

# Japan REPORTS

The Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney's  
Quarterly Newsletter

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## A message from the Acting Consul-General of Japan

*Dear Readers,*

Since early September, I have been the Acting Consul-General of Japan in Sydney. This has seen me out and about more than usual at a wide range of events.

One of the events I attended was the 7th Inoue Yasushi Awards (20 September). The Inoue Yasushi Award is presented to an outstanding Australian or New Zealand researcher in Japanese literature and is a wonderful way to encourage and support academics in Japanese studies. The award ceremony also highlighted some excellent musical talents.

Sporting talent has also been on my mind. I am looking forward to the Japanese Film Festival (14-24 November) which will soon be screening in Sydney. There is such a wide range of films for people to enjoy. This year the festival is honoured to have Mr Shinji Ono from the Western Sydney Wanderers as a Cultural Ambassador for the festival. His sporting talent has brought great joy to many football fans and perhaps some of those fans who might not have considered Japanese film before will have their interest piqued. I hope you find a film to interest you.

Sport can be a means of fostering goodwill between people and between countries. I am sure most of you would be aware that Tokyo's bid for the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics was successful. This is a great honour for Japan. And there will be a strong connection with Australia for the Tokyo 2020 Games. Mr John Coates AC, President of the Australian Olympic Committee and Vice-

President of the International Olympic Committee, has been appointed Chairman of the IOC Coordination Commission for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan, Mr Yoshitaka Akimoto, came to Sydney to congratulate Mr Coates on his appointment.

More young people from NSW have been going on exchange to Japan. On page 3 you can read the report of a student who has just come back from a JENESYS 2.0 trip to Japan to study Japan's pop-culture. She obviously has a genuine interest in J-pop culture, and it was interesting to read that after the trip she's now considering studying in Japan. In December a larger group of NSW students will be going on a different JENESYS 2.0 program to Japan and I hope that they will also learn much and create new friends on the program.



Acting Consul-General, Mr Toshiaki Kobayashi

I hope that many of you will be able to attend the Japan Expo & Matsuri in Sydney (Saturday 14 December) at Darling Harbour. The Matsuri is getting bigger every year and there will be more stalls and performances for people to enjoy.

Finally, it seems a little early to be writing this now, but as this will be our last issue for the year, on behalf of the Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney, I would like to take the opportunity to wish all readers the best for the remaining weeks of 2013 and wish you well for the New Year.

*Toshiaki Kobayashi*  
November 2013

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