

Japan – South Africa Centennial Celebrations

1. What are the Japan – South Africa Centennial Celebrations?

In 1910, the Government of Japan decided to appoint Mr Julius Otto Jeppe, who was at the time living in Cape Town, as the honorary consul of Japan in South Africa. The nomination was made to ensure the status of Japan and Japanese citizens in South Africa as well as to promote trade with South Africa.

Mr. Jeppe was a Briton of German decent, resident in South Africa and engaged in trade and maritime affairs. He worked as the honorary consul of Japan from 1910 until 1918 at an office located in Short Market Street in Cape Town. Moreover, he pioneered the exporting of South African wool to Japan and introduced Cape wines to East Asia, contributing as such to strengthening the relationship between Japan and South Africa. In 1916, Mr. Jeppe paid a courtesy call to the then Taisho Emperor and received the golden cup for his contributions.



Mr. Julius Otto Jeppe

2010 marks the one hundred years since the appointment of Mr. Jeppe as the honorary consul.

2. History of Japan and South Africa during the last 100 years

The Government of Japan established the consulate in Cape Town in 1918 after the nomination of Mr. Jeppe as honorary consul, the first of its kind in Africa. In 1916 a regular ship to transport Japanese migrants to South America stopped in Cape Town after coming from the Indian Ocean. In 1926, a regular ship exchange was established between Kobe and Durban.

The Japanese migrant ship going to South America was allowed to stop in Cape Town and to disembark for several days. As a sign of appreciation to such facilitation, Japan handed over a stone lantern to the city of Cape Town. This stone lantern was set and still stands in the Companies' Garden (next to the South African Parliament building), which is South Africa's oldest garden situated in the centre of the city.



Stone lantern

After the establishment of a legation in Pretoria in 1937, diplomatic relations were broken off due to the Second World War in 1942. After the War, consulate

relations resumed. In 1952, a consulate general was established in Pretoria and in 1964 a liaison office was established in Cape Town. Following the democratisation process of Apartheid, diplomatic relations were re-established in January 1991. The Embassy of Japan in South Africa was opened in February of the same year.

Since 1994, dignitaries such as Prime Minister Mori, Prime Minister Koizumi, and Foreign Minister Kawaguchi among others visited South Africa from Japan. Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada visited South Africa to attend the 10th Japan-South Africa Partnership Forum in May 2010. From South Africa; Presidents Mandela and Mbeki, Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka among others visited Japan. Moreover, more than 340 South Africans have stayed in Japan as assistant language teachers in Japan so far. From July 2010, 36 more South African youths are going to Japan as English teachers.

Currently, Japan is South Africa's third biggest export destination and fourth biggest import source (2009). Japan and South Africa are working hard to further strengthen this partnership.



Japanese Foreign Minister Mr. Katsuya Okada and Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation



2009 JET Pre-departure Reception

3. Japan – South Africa Centennial Celebrations Schedule

2010 marks the Centennial Year for Japan - South Africa cooperation but it is also the year when the FIFA World Cup will be held in South Africa. We think that 2010 is an important year to promote and deepen the understanding of each of the two countries. Japan and South Africa are geographically far from each other, but we hope that the different events that will be held next year will narrow this distance.

1) Kick-off Ceremony of the Centennial Celebrations

On December 1st 2009, ceremonies were held in Short Market Street and the Company Gardens in Cape Town to unveil plaques on the site of the original office of Mr. Julius Otto Jeppe, the honorary consul of Japan in South Africa and to honor the South African government for allowing Japanese passengers to disembark on their way to Brazil in the early 19th century. The ceremony took place with the Mayor of Cape Town, Mr. Dan Plato, and great grand daughter of Mr. Jeppe, Ms. Mono Brosher.



Plaque on the stone lantern



Plaque being unveiled in Short Market Street

2) Japanese Film Festival

During February and March this year, a Japanese Film Festival was held in four major centers around the country namely Pretoria, Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg. A variety of films were shown ranging from comedy to drama. About 2,400 people turned out for the event including Ms. Nelisiwe Mtimkulu Mbatha, MEC of the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture in Gauteng Province and Deputy Mayor of Durban, Mr. Logie Naidoo.



