

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

**ANNUAL REPORT
1 JULY 2016 - 30 JUNE 2017**

Affiliated Faculty: Faculty of Arts

Director: Dr. Aya Fujiwara, Department of History and Classics
fujiwara@ualberta.ca

Contact Information: Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research
201 Telus Centre
Tel: 780-492-1569
Fax: 780-492-8200
Email: fujiwara@ualberta.ca
Website: www.ptjc.ualberta.ca

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 2016-2017 academic year, PTJC took several new initiatives academically and administratively, taking into account the recommendations made by the unit review that took place in May and June 2016. Our goal was to strengthen its research profile and governing structure. At the administrative level, it established an administrative board, advisory council, and research committee. It also adopted a number of effective measures in administration and promotion.

Academically, the centre has completed its programs, including the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum at the University of British Columbia, which dealt with immigration and refugee issues. The highlight of this year was three guest lectures

by Japanese scholars, which were made possible with the collaboration with the Centre for Japanese Research at the University of Alberta and Japan Foundation Toronto. PTJC also hosted a seminar attended by major Asianists on the University of Alberta campus. It was able to hire two graduate research assistants, and continued offering several undergraduate scholarships in engineering.

For community outreach, PTJC organized the Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest, which was attended our major supporters such as a representative from Mitsui Canada and the Consul-General of Japan in Calgary. It also offered Japanese language professors and students a place for networking across seven universities in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS (2016-2017)

Major Achievements:

Academic / Research

- Began sending feedbacks to contributors for an edited book project on nuclear energy and history based on the Hiroshima Conference
- Research on Japanese-Canadian history projects

Japanese Language and Japanese Studies Events

- Hosted two talks by Japanese scholars co-sponsored by the Japan Foundation, the Japan Studies Association for Canada, and the Japanese Research Centre, University of British Columbia
- Hosted a documentary film director on the anniversary of Fukushima nuclear accident with the Japan Research Centre, University of British Columbia
- Hosted a seminar in conjunction with L. H. Thomas Annual Lecture organized by the Department of History and Classics
- Sponsored a guest lecture for the Department of East Asian Studies
- Organized two Japanese Language Proficiency Tests
- Organized and hosted the Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest for 7 universities in Alberta and Saskatchewan
- Sent 11 students to Ritsumeikan Summer Program, offering 4 scholarships

Japan-Canada Academic Consortium

- Co-organized the eighth Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum with the University of British Columbia
- Began preparation for the ninth forum with Kansei Gakuin University and J. F. Oberlin University in Tokyo

Community Outreach

- Hosted a luncheon seminar for high school students who visited the U of A campus from Hokkaido under the Kakehashi Project, a Canada-Japan youth exchange program organized by the Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan
- Sponsored an academic display for the undergraduate students association in East Asian Studies for their Japan festival

Scholarships:

Ritsumeikan Summer Program:

University of Alberta:

Yuxin Chen
Mitt Robinson
Kaytlin Wu
Geng Xi

JPEX/JACOS Scholarships In Engineering:

University of Alberta:

Nicolas Linden
Evan Kohut
Zachary Brombeiss

University of Calgary:

Daine McNivan
Nathan Patton
Heather Honecker
Victor Zheng

Keyano College

Lana Bibeau
Paige Hugges
Chelsea-Lynn Maynard

Event Details:

July 3, 2016: Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

This was the fifth year the University of Alberta hosted a summer edition of the JLPT. As the sole institution that organizes this exam in summer, we received 127 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 jobs in Japanese industries and to study in Japanese universities.

November 4, 2016: The Japan Foundation Toronto and the Japan Studies Association of Canada Annual Lecture Series I

This year, PTJC was chosen as the host for the annual JF/JSAC lecture series. Professor Takamichi Mito (Kwansei Gakuin University) gave a lecture entitled “Omotenashi (Quality Service) as a Source of Japan’s Soft Power and its Transferability to Canada.” He discussed how Omotenashi became a widely-used term by the media and the government in Japan, especially in the conjunction of the Olympic campaign. From the perspective of political economy, he assessed the economic value of Omotenashi. After his lecture, the audience joined in the discussion.

November 25, 2016: Pan Project

PTJC co-sponsored the Pan Project, a musical residency on the topic of interculturalism in East Asian music. Dr. Jeff Roberts, the Department of East Asian Studies and the Department of Music, organized this event. One of the musicians was Kaoru Watanabe, an internationally known Japanese flute player and taiko drummer. More than 200 people participated in the event.

