



Japan & South Africa Centennial Celebrations

Toward the Next 100 Years

Embassy of Japan

www.za.emb-japan.go.jp

Japan – South Africa Centennial Celebrations

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

On April 21st 1910, before the formation of the Union of South Africa, the Government of Japan appointed Mr. Julius Otto Jeppe, a citizen of Cape Town, as the Honorary Consul of Japan in Cape Town. Mr. Jeppe became the first representative of the Government of Japan on the continent of Africa.

Mr. Jeppe was a Briton of German decent, resident in Cape Town and engaged in trade with the Far East. He worked as the Honorary Consul of Japan from 1910 until 1918 at an office located in Short Market Street. A plaque is now laid in the pavement of Short Market Street to commemorate the location of the first office. Trade was beginning to grow between Japan and South Africa, and Mr. Jeppe is known for pioneering the exports of wool and Cape wines to Japan. In 1916, Mr. Jeppe paid a courtesy call to the then Taisho Emperor and received a golden cup for his contributions in building bilateral relations.



Mr. Julius Otto Jeppe

2010 marks one hundred years since the appointment of Mr. Jeppe as the Honorary Consul.

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

The Government of Japan established a full Consulate at Adderley Street in Cape Town in 1918. In 1916, the first of many ships to transport Japanese immigrants to Brazil stopped in Cape Town after travelling over the Indian Ocean. In 1926, a regular ship service was established by OSK (today renamed MOL) between Kobe and Durban.

The Japanese immigrants on their journey to Brazil were allowed to stop in Cape Town and to disembark for several days. As a sign of appreciation for this hospitality, the Government of Japan presented a stone lantern to the city of Cape Town. This stone lantern was set and still stands in the Company's Garden (next to the South African Parliament building) in the city centre.

Company's Garden Tel: 021-400-2521
Address: Queen Victoria Street, Cape Town (at the top end of Adderley Street)



Stone lantern at the
Company's Garden
in Cape Town

After the establishment of a legation in Pretoria in 1937, diplomatic relations were severed in 1942 due to the outbreak of World War II. After the War, Japan established a Consulate-General in Pretoria in 1952 and South Africa opened its Consulate-General in Tokyo in 1962. Following the democratization process of overcoming Apartheid, full diplomatic relations were re-established in 1992. Both Japan and South Africa upgraded their Consulate-General Offices to Embassies.

After 1994, Prime Minister Mori and Prime Minister Koizumi have visited South Africa. During the Centennial Celebrations, Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado visited South Africa in June 2010. From South Africa, President Mandela and President Mbeki have visited Japan on several occasions.

When Foreign Minister Okada visited South Africa to attend the 10th Japan-South Africa Partnership Forum in May 2010, he agreed with DIRCO Minister Nkoana-Mashabane to uplift the bilateral relations to a strategic cooperative partnership.

More than 340 South African youths have worked in Japan as assistant language teachers utilizing the JET Programme. In July 2010, 36 more South African youths went 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 work together on global issues such as nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, reform of the UN Security Council and climate change.



Japanese Foreign Minister Mr. Katsuya Okada and Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation
(2010 April 30 : DIRCO)



JET Pre-departure Reception
(2010 July 23 : Embassy of Japan)

On November 3rd 2010, the National Assembly of South Africa unanimously adopted a resolution to convey its gratitude to the government of Japan for 100 years of excellent bilateral relations, noting the centennial celebrations that are taking place this year and recognizing that Japan and South Africa interact through various bilateral and multilateral forums and that there are regular ministerial level discussions on issues of trade, investment, economic cooperation and cultural matters. On November 26th 2010, Ambassador Ozawa made a courtesy call to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Max Sisulu and received the minutes of proceedings of National Assembly of November 3rd, and exchanged gifts.



Ambassador Ozawa and Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Max Sisulu
at National Assembly in Cape Town (2010 November 26)

3. Japan – South Africa Centennial Celebrations Events

The year 2010 marks the Centennial Year of the establishment of official relations between Japan and South Africa, and it is also the year when the FIFA World Cup was held in South Africa. The participation of the Japanese National Team – The Samurai Blue – in the FIFA World Cup added excitement to the Centennial Celebrations and greatly contributed to the promotion of mutual understanding between our peoples.

1) Kick-off Ceremony of the Centennial Celebrations

On December 1st 2009, a ceremony was held in Short Market Street to unveil a plaque near the site of the original office of Mr. Julius Otto Jeppe, the Honorary Consul of Japan in Cape Town. The Mayor of Cape Town, Mr. Dan Plato, and the great grand daughter of Mr. Jeppe, Ms. Mona Bracher, attended the ceremony with Ambassador Ozawa.