Speech by Minister Ms. Nelisiwe Mtimkulu Mbatha



A poster from the film Life

3) DVD lecture by Dr. Michiko Hirama on the traditional Japanese performing arts of Gagaku, Bunraku, Nougaku and Kabuki

Between February and March this year, Dr. Hirama presented 4 lectures across the county starting at the University of Pretoria, moving on to the University of Stellenbosch, Rhodes University in Grahamstown and finally at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal. Dr.Hirama is a lecturer at Shoutoku College in Japan.



Lecture at KZN University

4) Collaborative concert between Japanese conductor Yasuo Shinozaki, pianist Noriko Ogawa and the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra

On March 10th and 11th this year, a collaborative concert took place at the Wits Linder auditorium as part of the South Africa and Japan Centennial Celebrations. The concert began with the playing of the National Anthems of South Africa and Japan. Other highlights included Takemitsu's Riverrun and Stephenson's Johannesburg overture. Mr. Yasuo Shinozaki is currently resident conductor of Finland Philharmonic Orchestra. Ms. Noriko Ogawa is an international pianist currently active in both the UK and Japan.



Mr.Shinozaki and Ms Ogawa with Ambassador Ozawa and his wife.



Concert at the Linder auditorium

5) Ikebana and Martial Arts Demonstration

On April 17th this year, the Embassy of Japan was host to an Ikebana and Martial Arts demonstration. Mrs. Jennie Sterling, a Riji Master of the Sogetsu school of Ikebana, now resident in the US, demonstrated 10 beautiful flower arrangements. The afternoon programme featured a martial arts demonstration from groups such as Judo, Kendo, Karate, Iaido, Aikido, Ryukyu Kobujutsu and Kyudo. All of the participants belong to South African martial arts federations.



Left to right (Mrs. Sterling, Mrs. Crafford, Ambassador Ozawa and his wife).



Mrs. Sterling demonstrates flower arranging



Three of the ten flower arrangements



Aikido demonstration



Kendo demonstration

6) 19th National Koi(Carp) Show

On 15th and 16th May this year, the Cresta Shopping Centre was the venue for the 19th National Koi Show hosted by the South African Koi Keepers' Society. This is the largest Koi Show in South Africa which included 600 Koi. This year, certified All Japan judge Mr. Toyohiro Hayashi judged the event. The prize giving ceremony was followed by traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony.



Prize giving ceremony



7) Conferment Ceremony for Mrs. Danielle Crafford

Conferment of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays ceremony for Mrs. Danielle Crafford for promoting Ikebana (Flower Arrangement) and Japanese culture in South Africa took place on June 5th in Pretoria.



8) June 23rd Johannesburg

Planting ceremony of Japanese cherry blossom sprouts at the Japanese school and Botanical Gardens in Johannesburg

- 9) **July 1st to 3rd** Grahamstown
Jazz Shamisen (3 string instrument) performance by the group AGA-SHIO at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown



- 10) **July 22^d and August 1st** Durban
Durban International Film Festival featuring Japanese films
http://www.cca.ukzn.ac.za/Durban_International_Film_Festival.htm
- 11) **August 27th and 28th** Johannesburg
Performance by Mr. Sadao Watanabe at Standard Bank of Joy of Jazz Festival in Johannesburg
<http://www.joyofjazz.co.za/lineup.asp>
- 12) **September 3rd and 4th** Pretoria
Wadaiko (Japanese Drums) , Awa Odori (Awa Dance) , Flower Arrangement Exhibition by Mrs. Danielle Crafford and East meets Africa Art Exhibition by Mrs. Masako Osada at the Capital Arts Festival at the Pretoria State Theatre



Wadaiko



Awaodori



East meets Africa
Art Exhibition

- 1 3) **October 15th** Johannesburg
Japanese Tea Ceremony at Brenthurst Gardens in Johannesburg (By invitation only)



- 1 4) **Late October**
Launch of the Centre for Japanese Studies at Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) in Johannesburg

- 1 5) **November (1st week to 3rd week)**
Japanese Film Festival in Pretoria, Cape Town and Johannesburg

4. Official Logo



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