November 26, 2016: Japanese Cultural Festival / Research Display

PTJC co-sponsored the research display of the Japanese Cultural Festival, organized by the East Asian Studies Undergraduate Students’ Association, Japanese exchange students, and others including the past JACAC from participants. The event had a research exhibit, which introduced academic profiles of our faculty members and graduate students. It also featured a number of information sessions on studying and working in Japan. More than 450 people participated in the event.

December 2, 2016: Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

PTJC organized the winter edition of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test. 107 people applied for the test. It was the largest number of applicants that we have ever had in Winter, suggesting the increasing interest in Japanese language at the University of Alberta.

January 2016: Princess Takamado Essay Contest

The themes of the competition were:

1. Write a letter to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. In the letter, describe what initiatives you'd like for him to take in the economic and political cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.
2. Should Japanese university students engage in study abroad? How can this experience be beneficial for Japan-Canada collaboration?

3. Recently, Japanese popular culture has made a great impact in the world mainly through games, pop-music, and manga. How can culture be used to build ties between Japan, Canada, and other countries?

The winner of this year's contest was Yuni Iwasaki from Seian University of Arts and Design. The winner will be taking part in the English Language School at the Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta.

February 9, 2017: The Japan Foundation Toronto and the Japan Studies Association of Canada Annual Lecture Series II

Professor Masahiro Hamashita gave a lecture on the history of Japanese women's education. He discussed how some Japanese female figures were promoted with favourable images while others were not in Modern Japan. While they were often subordinated in the male dominant society, he argued that many women found a way to address their rights and interests tactically, using their public images.

February 18-26, 2017: Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum

The Japan-Canada Academic Consortium held its eighth annual Student Forum at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. With the support from the Mitsubishi UFJ Foundation, the Consulate-General of Japan in Vancouver, the Japan Foundation, and the University of British Columbia, Japan Student Services Organization and JACAC membership universities, we had a successful forum. Fourteen students participants from the consortium's ten Canadian universities joined fourteen students from the eleven Japanese universities to discuss the issues of immigration and national borders. Through a week of sessions – lectures, a panel discussion and group work—at UBC and field work, students produced final presentations.

This year's forum dealt with a very topical question, as immigration and refugee issues appeared in world headlines throughout the year. Its participants were culturally and academically diverse, many were immigrants themselves. We also had an aboriginal student from the University of Manitoba and an African refugee student from the U of A, who added great insights to the discussion. All students had stellar academic records, thereby contributing to the high quality of the conference. The Consul-General of Japan in Vancouver generously hosted the reception where participants had an opportunity to hear her experience as a diplomat. As the Canadian Secretariat for the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium, PTJC is looking forward to continuing this forum next year, which will take place at J. F. Oberlin University in Tokyo.

March 3, 2017: Department of East Asian Studies Lecture Series

PTJC sponsored a lecture by Professor Ben Whaley, University of Calgary for the Department of East Asian Studies. He gave a very insightful lecture on Japanese that examines race relations and postcolonial discourses in Tezuka Osamu's medical manga, *Kirihito sanku*. The talk was attended by students and faculty members beyond the

Department of East Asian Studies. Dr. Whaley also had a meeting session with graduate students.

March 4, 2017: Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest

The PTJC organized the 26th Alberta Japanese District Speech Contest at the University of Alberta. This event attracted a lot of public interest, and had 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 Kunihiro Tanabe and Mr. Masahiro Ueda, General Manager of Mitsui Canada's Western division participated in the event. It also offered a place for students and Japanese language instructors from seven universities: University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge, Mount Royal University, MacEwan University, University of Regina, and University of Saskatchewan. Participants presented excellent Japanese speeches that were highly praised by the audience.

March 11, 2017: Fukushima Nuclear Disaster Anniversary Event: Documentary by Director Ian Thomas Ash

In collaboration with the Japanese Research Centre at the University of British Columbia, PTJC hosted filmmaker Ian Thomas Ash at the University of Alberta. He presented his new documentary film, based on his oral history projects. After the film show, Mr. Ash opened the floor for discussion, asking how to improve the film. His presentation brought together scholars and students from different departments as well as the general public.

March 13, 2017: Kakehashi Project

PTJC welcomed participants in the Kakehashi Project – a Japan-Canada student exchange program organized by the government of Japan and facilitated by the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada – to the University of Alberta. About 20 students, 2 high school teachers, and two APF staff participated in the event. Professor Olenka Bilash (Faculty of Education), Professor Christopher Lupke (Chair of the Department of East Asian Studies), and Professor Taka Masuda (Department of Psychology) joined a seminar style talk with them, explaining the benefits of studying at the University of Alberta.