Another ceremony was held on the same day at the site of the Japanese stone lantern at the Company's Garden. The stone lantern was a gift to the city of Cape Town from the Japanese government in 1932. New stone plaques were installed in place of the missing originals.

The day ended with the National Day reception to kick off the Centennial Celebrations.



Plaque on the Japanese stone lantern at the Company's Garden in Cape Town



Plaque being unveiled in Short Market Street (L-R) Mayor of Cape Town, Mr. Dan Plato, Ms. Mona Bracher, Ambassador Ozawa



Mayor of Cape Town, Mr. Dan Plato and Ambassador Ozawa



Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms. Nomaindia Mfeketo and Ambassador Ozawa



Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms. Sue van der Merwe at the National Day reception to kick off the Centennial Celebrations in Cape Town (2009 December 1)

2) The 16th Japanese Film Festival

From February 25th to March 21st 2010, the 16th Japanese Film Festival was held in Pretoria, Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg. Five films were shown ranging from comedy to drama and about 2,400 people turned out. Guests included 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 at Cinema Nouveau in Pretoria (2010 February 25)



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

From February 24th to March 4th, Dr. Hirama presented 4 video lectures at the University of Pretoria, University of Stellenbosch, Rhodes University in Grahamstown and the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal. Many art students were keen to learn more about traditional Japanese performing arts.



DVD Lecture on traditional Japanese Theatre at KZN University in Durban (2010 March 4)

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

On March 10th and 11th, a collaborative concert was held at the Wits Linder Auditorium as one of the major events of the Centennial Celebrations. The concert began with the playing of the National Anthems of South Africa and Japan, followed by the piano concerto of Japanese composer Takemitsu's "Riverrun" and a symphony of South African composer Stephenson's 'Johannesburg Overture'. Mr. Yasuo Shinozaki is currently resident conductor of the Finland Philharmonic Orchestra and 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 (2010 March 10 - 11)

5) Ikebana and Martial Arts Demonstration

On April 17th, the Embassy of Japan hosted demonstrations of Ikebana and Japanese Martial Arts. In the morning, 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 Japanese martial arts demonstrations from groups such as Judo, Kendo, Karate, Iaido, Aikido, Ryukyu Kobujutsu and Kyudo.



(L-R) Mrs. Sterling, Mrs. Crafford, Ambassador Ozawa and his wife (2010 April 17 : Embassy of Japan)



Mrs. Sterling demonstrates flower arranging



Three of the ten flower arrangements



Aikido demonstration



Kendo demonstration

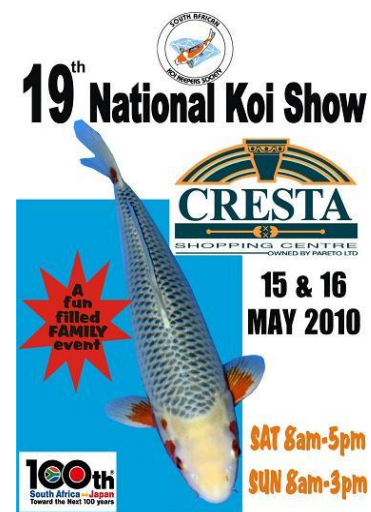
(2010 April 17 : Embassy of Japan)

6) 19th National Koi (Carp) Show

On May 15th and 16th, 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 featured 600 Koi this year. Certified All Japan Judge Mr. Toyohiro Hayashi joined the judging team. The prize giving ceremony was followed by a traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony.



(L-R) Grand champion, Mr. Hayashi, Minister Sakamoto at the prize giving ceremony (2010 May 16)



7) Conferment of the Order of the Rising Sun to Mrs. Danielle Crafford

On June 5th, a ceremony was held at Ambassador Ozawa's Official Residence to confer the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, upon Mrs. Danielle Crafford for promoting Ikebana (Flower Arrangement) and Japanese culture in South Africa.

Mrs. Crafford was one of the founding members of the Pretoria Chapter of Ikebana International. During the 8th Ikebana World Convention held in Yokoyama, Japan, in 2001, she was one of four members selected from around the world who actually demonstrated their skills at the convention.

Mrs. Crafford is the fifth South African to receive this Order from the Japanese Government.



(L-R) Ambassador Ozawa, Mrs. Crafford, and Mrs. Ozawa



Mrs. Crafford with her family and friends
(2010 June 5 : Ambassador Ozawa's Official Residence)

8) HIH Princess Takamado's visit to South Africa

On June 23rd, Princess Takamado, who was visiting South Africa informally for the FIFA World Cup, took time out to plant cherry blossom sprouts at the Johannesburg Botanical Gardens with Mr. Amos Masondo, the Mayor of Johannesburg, and later the same day, at the Japanese school in Johannesburg. Cherry blossoms have been an important part of Japanese life for centuries.

