

**APRIL  
2013**

**JAPAN  
CREATIVE  
CENTRE**

EMBASSY OF JAPAN

**CULTURAL E-MAGAZINE**



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Singapore Chapter

# UPCOMING EVENTS



**April 2013**

## APRIL EVENTS IN JCC

06 – 20 April 2013	<a href="#">Art of Lacquer Ware for Chanoyu Exhibition</a>
27 April 2013	JCC Cinema 19 : The Secret World of Arrietty

## SNEAK PEEK AT THE EVENTS IN MAY!

07 – 18 May 2013	Earth Cell- Not a future for art, but art for future Art Exhibition
18 May 2013	JCC Cinema 20

## SUPPORTED EVENTS

19 January – 21 April 2013	<a href="#">“Omnilogue: Your Voice of Mine” Exhibition @ NUS Museum</a>
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## RELATED EVENTS

26 April 2013	<a href="#">Namie Amuro Concert</a>
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## NOTICE

<a href="#">40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation</a>
<a href="#">The Japan Foundation Program Guidelines for Fiscal 2013-2014</a>



## 40<sup>th</sup> YEAR OF ASEAN-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION



Further information and updates about JCC events can be found on the [JCC website](#) and [Facebook](#).

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# 1 OVERVIEW

*Moving into the month where Cherry Blossoms bloom in Japan, JCC held various events this spring. Ushering in the Hanami Season in April, JCC presented an Ikebana Exhibition by the Ohara School of Ikebana in the mid of March 2013. Besides addressing this fresh start of the month, JCC also took into account the recovery efforts from the Great East Japan Earthquake that shook Tohoku in a special event and exhibition.*

## 1.1 OHARA 29TH ANNIVERSARY IKEBANA EXHIBITION

JCC presented an Ikebana (Flower arrangement) Exhibition in collaboration with Ohara School of Ikebana under Ikebana International, Singapore. In celebration of its 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since commencement in Singapore, the Ohara School of Ikebana presented works by its members in a flood of colours and scent at Japan Creative Centre from 13 – 16 March 2013 which drew a large crowd of Ikebana enthusiasts.



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During the Opening Ceremony of the Exhibition, members of Ikebana International gathered to celebrate the beauty of the art form as well as to commemorate Ikebana practice in Singapore.

## 1.2 ARTS CONNECTION: LITTLE BY LITTLE

JCC and Singapore International Foundation (SIF) <sup>1</sup>co-organized the Arts Connection: Little by Little on Saturday 2 March at the Little Arts Academy (LAA). The program seeks exchanging insights into Japanese and Singaporean cultures through arts for Singaporean students.

Mr. Masato Kinoshita, researcher of JCC shared about the Japanese culture and Hinamatsuri, the Japanese Doll Festival, which took place the same weekend in Japan. Following this, an Origami group from Japanese Association demonstrated the techniques of origami to make paper dolls for LAA students. In turn, the LAA students shared with us about the recent Lunar New Year celebrations and practices in Singapore.

During the making of origami dolls, LAA students put in much effort and enthusiasm. After this excitement, the students took a short break whilst enjoying some unique Japanese traditional sweets called “Sakuramochi” which is usually consumed during Hinamatsuri. Sakuramochi is a type of rice cake with red bean paste. The LAA students expressed much enjoyment from this event!

JCC is very delighted to have had this special occasion to convey Japanese culture through Hinamatsuri.



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<sup>1</sup> For more information about Singapore International Foundation, please visit [www.sif.org.sg](http://www.sif.org.sg)

### 1.3 “MOVING FORWARD FOR TOMORROW”

In commemoration of the 3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake that shook Tohoku in March 2011, JCC organized a special three-part event. This event was held on 23 March 2013 from 2pm - 5pm commencing with a two NHK Documentary Films which documented the efforts made by Taiwanese actress Lin Chiling and French Journalist Lucie Mei-Dalby to rebuild Tohoku. They helped the Japanese in the areas to rebuild their homeland and to overcome their grief.