March 29, 2017: Seminar on the history of Japan-China Relations

In conjunction with L. H. Thomas Annual Lecture with the Department of History and Classics, PTJC organized a seminar by Professor Joshua Fogel, York University. He exchanged ideas with our Asianists on campus. This event brought major Asianists from the Department of History and Classics, Department of East Asian Studies, Department of Fine Arts, Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies and the China Institute on campus together, highlighting the strength of the field.

May 16-June 16, 2017: Ritsumeikan Summer Program

Eleven students were selected to attend this year's Ritsumeikan Summer Japanese Program, which took place in Kyoto in 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.

DIRECTOR'S MISSIONS

Meetings:

6 July 2016: Mr. Kunihiro Tanabe, Consul-General of Japan in Calgary
21 July 2016: Ms. Asako Okai, Consul-General of Japan in Vancouver
22 July 2016: Bishop Tasuya Aoki, the Pure Land Buddhist Church of Canada
19 August 2016: Senator Dan Hays, Member of the Prince Takamado Japan-Canada Memorial Fund (phone)
22 August 2016: Mr. Yuichiro Nakajima, Crimson-Phoenix (phone)
25 August 2016: Delegates from Ritsumeikan University headed by Dr. Takamichi Isoda, Director, International Centre, Ritsumeikan University
22 September 2016: Senator Dan Hays, Member of the Prince Takamado Japan-Canada Memorial Fund
28 September 2016: Delegation of Japanese Journalists and Ms. Masako Terauchi, Embassy of Canada in Japan (to focus on U of A)
15 October 2016: Ms. Emi Iwanaga, Japan Foundation Toronto (Vancouver)
17 October 2016: Ms. Emi Iwanaga, Japan Foundation Toronto (Edmonton visit)
28 October 2016: Edmonton Heritage Council, podcast interview
13 December 2016: Alberta Japanese Language Consortium
14 December 2016: Consul Takashi Futagi, Embassy of Japan in Canada
1 February 2017: Associate Dean William Wei, Asia-Pacific Program, MacEwan University
22 March 2017: Delegates from Gifu University
6 June 2017: Mr. Takeo Ii, and Mr. Takashi Kobayashi, Hikone City, Shiga Prefecture, Japan
7 June 2017: Nishi Honganji Temple, Kyoto
8 June 2017: Professor Masumi Izumi, American Centre, Doshisha University, Kyoto
9 June 2017: Professor Yuko Nakagawa, Associate Dean and others, Faculty of Letters and International Centre, Ritsumeikan University
14 June 2017: JACAC Consortium meeting, Kwansai Gakuin University, Professor Takahiro Shinyo, Vice President, Kwansai Gakuin University
19 June 2017: 9th JACAC Student Forum Kick-off meeting, J. F. Oberlin University, Alberta Office Tokyo, and the Embassy of Canada in Tokyo (attendance: Counsellor Pat Ockwell, Second-Secretary Cael Husband, and Misako Terauchi from the Embassy of Canada in Japan, Ms. Kaori Umemoto from the Alberta Office, Mr. Kai Fujisawa and Ms. Yuuka Kawabata from Kwansai Gakuin University, Professor Hiroaki Hatayama, Mr. Atsushi Nagaoka and Takeshi Nakamura, J. F. Oberlin University)
20 June 2017: Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado
21 June 2017: Ambassador Ian Burney, Embassy of Canada in Japan

Event Appearances:

3 July 2016: Japanese Language Proficiency Test, Edmonton
6 July 2016: Award Ceremony for Dr. Jie X Yang, Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary, Calgary
22 September 2016: Annual Public Meeting, Canadian Museum of Immigration, Edmonton Federal Building, Edmonton
14-16 October 2016: Annual Meeting for the Japan Studies Association for Canada, University of British Columbia, Vancouver
4 November 2016: Annual JF/JSAC Lecture by Professor Takamichi Mito (Kwansei Gakuin University), Edmonton
24 November 2016: Emperor's Birthday Reception, Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary, Calgary
2 December 2016: Japanese Language Proficiency Test, Edmonton
26 November 2016: Japanese Cultural Festival, Edmonton
9-10 February 2017: Annual JF/JSAC by Professor Masahiro Hamashita (Kobe College), Edmonton
18-26 February 2017: Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum, Vancouver
3 March 2017: Department of East Asian Studies Lecture Series by Professor Ben Whaley
4 March 2017: Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest
11 March 2017: Fukushima Anniversary Event – Director Ian Thomas Ash, Edmonton
13 March 2017: Kakehashi Project, Edmonton
23 March 2017: University of Alberta Museum Reception and Lecture by Mr. Akira Kurosaki, printmaker
29 March 2017: Seminar on China-Japan historical relationship by Professor Joshua Fogel (York University), Edmonton