During her stay in South Africa, Princess Takamado made a courtesy call to Deputy President, Kgalema Motlanthe, at his Pretoria residence. She also met with His Majesty Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi, king of the Royal Bafokeng in Rustenburg, the venue of the Japan – Denmark soccer match where the Samurai Blue won 3 – 1.



Princess Takamado (center), Mr. Amos Masondo, Mayor of Johannesburg (right) at Johannesburg Botanical Gardens (2010 June 23)



Japanese School in Johannesburg (2010 June 23)



Princes Takamado presenting Deputy President, Kgalema Motlanthe, with the official Japanese soccer uniform with his name (2010 June 25)



Cherry blossom buds start to appear (September, 2010)

9) AGA-SHIO and Music & Rhythm performances at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown

From July 1st to 3rd, AGA-SHIO, a piano and Shamisen (Japanese three string instrument) duo, and Music & Rhythm, a Japanese drum and bamboo instrument combination group, performed at the 36th Grahamstown National Arts Festival. This was the first time that Japanese performers participated in the festival. The performers also made a visit to the Orlando Children's Home in Soweto.



Drum performance (Outdoor venue)
(2010 July 1)



Drum performance (Indoor venue)
(2010 July 2)



Performance by AGA-SHIO
(2010 July 3)



Orlando Children's Home in Soweto
(2010 June 28)

10) Durban International Film Festival featuring Japanese films

From July 22nd to August 1st, the Durban International Film Festival was held with the co-operation of the Japan Foundation. Japanese films such as 'Running on Empty' and 'Kamui' were featured in the festival. As part of the judging panel, Ms. Aihara from the Japan Image Council participated in the event.

http://www.cca.ukzn.ac.za/Durban_International_Film_Festival.htm

11) Performance by Mr. Sadao Watanabe at the Joy of Jazz Festival

On August 27th and 28th, Mr. Sadao Watanabe, Japan's foremost Jazz musician, performed at the Standard Bank Joy of Jazz Festival held in Newtown in Johannesburg. The event was attended by internationally renowned artists.



Mr. Sadao Watanabe

12) Wadaiko (Japanese Drums), Awa Odori (Awa Dance), Flower Arrangement Exhibition by Mrs. Danielle Crafford and East meets Africa Art Exhibition by Ms. Masako Osada at the Capital Arts Festival at the Pretoria State Theatre

On September 3rd and 4th, the Capital Arts Festival was held at the South African State Theatre in Pretoria. Japanese Drum group 'Hibikiza' and Awaodori dance group 'Kikusui ren' performed in both indoor and outdoor venues. In total more than one thousand spectators attended. The Festival was complemented by an exhibition of Japanese artwork by South African based Japanese artist Ms. Masako Osada and an Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement) exhibition by Mrs. Danielle Crafford of Ikebana International. After the festival Hibikiza went on to perform in Botswana and Portugal. Kikusui ren visited St. Francis Care Centre (HIV/AIDS Care Centre) and Orlando Children's Home in Soweto.



Hibikiza (Wadaiko) at State Theatre
(2010 September 3 - 4)



Kikusui ren at Orlando Children's Home in Soweto
(2010 September 6)



East meets Africa Art Exhibition by Ms. Masako Osada
at the Capital Arts Festival at the Pretoria State Theatre

13) Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement) exhibition by Ikebana International Johannesburg Chapter

On October 2nd and 3rd, there was an Ikebana exhibition held at the Floreum in the Johannesburg Botanical Gardens. This exhibition was organised by Mr. Victor Reed, the President of the Ikebana international Johannesburg chapter. About 30 arrangements representing various schools were displayed. The Johannesburg Chapter practices Ikebana regularly at the above venue on every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:00.

Contact person: Mr. Derry Ralph 011-788-6104/082-435-7126



(L-R) Mr. Derry Ralph, Mrs. Ozawa (Ambassador Ozawa's wife) and Mr. Victor Reed
(2010 October 2 : Floreum in the Johannesburg Botanical Gardens)

14) Iaido seminar by Katsujinkenkaï

From October 9th to 11th, Katsujinkenkaï (Iaido Martial Arts Group in Pretoria) invited Mr. Yoshitaka Tomita (8th Dan, former Ambassador of Japan to Guinea) and hosted an Iaido seminar at Riviera Primary School in Pretoria.

