

# Consul-General's Activities



## Shirase Reception

Consul-General Kohara attended a reception on 18 March held on board the Japanese icebreaker *Shirase* when it called at Sydney on its way back from the Antarctic to Japan.

Around 180 people enjoyed the hospitality of the captain and crew and members of the 54th Japan Antarctic Research Expedition. In his speech the consul-general said that it was a great pleasure to see so many friends who had come to join him "to celebrate the arrival in Sydney of the icebreaker *Shirase* – a symbol of our friendship – after another successful voyage to Antarctica, supporting the expedition and its very important research activities that expand human knowledge."

To learn more about *Shirase*, its role and its history, see page 4.

More photos of the Consul-General's recent activities can be found on our website: [www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/english/about\\_us/consul\\_generals\\_gallery.htm](http://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/english/about_us/consul_generals_gallery.htm)

When Mr Bob Baldwin, Federal Member for Paterson and opposition spokesman for tourism, visited the Consul-General recently, he was so impressed by his chef's version of teriyaki fish that he asked for the recipe. Mr Baldwin's fishing partner was Mr Al McGlashan who writes the fishing column 'Gone Fishing' in *The Daily Telegraph*. Mr McGlashan described the unplanned lunch prepared by the Consul-General's "extremely talented chef" as "an exquisite" three-course meal in his column\*.

\* *The Daily Telegraph* 15 March 2013 p.40

## Teriyaki Fish Recipe

Recipe and notes by Koji Sato

### Teriyaki Sauce (serves 3-4)

- sake.....30ml
- mirin.....30ml
- soy sauce.....30ml
- sugar.....15g
- grated ginger.....3g

### Method

1. Mix all teriyaki sauce ingredients.
2. Fillet fish and lightly sprinkle with salt. (The teriyaki sauce is strong enough so not much salt is required.)
3. Cook fish in frypan until skin goes crispy and the flesh side of the fish changes colour. Do not allow the fish to cook right through at this stage. (60-70% cooked through is just right). Ideally, the frypan should be just big enough to fit the fish in. If the frypan is too large, it will become difficult when coating the fish in the sauce later.
4. Remove fish from frypan.
5. Pour teriyaki sauce into the same frypan without washing the pan. Heat the sauce and allow to simmer until it becomes thick and glossy.
6. Return fish to the frypan with the sauce and coat well. Once the fish is cooked through, it is ready to be served.

### Notes

Fish: This recipe works best with whitefish and blue-skinned fish.  
Sake: As a substitute for sake, one could use Brandy.  
Mirin: Mirin is sweet sake which can be found in the Asian food section of most supermarkets. 30ml of mirin could be substituted with 15ml of water with 15g of honey.

Some key facts from **The 3.11 Progress Report** issued by Japan's Reconstruction Agency.

In the two years that have passed since the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, considerable progress has been made towards restoring and reconstructing those areas worst affected. In order to expedite reconstruction work, the current administration has increased the budget for post-earthquake reconstruction from ¥19 trillion to ¥25 trillion over a five-year period (starting from fiscal year 2011).

**Removal of Debris:** Out of the over 16 million tons of debris from coastal municipalities of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures, the three most affected areas, all debris classified as high-priority was removed and transferred to makeshift yards by August 2011, with the transfer of all remaining disaster debris to be completed by March 2013.

**Infrastructure:** Vital infrastructure was operational soon after the disaster struck—international flights from Sendai Airport resumed in just over a fortnight. Essential public services were also quickly restored. 90% of affected hospitals have resumed services and 81% of affected schools have resumed classes. Longer-term infrastructure redevelopment is also well underway.

**Housing:** Temporary housing was critical in the period following the disaster. Longer-term planning includes the collective relocations of housing and communities, for example to higher land, which is taking place in a total of 229 districts in 26 municipalities.

**The Status of Fukushima:** Approximately 154,000 people have been evacuated from Fukushima, of which 109,000 people are from the Evacuation Order Area.

**Food Safety:** New food safety standards put Japan far ahead of some of the strictest recommendations by international bodies. Stricter standards around radionuclides in food products and stronger screening processes are in force.

**Industry and Economy:** The gap in the industrial production index between the affected areas and other regions of Japan has been narrowing. Agriculture is an important industry in the affected area, and the restoration plan for farming is on schedule, aiming to have around 90% of farmlands back in operation by early 2014.

**Promoting Investment:** The government has established Special Zones for Reconstruction offering deregulation and simplified statutory procedures, a variety of tax breaks and financial incentives, and new mechanisms to facilitate land-use restructuring.

**Tourism:** After an initial sharp decrease, 2012 saw a rapid turnaround with approximately 8.37 million foreign tourists travelling to the country, representing a return to pre-earthquake levels. Tourism is a vital part of Japan's growth strategy and a target of around 10 million foreign visitors has been set for 2013.

