

THE PRINCE TAKAMADO JAPAN CENTRE FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH
ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

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

During the 2014-2015 academic year, the PTJC faced a major challenge because of the changes to the support system within the Faculty of Arts that was revealed in late July. With the reduced hours of work by the PTJC assistant, the director had to take on increased duties including the financial management. Nevertheless, the PTJC managed to successfully complete all the programs that it had been committed to from the previous years, including the annual JACAC student forum, and the print exhibit co-organized by the Japan Foundation Toronto Office.

For this academic year, the primary goals have been to 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) was conducted whereby researchers will be invited from Japan to give lectures at more than one campus in Canada. The PTJC was one of the stops from where the lecture was broadcasted to four campuses via video conference.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS UNDERTAKEN IN 2014-2015

Major Achievements

Japanese Language and Japanese Studies Academic Events

- Hosted four guest lectures including one co-organized with Japan Foundation and Japan Studies Association of Canada.
- Organized and co-organized annual language-related events, including two JLPT tests and the regional and national Japanese speech contests.

Japan-Canada Academic Consortium:

- Co-organized the sixth Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum in Laval, Quebec.
- Began initial coordination with Meiji University for the planning of the seventh Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum, to be hosted by Nagoya University, Japan.

Community Outreach:

- Co-organized a print exhibit *Threshold* featuring Profs. Walter Jule and Ryoji Ikeda at the Japan Foundation Toronto.

Donations:

- Received donation of \$15,000 as the initial installation of 6 year-pledge (conditional) from Mitsui & Co. (Canada) Ltd. for the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund.
- 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 \$20,000 in funding support for Regional and National contests.
- Raised donations from the Alberta Japanese Businessmen's Association for the Alberta District Speech Contest and National speech contest.

Details

July 6, 2014: Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

The JLPT test continues to be a major event for the PTJC. This July marked the third 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. A total of 106 students from across Canada and the United States registered for the test, confirming our prediction that the July test would prove to be increasingly popular.

September 22, 2014: PTJC Lecture Series I: JSAC-JF Lecture by Prof. Iino

The PTJC collaborated with Japan Studies Association of Canada (JSAC) and Japan Foundation Toronto to host the first speaker for the Japan Foundation/JSAC Joint Lecture Series. Professor Iino, Masako Iino is past President and Professor of American History and Immigration Studies at Tsuda College in Tokyo gave a talk at the University of Alberta. The talk was broadcasted online to a few other campuses across Canada, including UBC and York U.

November 4, 2014: Special Lecture by Prof. Ryoji Ikeda, Musashino University of Fine Arts

The PTJC hosted Prof. Ryoji Ikeda, who visited the UAlberta en route to Toronto, where the print exhibit featuring him and Prof. Walter Jule was held starting November 6th. Prof. Ikeda brought with him over 300 pieces of print work, which he donated to the university. The lecture was co-organized by the Department of Arts Design (Dr. Sean Caulfield) and over 50 students and researchers attended.

November 6, 2014 – January 30, 2015: Print Exhibit: “Threshold: Ryoji Ikeda and Walter Jule”

Alongside the Japan Foundation Toronto, the PTJC 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, in Toronto. We also co-hosted the opening reception and a gallery talk on November 6th and 7th, 2014.

December 7, 2014: Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

A total of 56 students registered for the test. While the number dropped slightly from last year’s December exam (62 participants), probably due to the popularity of the July test, the UAlberta serves as one of the important host for the test with a sum total of 162 learners of Japanese participating from across North America.

January 2015: Princess Takamado English Essay Contest

This year has seen another successful completion of the annual English Essay Contest. The theme of the competition was to “Discuss the role of English as a global language in the the local and global communities. When possible, link your discussion to Canada, or Japan-Canada relations.” 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.

January 7, 2014: PTJC Lecture Series II: Mr. Tetsuo Komuro, Mitsui Co. (Canada) Ltd.

A rare opportunity to hear directly from Mr. Tetsuo Komuro, President & CEO of Mitsui & Co. (Canada) Ltd., was realized in this event co-organized between CAPs and the PTJC. At the lecture, Mr. Komuro talked about Japanese Business Culture and his experience working at

Mitsui, a wholly-owned subsidiary that began as a Japanese trading house and now has total assets of \$106.8 billion worldwide, landing at number 173 on the Fortune 500 global ranking.

January 26, 2014: Business Symposium PTJCMF

As part of the fundraising campaign for the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund, this Alberta-Japan business initiative event brought together with the aim to fostering networking among representatives of Canadian companies and Japanese companies in Alberta, with the involvement of academic and diplomatic organizations. The event, attended by approximately 45 people, featured a panel discussion on Investment in Canada and Japan: Opportunities and Strategies, organized by the PTJC, with support from: Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP, Mitsui Canada Ltd., RBC Capital Markets and Davis LLP. Panelists included:

- Jordan Kotick, Managing Director and Head of Global Cross Asset Strategy, RBC Capital Markets
- Tetsuo Komuro, President, Mitsui Canada Ltd.
- Don Campbell, Former Canadian Ambassador to Japan and Senior Strategy Advisor, Davis LLP
- Dan Hays (Moderator), Senior Partner, Norton Rose Fulbright Canada

March 1-7, 2014: 6th Annual Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum

The sixth annual Japan Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum was held at Laval University in Quebec with a theme of *Youth, Work and a New World in the Making*. The theme was very much related to the university students, who are preparing them selves to head into the global society.

