepare their entries for one of the seven regional Japanese speech contests taking place throughout Canada in early March. First prize winners of each regional contest receive flights and accommodations to attend and participate in the national finals, to be hosted at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg in March, 2013. The competition is tough and because of the extremely high quality of student entries, each year the judges seem to face an even more difficult task in selecting award winners. The Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund will present the grand prize winner with a three thousand dollar travel award in hope to give them the opportunity to explore Japan.