

NOVEMBER 2013

JAPAN
CREATIVE
CENTRE

EMBASSY OF JAPAN

CULTURAL E-MAGAZINE



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2013

NOVEMBER EVENTS IN JCC

15 Nov - 12 Dec 2013	JAPAN: Kingdom of Characters Exhibition
16 Nov 2013	JCC Cinema 24: IGPX

SUPPORTED EVENTS

15 Nov 2013	Japanese Emotion in Country of Lion
8 Dec 2013	Rendezvous With Nihonbuyo in Singapore

RELATED EVENTS

17 May - 17 Nov 2013	Kindred Spirits: Dr. Sun Yat Sen, Singapore and Japan
4 Sept - 30 Nov 2013	MAIKO @ Nikei Fine Arts
4 Oct - 30 Nov 2013	Celebrate! Japanese Cuisine and Culture
23 Oct - 8 Dec 2013	"HOTEL NEW OSOREZAN" @ Ota Fine Arts
23 Oct - 21 Dec 2013	Masters of Modern & Contemporary Photography @ Ikkan Art
7 Nov 2013	Drawing Manga Workshop
8 & 9 Nov 2013	3 Titans of Theatre - MUSASHI by Yukio Ninagawa
8 Nov - 10 Nov 2013	Anime Festival Asia 2013
27 Nov - 28 Nov 2013	MAU: J-ASEAN Dance Collaboration
11 Jan 2014	Child Aid Asia Tokyo 2014

NOTICE

40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation
1 Nov 2013 - 10 Jan 2014 The Japan Foundation Program Guidelines for Fiscal 2014-2015
1 Nov 2013 - 10 Jan 2014 Application Procedures for the 10th International Ceramics Competition MINO, Japan

In Conjunction with



**40th 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 JAPAN MONTH 2013

1.1 JAPAN MONTH 2013



Japan Month 2013 is an annually held festival spanning over 2 months of October and November. During the Japan Month, many Japanese activities and events are held throughout Singapore such as Japan Travel Fair, Oishii Japan, Anime Festival Asia as well as other exhibitions and events held islandwide.

Similarly, Japan Creative Centre (JCC), Embassy of Japan in Singapore has put together an exciting array of Japanese events and exhibitions.

These include 'JAPAN : Kingdom of Characters' Exhibition and the screening of IGPX directed by popular Japanese Anime Director, Mitsuru Hongo best known for his works in 'Crayon Shin-Chan'.

This year in particular, Japan Month 2013 coincides with the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation which is a major milestone in celebration of the relationship between ASEAN countries and Japan.

To learn more about Japan Month 2013 events happening at JCC, click [here](#).

2 OVERVIEW

Being Japan Month, October was an eventful period with exhibitions and traditional performances organized to share the Japanese spirit with the masses in Singapore.

The month started out with Ikebana Flower and Photo Exhibition and was quickly followed by the 3rd Sustainable Fashion Design Contest. Concurrently Japan Creative Centre (JCC) guests and visitors were treated to the much anticipated WASABI performance featuring traditional Japanese music. Towards the end of the month, a rare Kendo demonstration was held after the screening of the Yoji Yamada's 'Love and Honour'.

2.1 'TWO TREASURE ISLANDS' IKEBANA PHOTO & FLOWER EXHIBITION



Waltzing Matilda by Herman Lee

more than 160 Ikebana enthusiasts as members all learning and exchanging their passion for the unique art. During the exhibition members had the fine opportunity to exhibit their skills by display of their arrangements.

The opening ceremony was held in the afternoon of 1st October in a public session.

In a collaborative project by Ikebana International Singapore Chapter 135 together with Photographer and Sogetsu practitioner Mr. Herman Lee, The 'Two Treasure Islands' Exhibition featured delicate flower arrangements and floral photo works in a five day exhibition at JCC. Ikebana International Singapore Chapter 135, founded in 1968 for the purpose of promoting the culture and understanding of Ikebana - the Japanese way of flower arrangement - has



'Two Treasure Islands' Ikebana Photo and Flower Exhibition



Ms Alice Lee (right) presented Director Ando with a token of appreciation

Following the opening remarks by Director of JCC, Mr. Toshihide Ando. The president of Ikebana International, Ms. Marvinia Low shared a few words on the exhibition as well as the wife of Mr. Herman Lee, Ms. Alice Lee who attended the event on his behalf.

