

THE PRINCE TAKAMADO JAPAN CENTRE FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH
ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Affiliated Faculties: Faculties of Arts and Education

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The Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research, formally renamed and rededicated to His Imperial Highness Prince Takamado in 2004, continues its efforts to fulfill the four mandates as listed below:

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

Major Achievements

- In cooperation with UAI, re-formalized the Japan Canada Academic Consortium with a revised MOU.
- Co-organized and hosted the second Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum in Alberta.
- Supported the activities of two newly-founded groups, the Japanese Association of Graduate Students at Alberta (JAGSA) and the Japan Association for Alumni and Friends of the University of Alberta (JAAFUA).
- Raised Donations and funding support :
 - Mitsui Canada Co., Ltd. : \$5000 to support the Japanese language-related programs at UofA
 - Through Council for Better Corporate Citizenship : \$25,601.24 raised in Japan from U of A alumni and friends for PTJCMF
 - Japan Canada Oil Sands Ltd. (JACOS) for the National Japanese Speech Contest as well as the 2nd Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum
 - Government of Alberta Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations: \$3000 for the 2nd Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum
 - Coordinated with Mitsui Co. for their donation of \$15,000 in funding as well as electronic dictionaries to the speech contests (Regional and National)
 - Coordinated with Astellas Pharma Canada for their donation of \$10,000 for the National Japanese Speech Contest
 - The Alberta Japanese Businessmen's Association: Support for bus charter)for the Alberta District Speech Contest
 - Macleod Dixon: \$10,000 for PTJCMF

Activities and Events undertaken in 2010-2011

- October 1, 2010. Presentation by Professor Keller Kimbrough, Associate Professor, Dept. of Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Colorado: *Wondrous Brutal Fictions: Buddhist Sermon-Ballads and Miracle Plays of Seventeenth-Century Japan* (broadcast to CANJAS network).

Keller Kimbrough spoke about the early seventeenth-century history of the *sekkyô* and *ko-jôruri* puppet theaters, reading excerpts from his forthcoming book of translations and considering the logic of suffering, salvation, and supernatural interventions in a medieval Buddhist discourse of karmic causality and apotheosis. His lecture was attended by students at the University of Alberta, and remotely via the CANJAS network by the University of Victoria.

- October 14-16, 2010. Visit to Japan by U of A Provost Dr. Carl G. Amrhein.

The Director accompanied the Provost on his first visit to Japan since 2008. The visit included meetings with Meiji University, the International Education Centre, the Japan Foundation, the Canadian Embassy, and Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado. Discussions centered on the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium and the upcoming student forum, as well as PTJCMF fundraising efforts. The Provost also attended the Launching Celebration for the Japan Association for Alumni and Friends of the University of Alberta (JAAFUA).

- October 15, 2010. Launching Celebration for the Japan Association for Alumni and Friends of the University of Alberta (JAAFUA).

Working together with the Office of Alumni Affairs, the PTJC is working to renew and revitalize the group of U of A alumni in Japan. The event to celebrate the re-launching of the alumni group was held in Tokyo and hosted by Mr. Sean Price, Associate Vice-President and executive director of Alumni Affairs. It was attended by 35 of the U of A's alumni and friends, as well as by Provost Carl Amrhein. A second, smaller gathering of U of A alumni in the Osaka area was also held on October 17, hosted by the Director.

JAAFUA is led by a small group of interested alumni, and the PTJC continues to work with this group to coordinate regular meetings and events, as well as creating a website and annual newsletter.

- November 30, 2010. Japanese Ambassador to Canada, Ambassador Ishikawa's visit to U of A.

The newly-appointed ambassador from Canada to Japan, Ambassador Ishikawa, made a courtesy visit to the U of A during his time in Alberta, and the PTJC welcomed him along with Consul-General Minemura from Calgary. The Ambassador attended a brief meeting with Vice-Provost (Academic) Colleen Skidmore, and discussed the U of A's relationship with Japan, as well as the PTJCMF.

- December 5, 2010. Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT).

The JLPT was revised to include a new level, and this was the first year for the new levels to be implemented. The test fee was also increased to \$70 CAD, and combined with the new format of the exam, resulted in a fewer examinees this year. In total, there were a total of 92 registered examinees, with the majority from Alberta, although there were a few from Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

- January 20-February 19, 2011. Transcendence: Four Artists, Four Cultures Print Exhibition.

In cooperation with the U of A's Museum and Collections Services, Art and Life Foundation, and FolkwaysAlive!, the PTJC organized an art show exhibiting a cross-section of print artists from Canada, Japan, Belgium, and Poland. The concepts of immortality vs. mortality were represented in the artists' works, and served to deepen the understanding of diverse visual cultures and what we all have in common.

