

# THE PRINCE TAKAMADO JAPAN CENTRE FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH ANNUAL REPORT

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July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

Affiliated Faculties: Faculties of Arts and Education

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## MISSIONS OF THE CENTRE

The Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research (PTJC) 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

## SUMMARY

The primary goal for the PTJC for the 2013-2014 academic year was to promote the PTJC amongst the research community on campus. This included updating the PTJC website ([ptjc.ualberta.ca](http://ptjc.ualberta.ca)) to make it more user-friendly and accessible to the UAlberta community. The PTJC's research programs during this year, however, were centered around preparing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Japan Game Studies Conference, which the PTJC is co-organizing with Ritsumeikan University Game Research Center and with Dr. Rockwell. The conference will be held from August 21-23, 2014 on UAlberta campus.

2013-14 was also a challenging year for the PTJC, because of the uncertainty about the administrative support for the Centre following the departure of the former assistant in May. Many efforts were made to streamline the administrative work for various events, especially for those that happen every year. Efforts were also made to ensure a good filing system, both electronically and in hard copies.

For the 2014-2015 academic year, the PTJC will continue to foster a research network both on campus and across Canada. A collaborative project with the Japan Foundation Toronto Office and JSAC (Japan Studies Association of Canada) has been planned whereby researchers will be invited from Japan to give lectures at more than one campus in Canada. The PTJC will be one of the stops from where the lecture

will be broadcasted to several campuses via video conference. A language/linguistics symposium is also under planning to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Centre under its current status.

## **ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS UNDERTAKEN IN 2013-2014**

### **Major Achievements**

#### Japan-Canada Academic Consortium:

- Acted as Canadian Secretariat and worked along side partner universities in Japan and Canada to administer the Japan Canada Academic Consortium Exchange Program.
- Co-organized the fifth Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum in Tokyo, Japan.
- Began initial coordination with Laval University for the planning of the sixth Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum.

#### Community Outreach:

- Co-organized, with Museum and Collection Services, the *Threshold* Print Exhibit featuring works by Walter Jule and Ryoji Ikeda at the Prince Takamado Art Gallery at the Embassy of Canada in Tokyo.
- Co-organized, with Alumni Affairs and with support from the University of Alberta International and Faculty of Extension, an alumni reception as part of the opening events for the exhibit.
- Supported the activities of the Japanese Association of Graduate Students at Alberta (JAGSA)
- Maintained and nurtured the partnership with the Japan Association for Alumni and Friends of the University of Alberta (JAAFUA).

#### Donations and Grants:

- 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 to the speech contests (support for Regional and National contests) as well as electronic dictionaries to the participants of the national contest.
- Coordinated with Astellas Pharma Canada for their donation of \$5,000 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).
- Received grants for: Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest (\$500, the Japan Foundation), Canada National Japanese Speech Contest (\$10,000, the Japan Foundation), Japan Game Study Conference (\$10,000, the Japan Foundation, and \$2000, Faculty of Arts Conference Fund).

### **Details**

#### **July 7, 2013: Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)**

Under the internationally recognized 5-tier system, the test continues to be a major event for the PTJC. The Centre works in collaboration with the Japan Foundation offices both in Toronto and Tokyo, as well as with institutions from across Alberta to run the event. This July marked the second time the University of Alberta hosted a summer edition of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test, and we remain the only

institution in North America to host this special session of the test. Participants registered in the test from across Canada and the United States. A total of 103 students registered for the test, showing a significant increase from the 65 who registered for the July 2013 exam, confirming our prediction that the July test would prove to be increasingly popular.

### **September 25, 2013:** Go Abroad Fair

To reach a wider audience, the PTJC had a table at the Go Abroad Fair at the University of Alberta to promote our student programs (in particular, the Ritsumeikan Summer Japanese Program, Special Topics in Japan Course, and the JACAC Student Forum). On top of preparing posters and brochures, previous participants volunteered their time to share their experiences with attendees at the fair.

### **November 2013:** 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 “*Discuss Canada's Position on the International Stage*”. The first-place winner received 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.