For the **full text**, see [www.reconstruction.go.jp/english/topics/2013/03/2nd-anniversary-report.html](http://www.reconstruction.go.jp/english/topics/2013/03/2nd-anniversary-report.html)

# 東日本大震災からの復興 Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake

On the 2nd anniversary of the earthquake, the Reconstruction Agency issued progress reports on the reconstruction and revitalisation efforts and a message from the minister for reconstruction: [www.reconstruction.go.jp/english/](http://www.reconstruction.go.jp/english/)

## A message from Mr Takumi Nemoto Minister for Reconstruction

It is now two years since the Great East Japan Earthquake struck on 11 March 2011, and as such is an appropriate time to reflect on the progress made to date and remind ourselves of the work that remains to be done. As we are all vividly aware, the March 2011 disaster caused unprecedented damage in the Tohoku region and resulted in a period of crisis that impacted the entire nation. Reconstruction and revitalization of the economies, communities and livelihoods impacted by this disaster remains a national priority.

After two years of steady progress, the government of Japan is firmly committed to further accelerating its reconstruction efforts. Priority issues including rebuilding living environments that are resilient and able to withstand future natural disasters, the restoration of livelihoods in disaster areas, supporting those affected by the nuclear accident, and regional economic revitalization will be significantly expedited. Reflecting this commitment, the government has pledged to secure the financial resources necessary to expand the budgetary framework for the reconstruction of disaster areas by 6 trillion yen to 25 trillion yen over the five years starting the fiscal year 2011.

We are proud of the progress made thus far and are grateful for the strong support we continue to receive from our international partners. Essential public services, utilities and infrastructure were quickly restored, and businesses that were damaged are back on their feet. Stringent food safety standards have restored public confidence in Japanese produce, while the number of foreign visitors to Japan has returned to pre-earthquake levels.

Looking forward, we will take a hands-on approach to reconstruction, improving on the "vertically-segmented" administrative structure. This means concrete measures to strengthen processes and understanding at the ground level, with oversight unified within the Reconstruction Agency to allow for more efficient decision

-making and implementation. The Agency will continue in its role as the 'Control Tower' for all reconstruction efforts, including working to ensure that relevant ministries take the necessary action.

Among other initiatives aimed at stepping-up progress, the government is establishing a 'tandem headquarters' (Tokyo and Fukushima) mechanism for the reconstruction and revitalization of Fukushima, to coordinate and accelerate efforts. The Reconstruction Agency will increase its headcount from approximately 120 to 160 employees, and a full-time Secretary-General has been appointed responsible for supervising all efforts to revitalize the Fukushima area. These developments are a demonstration of the government's commitment to tackling the challenges faced in Fukushima and affected areas, and meeting the needs of the people.

There is still much to be done. As we look to accelerate the pace of progress, cooperation with international partners is especially important for economic revitalization, and foreign direct investment and cutting-edge technologies have hugely important roles to play. For the government's part, we must work to ensure the right conditions are in place to attract this kind of input, both in terms of infrastructure and public facilities, taking into consideration factors such as tax incentives and ease of doing business. The government's aim is to restore Tohoku's position as a place for innovation, and for reconstruction of the affected areas to spur revitalization of the broader Japanese economy.

As we mark two years since the disaster, we would like to once again express our heartfelt gratitude for the continued support and friendship of our international partners. Though we face challenges, Japan will tackle them proactively and with determination. The lessons learned from this crisis and the road to recovery can benefit not only Japan but also the international community.

END

## MADE IN NEW JAPAN

Two years after the 2011 disaster,  
we are building a new future.

*A message from the Prime Minister of Japan*

Hello, I'm Shinzo Abe.

Two years have passed since the earthquake of 3/11. Shortly after the disaster, I was in a small village called Watari. Nothing remained but debris.

I was stunned.  
I was speechless.

During those challenging months, many people shed not only sweat but also tears for the victims. I can't express enough how thankful I still am for all the help you gave us.



Today I am pleased to make an announcement: The people who suffered tremendously have not lost hope. In Watari, the strawberry farmers have recovered, rising to new heights. I ate their product, those big red strawberries. They were delicious. Indeed, they may even be tastier, as the fruit is now being grown under newly installed precision temperature control, a cutting-edge technology.

This is the new Japan: The result of peoples' resolve plus advanced knowledge. A country that faced up to a taxing and unimaginable challenge has been reborn. The nation once helped by your goodwill now stands at the cusp of a new future.

Please join us as we journey into this new future. The New Japan.



Learn more about  
MADE IN NEW JAPAN at

[nmj.gov-online.go.jp/](http://nmj.gov-online.go.jp/)