The four artists represented were: Walter Jule (Canada); Ryoji Ikeda (Japan); Maurice Pasternak (Belgium); and Stanislaw Fijałkowski (Poland). Three out of the four artists (Jule, Ikeda, and Pasternak) were able to attend the exhibition's opening reception at the U of A, as well as conduct a printmaking workshop and a private Tea Ceremony event at the Devonian Garden's Ozawa Pavilion. The total attendance over the course of the month-long exhibition was over 470, including the opening reception and printmaking workshop.

The PTJC was successful in acquiring funding from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts to support this event.

- January 20, 2011. Transcendence Print Exhibit Opening Reception.

To celebrate the opening of the Transcendence Print Exhibit, an opening reception gala was held at the University Alberta's TELUS Centre. The reception was attended by Provost Carl Amrhein, the Consul-General of Japan (Calgary), and three of the four print artists (Jule, Ikeda, and Pasternak). Thanks to the support from the Office of the Provost, we were also able to invite Japanese flutist Kohei Nishikawa to perform at the event. The artists gave talks about their works, and then mingled with guests at the reception.

- January 23, 2011. Transcendence Print Exhibit: Tea Ceremony at Ozawa Pavilion.

The print artist Ryoji Ikeda conducted a private tea ceremony event at the Devonian Botanic Garden's Ozawa Pavilion, with the assistance of the *Matsukaze* tea group. The event was attended by the print artists, Provost Carl Amrhein, Dean of Arts Lesley Cormack, and representatives from Museums and Collection Services, FolkwaysAlive!, and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

- February 3, 2011. Presentation by Professor Anne Allison, Professor, Dept. of Cultural Anthropology, Duke University: *Soul on Strike: Precarity, Security, and Remaking the Social in 21st Century Japan* (broadcast to CANJAS network).

Professor Allison is renowned expert on contemporary Japanese society. She presented to a full audience of U of A students on her latest book and research. The lecture was also attended via the CANJAS system by the University of Victoria and UBC. Professor Allison's lecture was recorded and will be made available online via the PTJC's website.

- February 21-27, 2011. 2nd Annual Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum.

The PTJC, in its role of Canadian secretariat for the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium (JACAC), organized and hosted the 2nd Annual Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum at the University of Alberta. 8 students from 5 Canadian universities and 18 from 10 Japanese universities attended the week-long event. The theme of this year's forum was International Trade and Environmental Sustainability, with subthemes of Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Food Security.

Students attending this year's forum participated in lectures given by academic and industry professionals, as well as group discussions and consultations with graduate students. Lectures and

afternoon group sessions were held at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. Towards the end of the week, the group travelled to Calgary, Alberta, where they were treated to a guided tour of Banff National Park with Parks Canada, as well as enjoyed some time shopping and experiencing the Canadian Rockies. The forum was wrapped up at the University of Alberta's Calgary Centre, where students gave their final group presentations and a closing ceremony reception was held.

Students were divided into 7 groups of 3 to 4 members and 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 10-12 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.

The opportunity for interaction between undergraduate 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 more casual events.

For the third forum, the venue moves back to Japan and is currently scheduled for February 2012. Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto will be the hosting institution.

The PTJCMF supported the travel and accommodation of Canadian students to Alberta. The PTJC was also successful in securing funding from the Alberta Government and the U of A's Office of the Provost, to support forum programming.

- February 27, 2011. JACAC Student Forum – Reception event at the U of A's Calgary Centre.

As a wrap-up to the JACAC Student Forum, the PTJC organized a reception event at the University of Alberta's Calgary Centre. It was attended by all the forum participants, as well as representatives from the Alberta Government, the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo, the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary, and former Senator Dan Hays of the PTJCMF Advisory Committee.

- March 5, 2011. The 20th Annual Alberta District Speech Contest (Hosted by the University of Calgary).

28 participants from the U of A, U of C, University of Regina, Mount Royal University, and Grant MacEwan University took part in this regional speech contest. Support was received from the Japan Foundation, the Alberta Japanese Businessmen's Association, Alberta Education, and Mitsui Canada Co. Students from the U of A were successful in placing first in the Intermediate and Advanced categories, and third in the Intermediate category.