Following an hour of this heart-warming screening, we had a short presentation by two Kizuna participants. About Kizuna Project, please refer to below 1.4.1. They shared their experience and thoughts they had after visiting the disaster-stricken area. They also displayed panels, explaining the current situation of radiation and life of people in Tohoku, along the corridor walls of JCC as a mini-exhibition for

guests to view and appreciate.

Last but not least, we also had a short introduction by Mr Robin Low, who presented his experience from the relief 2.0 project, which promotes sustainable disaster recovery by engaging, empowering, enabling and connecting survivors to the support they need. He also exhibited his photos from Tohoku to present the aftermath of the disaster scene as well as photos from the clearance of debris and efforts taken to revive from the crisis.



## 1.4 “MOVING FORWARD FOR TOMORROW” [EXHIBITION]

From the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March till the 28<sup>th</sup>, JCC displayed and photography exhibition by students of the KIZUNA exchange program featuring photo collages of memories from their trip to Tochigi Japan in the form of posters. In collaboration, Mr Robin Low also presented an exhibition of the before and after recovery moments of the Great East Japan Earthquake in Tohoku.

### 1.4.1 KIZUNA POSTER EXHIBITION

The KIZUNA Project is a Youth-Exchange Project with Asia-Oceania and North America launched by the Japanese government (Kizuna meaning “bonds”) in April 2012. Under this project, more than 10,000 youths from 41 countries including Singapore were given the opportunity to participate in its related programs. As appreciation to the project and the Tohoku disaster, one of the participating schools put up a mini-exhibition to share their experiences and gained knowledge from the trip to Tochigi, Japan.



This project is a part of Japanese reconstruction plans and aims at promoting global understanding of Japan’s revival efforts in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake.

### 1.4.2 ROBIN LOW PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

A photography exhibition by Mr Robin Low was held at JCC along with the Kizuna Exhibition in view of the 3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake. During this exhibition, photographic works by Mr Robin Low were displayed to reflect the aftermath of the disaster as well as its recovery efforts.



## 2 JAPANESE CULTURE FACT OF THE MONTH

### 2.1 HANAMI (CHERRY-BLOSSOM VIEWING)

The arrival of cherry blossoms<sup>2</sup> signals the end of chilly winter weather in Japan. The blossoms appear first in Kyushu around the end of March and spread northward as the weather warms, reaching Tokyo in early April and Hokkaido in mid-May. The three main weather bureaus issue forecasts of where the "cherry-blossom front" is moving, and newspapers report the process from first flowering to full bloom.

People celebrate the flowering of cherry blossoms by moving outdoors - holding *hanami* picnics under the trees. These gatherings can be outings with family members, friends, or colleagues. At nighttime, people bring along beer, *sake*, and even *karaoke* sets with them to hold cheerful, often rowdy parties.

Cherry-blossom viewing began in ancient times when aristocrats wrote poetry and sang songs under the flowering trees. It has been the theme of numerous literary works, dances, and paintings. Even though modern parties aren't so refined as those of the past, people still find the blanket of light-pink petals deeply moving.



The Japanese like cherry blossoms because the shape and color of the petals reflect people's ideal notions of purity and simplicity. They are also touched by the blossoms that are so fragile and short-lived, scattering just a few days after they flower. Every time there is the slightest breeze, a shower of cherry-blossom petals is produced.

There are many sites around the country famous for their spectacular blossoms, such as parks, temple and shrine grounds, and cherry-lined streets, and at many of them cherry-blossom festivals are held. They are also popular *hanami* sites, and they tend to be very crowded while the flowers are in bloom.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://web-japan.org/kidsweb/explore/calendar/april/hanami.html>



**Have any comments for JCC  
e-magazine?**

**We would love to hear them!**

**So please do send in your suggestions and thoughts to  
[jcc@sn.mofa.go.jp](mailto:jcc@sn.mofa.go.jp).**