Katsujinkenkaï practice Iaido from 19:30 to 21:00 every Tuesday and Thursday at the above venue.

Contact person : Mr. Philip de Bruyn 082-375-5383

www.iaido.za.org



Mr. Yoshitaka Tomita (8th Dan)



Mr. Rodney Sloan (Front)
Mr. Hentie Webb (Back)



Mr. Philip de Bruyn



Mr. Maarten van Bommel

Iaido seminar at Riviera Primary School in Pretoria (2010 October 9 – 11)

15) Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement) exhibition by Ikebana International Pretoria Chapter

From October 14th to 16th, an Ikebana exhibition was held by Ikebana International Pretoria Chapter at the Monument Park Dutch Reformed Church Hall. This year's theme was Christmas, New Year & Special Occasions and more than 30 arrangements were displayed. They meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 10:15 to 12:30 at the above venue.

Contact person : Hantie 012-347-7678



Ikebana Displays for Christmas, New Year and Special Occasions



Ikebana exhibition at Monument Park Dutch Reformed Church Hall in Pretoria
(2010 October 14 – 16)

16) Japanese Tea Ceremony at Brenthurst Gardens in Johannesburg

On October 15th, a Japanese Tea Ceremony was held at the Oppenheims' Brenthurst Gardens nearby their Japanese garden. The tea ceremony commemorated 100 years of South Africa - Japan friendship and the 5th anniversary of the creation of the Japanese garden at Brenthurst. The ladies of the Tea Ceremony Club of the Nippon Club of Johannesburg wore Kimono for this occasion. The famous Japanese garden designer, Mr. Yasuo Kitayama, completed the Japanese garden at Brenthurst on 15th October 2005.



Mr. & Mrs. Oppenheimer



Members of the Japanese Tea Ceremony Club



Speech by Mr. Oppenheimer



Speech by Ambassador Ozawa



Tea Ceremony Demonstration



Japanese garden and tea house

17) Kendo seminar by South African Kendo Federation

On October 16th and 17th, the chairperson of the South African Kendo Federation, Mr. Buster Sefor, invited Mr. Tadahiro Ajiro (8th Dan Hanshi), Mr. Tokuaki Irii (8th Dan Kyoshi) and Mr. Teruaki Ishimaru (7th Dan) from Japan, and hosted a Kendo seminar and grading exam at the Japanese School in Johannesburg.

Mr. Ajiro has trained 4 All Japan champions and 2 world champions. About 50 South African Kendo practitioners attended this seminar from all over South Africa. Contact person : Mr. Buster Sefor 011-887-3016, kendo@icon.co.za



(L-R) Irii Sensei (8th Dan Kyoshi), Tony Sensei (5th Dan), Ajiro Sensei (8th Dan Hanshi), Sefor Sensei (6th Dan), Ishimaru Sensei (7th Dan)



Kendo Seminar (2010 October 16 – 17)

18) Launch Symposium of the Centre for Japanese Studies at the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) in Johannesburg

On October 26th, the University of Pretoria, the Gordon Institute of Business Science, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industries in South Africa and the Embassy of Japan co-hosted the Launch Symposium of the Centre for Japanese Studies at GIBS in Johannesburg.

H.E. Mr. Ebrahim Ebrahim, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperations, made the key note address at the Launch Symposium. Prof. Cheryl de la Rey, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Pretoria, Prof. Nick Binedell, Director of Gordon Institute of Business Science, Prof. Scarlett Cornelissen, Associate Professor of the University of Stellenbosch, Prof. Shin-ichi Kitaoka of the Faculty of Law from the University of Tokyo, Mr. Peter Fabricius, Foreign Editor of Independent Newspapers South Africa, Mr. Katsumi Hirano, Director General of the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Mr. Michael Spicer, Chief Executive Officer of Business Leadership South Africa (BLSA) and Vice-President of Business Unity South Africa (BUSA), H.E. Mr. Toshiro Ozawa, Ambassador of Japan to South Africa, H.E. Dr. Ben Ngubane, Chairperson of SABC Board (former South African Ambassador to Japan) were guest speakers.

This symposium focused on a discussion of future cooperation between Japan and South Africa, reflecting on the past history of 100 years, and also noting the changes in the structure of global governance and Japan's position in this change.

The Centre for Japanese Studies will promote business and academic interaction between Japan and South Africa. Dr. Masako Osada has been appointed Executive Manager and Acting Director of the Centre for Japanese Studies.