### **November 6, 2013 – January 8, 2014:** Print Exhibit: “Threshold: Ryoji Ikeda and Walter Jule”

Alongside the Embassy of Canada to Japan, we were pleased to co-organize *Threshold*, a print exhibit featuring the works of Ryoji Ikeda, a former visiting professor at the University of Alberta, and Walter Jule, Professor Emeritus, at the Prince Takamado Gallery at the Embassy of Canada in Tokyo. We also co-hosted the opening reception on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

### **November 7, 2013:** University of Alberta Japan Alumni and Friends Event

In conjunction with the *Threshold* exhibit at the Embassy of Canada Prince Takamado Gallery, working with University of Alberta Faculty of Extension and the University of Alberta International, the PTJC hosted a reception to foster the network among alumni and friends of the University of Alberta.

### **December 1, 2013:** Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

The tradition of hosting the JLPT continued this past December. Registration in the test came mostly from the Edmonton and Calgary regions, with some participants also taking part from Saskatchewan and British Columbia. In 2013, a total of 62 students registered for the test, dropping slightly from last year’s December exam (81 participants), which we believe is due to the popularity of the July test. Including the July edition of the test, a sum total of 165 learners of Japanese participated in the exam.

### **January 8, 2014:** Kakehashi Project University of Alberta Session

A group of Japanese high school students visited campus as part of the “Kakehashi Project” (a Japanese government program promoting exchange at the high school level). Coordinating with University of Alberta International, University of Alberta English Language Program, the Japanese Association of Graduate Students at Alberta (JAGSA), and the East Asian Studies Undergraduate Students’ Association (KGK), the PTJC organized a presentation and Q&A session on the University of Alberta and its various programs to the students.

### **February 16-24, 2014: 5th Annual Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum**

The Fifth Annual Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum was held in February 2014 at Meiji University in Tokyo with a theme of *Toward a Sustainable Economic and Social Development: Challenges in Aging Society in Canada and Japan*. Fourteen students from eight Japanese universities as well as fourteen students from eight Canadian universities were brought together to share and learn from each other's experiences.

As Canadian secretariat to the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium, it has been a great pleasure for the PTJC to watch the growth and evolution of the JACAC Forum over the years. Every year we find better and more innovative ways to partner with our fellow JACAC institutions and, as such, deliver a better experience to our participating students. The 2014 JACAC Student Forum was a great success. Our goal of uniting students from Japan and Canada to consider the economic diversity, similarities and issues faced across the globe was expertly achieved due the vision and considerable thought put forward by each and every student. The ability of our student participants to come together and cooperate throughout the demands of this week-long forum speak volumes towards the future of cooperation between Japan and Canada.

Both countries are faced with the extremely important question of how they can create a sustainable future in the midst of aging populations. Receiving special lectures from industry professionals and academic leaders in the field of business gave students unique insight into the challenges and opportunities presented by an aging society. Reinforced by lectures on the importance of cross-cultural awareness, students worked alongside their peers from different cultural backgrounds and a myriad of academic disciplines. It is our hope that the intercultural initiatives begun here at the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum will help to guide our participants to aid in the cooperation between Japan and Canada and support them in the future on their way to becoming leaders of the global community.

### **March 8, 2014: The 23rd Annual Alberta District Speech Contest**

Twenty-nine participants from the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, the University of Regina, and Grant MacEwan University took part in Alberta's regional speech contest. Support was received from the Japan Foundation, the Alberta Japanese Businessmen's Association, and Mitsui & Co. (Canada) Ltd. The event was attended by friends and family of the participants, and was open to attendance to local community members. First place winners from the beginner, intermediate, and advanced categories were invited to participate in the National Japanese Speech Contest.

### **March 29, 2014: The 25th National Japanese Speech Contest (NJSC)**

The National Japanese Speech Contest was co-organized by the PTJC, Carleton University, and the Japanese Embassy in Ottawa. Hosted at the Japanese Embassy in Ottawa, a total of twenty-five 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 \$3,000 travel certificate was provided by the Prince Takamado Japan-Canada Memorial Fund and was awarded to Ms. Pryangka Rao of the University of Waterloo. 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.