The goal of bringing students from Japan and Canada to meet and exchange opinions and ideas about a common topic of interest to students today was expertly achieved, and it was extremely rewarding to observe our student participants to come together and cooperate throughout the demands of this week-long forum.

Receiving special lectures from industry and governmental professionals and academic leaders gave students unique opportunities to deepen their understanding of the current situation regarding employments and at the same time, to raise cross-cultural awareness. It is our strong hope that the consortium will continue to provide many more students with opportunities for cross-cultural interaction and discussions with peers from a different country, gaining valuable insight from a multicultural viewpoint, and to support future leaders of the global community.

March 10, 2014: Special Lecture by Dr. Naoki Ishikawa, Photographer

A special lecture entitled "Exploring Connections in the North: From Japan to Canada" was held with Dr. Ishikawa as a guest lecturer. Dr. Ishikawa completed his Ph.D. at the Tokyo University of the Arts, and as a photographer, he has published several collections of photographs, including Pole To Pole (2003) and The Void (2005). Last year, he held a photograph exhibition, POLAR, at the Embassy of Canada Prince Takamado Gallery in Tokyo.

March 15, 2014: The 24th Annual Alberta District Speech Contest

37 participants from the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, the University of Regina, and Grant MacEwan University, as well as the University of Saskatoon, 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 four categories were invited to participate in the National Japanese Speech Contest, which was held in Calgary on March 28th, 2015.

March 28, 2014: The 26th National Japanese Speech Contest (NJSC)

The National Japanese Speech Contest was co-organized by the PTJC, University of Calgary, and the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary. A total of twenty-five students participated in the competition from all across Canada, who were first-prize winners for each of the four categories (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced and Open) in the regional speech contests. Funding for prizes, airfare and accommodations were provided by Mitsui & Co. (Canada) Ltd, the Prince Takamado Japan-Canada Memorial Fund, and Alberta Japanese Business Association, as well as in-kind donation of prizes from Japan Airlines and JACOS.

April 24, 2014: Gallery Walk by Prof. Ryoji Ikeda, Musashino University

Prof. Ryoji Ikeda returned to UAlberta to attend the opening reception of the *What's New* exhibition organized by the Museums and Collections Services (MaCS) at the Enterprise Square Gallery. The exhibition featured, among others, the print works donated by Prof. Ikeda in November. Prof. Ikeda gave a gallery walk on April 24, 2014, in which he explained the background of some of the works, and answered questions by approximately 30 people who attended this event.

May 19 – June 19, 2014: Kyoto Summer Program in Japan at Ritsumeikan University

Six students participated in this year's summer program, which allowed them to learn and study Japanese while living in Kyoto, Japan. Three of these participating students received the Mitsui Canada Foundation Travel Awards or the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Summer Travel Award, each 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 12 –May 28: Director's Japan Mission

Being the last trip to Japan as the director of the PTJC, this annual mission included a courtesy meeting with Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado, and a conference presentation on the JACAC student forum, in collaboration with Dr. Katsu, VP (International) of Meiji University, the JACAC secretariat institution on the Japan Side.

June 22 – July 3, 2014: Special Topics in Japan Course

The two week-long Special Topics in Japan Course takes place June 22-July 3, 2015. This year, 19 students participate to take the course by Dr. Taka Masuda of the Department of Psychology, who taught the course entitled “Culture and the Mind: Understanding Cultural Variations in Mentalities” to introduce systematic cultural variations in the human mind.

Annual Plan for 2015-2016

Below is a list of events that are scheduled to be undertaken by the PTJC in 2015-2016. Please note, however, that as Dr. Aya Fujiwara assumes the directorship as of July 1, 2015, some of the plans are expected to undergo some changes:

Ongoing Activities:

- ♦ Coordinate with the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary, 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

Ongoing Annual Events:

- ♦ Princess Takamado English Essay Contest (July 2015 – January 2016)
- ♦ Japanese Language Proficiency Test (July 5, 2015; December 6, 2015)
- ♦ Assisting with the organization of the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum (February 2016, to be hosted by Nagoya University)
- ♦ Organization of National Japanese Speech Contest (March 2016 : TBC)
- ♦ Summer Program in Kyoto at Ritsumeikan University (May – June, 2016)
- ♦ Co-ordinate the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Exchange Program with Meiji University (all year)

Special Events:

- ♦ Planning and organizing the conference “70 Years After Hiroshima: Conceptualizing Nuclear Issues in Global Context”, to be held at the University of Alberta, on 18 and 19 September 2015.