- March 22, 2011. Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Relief – Origami (Tsuru) Folding Event

After the devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit Eastern Japan on March 11, 2011, the PTJC responded by cooperating with student groups including the Japanese Association of Graduate Students at Alberta (JAGSA) and the Department of East Asian Studies' undergraduate student group (KGK). Among these events, which included campus-wide Red Cross donation boxes and t-shirt sales, the PTJC sponsored an event where volunteers gathered to fold paper cranes, which were later sold and distributed around campus in conjunction with Red Cross fundraising efforts. The PTJC provided free pizza for volunteers, purchased from a restaurant which was donating all its profits on that day to the Red Cross as well. In total, over 30 volunteers showed up to help fold cranes, and a photo of the event was also featured on the front page of the Metro newspaper (photocopy included).

- March 26, 2011. The 22nd National Japanese Speech Contest (Hosted by the University of Calgary).

The National Japanese Speech Contest (NJSC) in Canada was established in 1989 under the auspices of the Japanese Embassy in Ottawa in order to promote Japanese language education in Canada.

The first prize winners of the four categories (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, and Open) in the regional speech contests participated in the NJSC, co-organized this year by the PTJC and the U of C, and hosted at the U of C. There were a total of 25 participants; the grand prize, sponsored by the PTJCMF, was awarded to Miss Cherri Zhang from the University of Calgary. Funding for other prizes, airfare, and accommodation were generously provided by Astellas Pharma Canada, Mitsui & Co. (Canada) Ltd., Japan Canada Oil Sands Ltd., and the PTJCMF.

- April 11, 2011. Evening of Hope for Japan: Fundraiser event (Co-organized with JAGSA).

As part of fundraising efforts for Japan aid, the PTJC co-organized a fundraiser event with the JAGSA. The event was held at the U of A's TELUS Centre, and featured speeches by Acting Consul-General Shinichiro Hayashi, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President International Britta Baron, a lecture on Nuclear Energy by Dr. Reg Eadie, and performance by Kita No Taiko.

The event was successful in raising over \$7,600 for the Red Cross, via admission fees, T-shirt sales, and a silent auction. Funding support for the event was received from UAI and ELP. In total, fundraising efforts at the U of A were successful in raising over \$17,900 for disaster relief in Japan.

- May 31 – July 1, 2011. Kyoto Summer Program in Japan at Ritsumeikan University

Although interest in the program was initially very high, due to the unfortunate events in Japan in March, several students withdrew their applications. We were still able to send 6 students on the program, however, and were also successful in obtaining Alberta Advanced Education and Training travel grants of \$750 each for 3 of the students (those that are Alberta residents).

- May 19 – June 1, 2011. Director's Japan Mission (business meetings).

The Director had several key business meetings with PTJC partners, including Ambassador Jonathan Friend (Canadian Ambassador to Japan), Meiji University (Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Japanese secretariat), the Alberta Japan Office, the International Education Center, and various Japanese university representatives. Below are some details about the meetings and activities conducted by the Director during her Japan Mission:

- ♦ Meeting with Ambassador Fried: discussions regarding the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund and Japan-Canada Academic Consortium
- ♦ Alberta Japan Office: discussions regarding the University of Alberta
- ♦ International Education Centre: planning for the Princess Takamado Essay Contest (PTJCMF)
- ♦ Japan Association for Alumni and Friends of the UofA Charity Jazz Event: held in support of fundraising efforts for the Tohoku Earthquake Relief; with cooperation from the Office of Alumni Affairs
- ♦ Meiji University: planning for the 2012 Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum
- ♦ Hokkaido University: discussions regarding partnering on the management committee for the PTJCMF

- ♦ Ritsumeikan University: discussing RU-UA Dual Degree Program, planning for the 2012 JACAC Student Forum (host institution) and attending the Summer Program opening ceremony

Annual Plan for 2011-2012

Below is a list of events that will be undertaken by the PTJC in 2011-2012.

Regular Ongoing Activities/Events

- Fundraising activities for the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund and the Japan Centre
- Organization of CANJAS/PTJC lecture series (all year).
- Princess Takamado Essay Contest
- Japanese Language Proficiency Exam (December)
- Organization of Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest (March)
- Organization of National Japanese Speech Contest (March)
- Japan Studies: Kyoto Summer Program
- Canadian Secretariat for the Japan Canada Academic Consortium
- Assisting with the organization of the 3rd Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum
- 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
- Liaise with the Provost's office and UAI regarding the Provost's Japan Mission and the university's relations with Japan
- 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

Special Events

- August 12 – 15, 2011: Accompany UofA Provost Dr. Carl Amrhein on his mission to Japan
- February, 2011: 3rd Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum (hosted by Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan)
- (TBC) April 2012: (in collaboration with the China Institute) Japan-China Crossover Concert

Special Projects

- Propose to host the annual conference for the CAJLE (Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education) in August 2012
- Complete the reformation of the Management Committee for the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund
- Form the advisory council for the Japan Centre