### **April 3, 2014: Book Launch/Talk Event, "From one voice to another: a translator's point of view"**

The PTJC sponsored a book launch event organized by the University of Alberta Press, in which certified translator and former colleague Yukari Meldrum discussed the process of working with author/illustrator Tomoko Mitani and translating the book "Will not forget both laughter and tears."

#### **May 6 – 29, 2014: Director's Japan Mission**

In this annual trip, Dr. Kabata had meetings both in Tokyo and Kyoto. In Tokyo, she met with the Canadian Embassy and the Alberta Government Japan Office, (May 12, 2014), and with Meiji University to discuss the planning of the JACAC forum and the JACAC exchange program. She also attended the annual general meeting for the JACAC Japanese member institutions (May 13, 2014). She met key members of the Japan Association of Alumni and Friends of UofA (JAAFUA) on May 11, and Professor Ryoji Ikeda, Musashion University, to plan the upcoming print exhibit at the Japan Foundation Toronto Office. In Kyoto, Dr. Kabata met several meetings at Ritsumeikan University: she met a team of researchers at Ritsumeikan Center for Game Studies to discuss the upcoming conference (August 21-24, 2014), as well as a few different groups of officers to discuss DUDP, Summer Japanese Program (RSJP), and Summer UofA course. She also attended the RSJP welcoming reception to ensure the appropriate placement of the UofA participants.

#### **May 20 – June 20, 2014: Kyoto Summer Program in Japan at Ritsumeikan University**

The summer program allows students from outside 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, thirteen University of Alberta students are attending the program. Three of the most deserving participating students are receiving the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Summer Travel Award, worth \$750. Students participate 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.

#### **June 23 – July 4, 2014: Special Topics in Japan Course**

This year's two-week long Special Topics in Japan Course, "Revisiting Japan: Traditionalism, China, and the Artistic Envisioning of Modern Japan," took place from June 23-July 4, 2014. In association with Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan, this for-credit University of Alberta course in Interdisciplinary Studies was open to all University of Alberta students. Seventeen students participated in the course instructed by Dr. Walter Davis with special lectures by Ritsumeikan University's Dr. Nakamura. Students participated in daily lectures at Ritsumeikan as well as took field trips to galleries, museums, and other relevant sites in Kyoto, Osaka, and Kobe. This introduction to Japanese art of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries lead students to consider how the artistic imagination of tradition has contributed to Japanese notions of modernity and contemporaneity. All full time University of Alberta students (who are Alberta residents) participating in the program received a Campus Alberta Grant for International Learning worth \$750, and the remaining full-time students received \$750 in support from University of Alberta International.

## **Annual Plan for 2014-2015**

Below is a list of events that will be undertaken by the PTJC in 2014-2015:

### Ongoing Activities:

- ♦ Coordinate 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 (July – November, 2014)
- ♦ Japanese Language Proficiency Test (July 6, 2014; December 7, 2014)
- ♦ Assisting with the organization of the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum (February 2015, to be hosted by Laval University, Quebec)
- ♦ Organization of Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest (March 2015)
- ♦ Organization of National Japanese Speech Contest (March 2015)
- ♦ Summer Program in Kyoto at Ritsumeikan University (May – June, 2015)
- ♦ Summer UAlberta Course in Japan at Ritsumeikan University (June –July, 2015). The theme of the 2015 course will be *Culture and Mind* and will be taught by the University of Alberta professor Dr. Takahiko Masuda, Department of Psychology.
- ♦ Co-ordinate the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Exchange Program with Meiji University (all year)
- ♦ Organization of Japan Studies Lectures, including the JSAC-UA Lecture Series Project.

### Special Events:

- ♦ Organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Japan Game Studies Conference, to be held August 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, at the University of Alberta, in coordination with Dr. Geoffrey Rockwell & the Humanities Computing Program.
- ♦ Co-organizing the Print Exhibit for Ryoji Ikeda and Walter Jule, which, originally held at the Canadian Embassy (November 2013-January 2014), will next be hosted at the Japan Foundation Toronto Office, November 5, 2014 – January 31, 2015.