

Art of Sake 2016

Mr Hideo Dekura is the author of *Sake* published in 2015. He was the speaker at the Art of Sake 2016 held on 21 March at the Consul-General's official residence.

After the talk, a sake tasting was held for a select group of thirty sake lovers who tried a range of premium sake, provided by Sydney based distributors, JFC Australia and Sakenet Australia, as well as seven sakes carefully selected by Consul-General Takaoka.

The Consul-General's chef created special canapés to match with sake, including the phenomenal origami cracker and dip shown below.



Mr Hideo Dekura



The Consul-General's selection



Carefully crafted canapés

Dekura-san's tip

To make your next trip to Japan special:

- Seek out different local sakes, then
- Ask the sake maker or seller what local dish would go well with the sake, and
- Maybe even ask what the locally made ceramic is to round out the experience.

Five years on

Commemorative service for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami held at St Matthew's Church in Manly, Sydney

On 11 March, the Japanese community in Sydney organised a commemorative service at St Matthew's Church in Manly to remember the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami disaster, and to thank all those who gave assistance and support to the people of Tohoku.

The Great East Japan Earthquake 5th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony was organised by JCS Rainbow Project Organisation. Many Japanese and Australian government, business and community representatives participated in the event.

The opening address was delivered by the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Masato Takaoka [top right]. This was followed by a moment of silence to commemorate the exact time of the earthquake. A video message from former Prime Minister Julia Gillard, who was the first head of state to visit the affected areas after the earthquake, was screened, followed by a speech from Superintendent Kim Reeson, representing the Fire and Rescue NSW personnel who assisted with relief efforts immediately after the earthquake.

Students from Tohoku and Fukushima Universities made presentations, and renowned violinist Ayako Ishikawa and local Japanese cultural artists also performed.



The memorial service in Manly was very well attended by Japanese and Australians.

- Information about the recovery process can be found on the website of the **Reconstruction Agency of Japan**. The first five years were designated as the 'intensive reconstruction period' (2011-2015) and it is now the 'reconstruction and revitalisation period' (present to 2020). The webpage below gives an overview of the timeline and has various briefing materials.
www.reconstruction.go.jp/english/topics/Progress_to_date/index.html
- *Tsunamiishi* (tsunami stones) are markers left by communities warning not to build below a certain point along the coast. The **Tohoku Regional Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism** has created a modern version of a tsunamiishi with an online **Earthquake Memorial Museum** with the hope that the experiences of the earthquake will be passed on to the next generation and contribute to disaster prevention in the future.
infra-archive311.jp/en/

Letters to the Editor

The editor of *Japan Reports* welcomes any comments and suggestions you may have, including experiences of Japan or Japanese culture in Australia.

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