H.E. Mr. Ebrahim, Deputy Minister of DIRCO



Prof. Shin-ichi Kitaoka



(L-R) Mr. Spicer, Mr. Hirano, Mr. Fabricius



H.E. Dr. Ben Ngubane, Ambassador Ozawa



Launch Symposium of the Centre for Japanese Studies at GIBS
(2010 October 26)

19) Bonsai exhibition by Shibui Bonsai Kai

On October 30th and 31st, the Shibui Bonsai Kai held a Bonsai exhibition at the Floreum, Johannesburg Botanical Gardens. The exhibition consisted of displays by members ranging from the young to veterans with more than 20 years experience.

Mr. Derry Ralph, the chairperson of the Shibui Bonsai Kai, worked together with Mr. & Mrs. Oppenheimer, to build the Bonsai Pavilion at the Brenthurst Gardens in Johannesburg.

The Shibui Bonsai Kai gathers on the third Saturday of every month at 14:00 at the Floreum.

Contact person: Mr. Derry Ralph 011-788-6104/082-435-7126



Minister Sakamoto opening the event



Mr. Sakamoto and Mr. Ralph



Bonsai exhibition at Floreum in the Johannesburg Botanical Gardens
(2010 October 30 – 31)

20) Conferment of the Order of the Rising Sun to Dr. Baldwin Siphon Ngubane

On November 5th, Dr. Baldwin Siphon Ngubane, the Chairperson of the South Africa Broadcasting Corporation and former Ambassador of South Africa to Japan, was awarded the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan, for his contribution to promote bilateral relations and to enhance cooperation in science and technology between the two countries.

During his tenure as Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, Dr. Ngubane visited Japan in 2000 to conclude the science and technology cooperation agreement between the two countries. Today, more than two dozen joint research projects are being conducted under this agreement.

Dr. Ngubane assumed his duty as Ambassador of South Africa to Japan from 2004 to 2008. His successful efforts to bridge African ambassadors in Japan with the Japanese government for TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) IV in 2008 is highly appreciated.

Dr. Ngubane is the 6th South African citizen to receive an Order from Japan for promoting Japan-South Africa relations.



Dr. Baldwin Siphon Ngubane (second from right) and other recipients of the Order of the Rising Sun at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan (2010 November 5)

21) The 17th Japanese Film Festival

From November 5th to 21st, the 17th annual Japanese Film Festival was held in Pretoria, Cape Town and Johannesburg. A variety of Japanese films were **shown including the popular animation 'The Girl who Leaped through Time'** and the Japanese **Academy Award winner 'Half a Confession'**. The opening night was attended by the Chief Director of International Relations of the Department of Arts and Culture, Ms. Louise Graham.

'Kamome Diner', a film about a small Japanese bistro in Helsinki, Finland, featured Japanese food. The rice ball, Onigiri, was depicted as being the Japanese soul food in the film. A few Japanese Embassy wives decided to serve rice balls to those who watched the movie at Pretoria and Rosebank.

In Cape Town, a JET Photo Exhibition and Karate and Kendo demonstrations were held concurrently.



Speech by Ms. Louise Graham at Cinema Nouveau in Pretoria (2010 November 5)



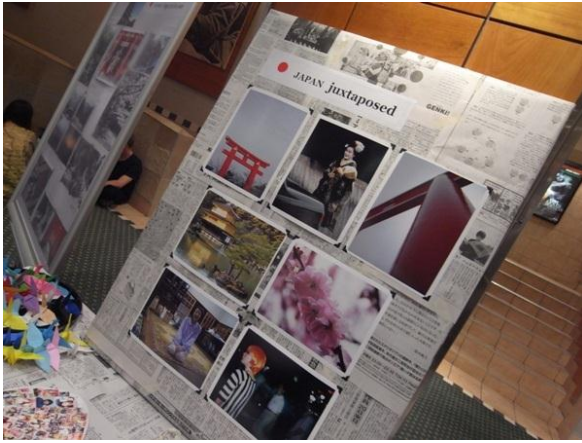
Japanese Onigiri, rice balls



The Girl who Leaped through Time



Kamome Diner



JET Photo Exhibition (Cape Town)



Karate Demonstration (Cape Town)

22) Aikido seminar by Aikido Federation of South Africa

From November 25th to 28th, Aikido Federation of South Africa invited Mr. Ikuhiro Kubota (7th Dan Shihan) and Ms. Mutsuko Minegishi (7th Dan), and hosted an Aikido seminar at Wits University in Johannesburg. About 60 South African Aikido practitioners attended this seminar from all over the country.

Contact person : Mr. Corrie Human : aikido@mweb.co.za



Aikido Seminar at Wits University in Johannesburg (2010 November 25 – 28)



Embassy of Japan

Tel:012-452-1500

Fax:012-460-3880

www.za.emb-japan.go.jp