During the exhibition, Ikebana and Photography enthusiasts viewed the works on display. Despite being photographic work, Mr. Herman Lee seeks to depict a story using flowers in an interesting way such as the photograph shown in the left.

2.2 FASHION AWARD & EXHIBITION OPENING CEREMONY 2013

The 3rd JCC Sustainable Fashion Design Contest was a month-long annual event organized by JCC to open pathways in fashion networking between Japan and Singapore particularly amongst young and rising fashion designers. As was done in the past two years, applications from major fashion schools in Singapore and Bunka Fashion College in Japan poured in. The designs and garments went through a series of screenings till the panel of judges narrowed down the results to the TOP 10 Singaporean and Japanese works and further went on to pick the TOP 3 from each country.

The fashion award & opening ceremony was held on 12th October at JCC, launching of the Fashion Exhibition showcasing all TOP 10 garments from Japan and Singapore. During the week long exhibition, the winners' garments were displayed.

The TOP 3 Japan Winners were Ms. Emi Nagaiwa, Ms. Yuri Takagi and Ms. Shihori Morisawa, students from Bunka Fashion College.

Thanks to the courtesy of Japan Airlines (JAL), the Winners had been awarded an air ticket each from Japan to Singapore for cultural exchanges with fashion school in Singapore. Mr. Kotaro Endo, General Manager of Japan Airlines presented the award to the winners.

Selected as TOP 3 Singapore Winners, Ms. Josephine Quek from Temasek Polytechnic's Design



Glimpse of the Fashion Exhibition

School, Ms. Brenda Ling from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) and Mr. Chen Zhi Peng from Raffles Design Institute attended the Ceremony.

They were presented with certificates for their achievement from Mr. Ando, and thanks to the courtesy of All Nippon Airways (ANA), the winners were awarded the air ticket to Japan for cultural exchange with Bunka Fashion College.



TOP 3 Japan Winners



TOP 3 Singapore Winners

The students awarded the TOP 4-10 places also attended the ceremony to receive the consolation certificates .

Visitors to the exhibition were also given the chance to vote for their favourite garment and stand to win a mystery prize. After the exhibition concluded, votes were counted and the most People's Choice Award (Japan) went to Ms Yuki Imaharu of Bunka Fashion College. From Singapore, Ms Josephine Quek won the People's

Choice Award (Singapore). The winners each received \$500 in cash courtesy of Textile and Fashion Federation.

2.3 ARTIST TALK BY KENZO X JUNKO KOSHINO



His Excellency Haruhisa Takeuchi

As a special feature of the 3rd JCC Sustainable Fashion Design Contest, highly acclaimed Japanese Fashion Designers Mr. Kenzo Takada and Ms. Junko Koshino presented an Artist Talk at JCC on 12th October. Before the commencement of the talk, newly arrived Ambassador of Japan to Singapore, His Excellency Haruhisa Takeuchi, gave a short welcome message.

During the talk, Mr. Takada and Ms. Koshino shared their experiences as

budding artists during their younger days in the fashion industry. Being in the alumni of Japan's prestigious fashion school, Bunka Fashion College, the students from the same institution looked up to them with much aspirations.



Junko Koshino and Kenzo Takada sharing their experiences

Mr. Takada spoke about being one of the first Japanese men to be admitted into Bunka Fashion College and described his interest in design to have developed from observing his sister when she sewed. During the talk, Mr. Takada and Ms. Koshino appeared to enjoy the session and were more than happy to share experiences from their younger days.

Despite being industry competitors, the two designers maintain a good relationship from their school days.

The TOP 10 Singaporeans who won the 3rd JCC Sustainable Fashion Design Contest were also brimming with excitement and enthusiasm at this talk by such big names as Mr. Takada and Ms. Koshino. They were thrilled to have a group photo taken together with the designers.



TOP 10 Singaporean Winners with Kenzo Takada, Junko Koshino and His Excellency Haruhisa Takeuchi

2.4 FIDE FASHION WEEKS : JAPAN COUTURE EVENING 2013

Fide Fashion Weeks' Japan Couture Evening 2013 took place on 13th October at Marina Bay Sands Convention Hall. The star-studded evening was filled with high-profile members of the fashion industry as well as local and Japanese celebrities like Ms. Towako Kimijima, an iconic model from Japan. During the Japan Couture Evening, well acclaimed designers Ms. Junko Koshino, Mr. Yoshiki Hishinuma and Mr. Keita Maruyama featured on the runway.



Junko Koshino after the walk of her collection



His Excellency Haruhisa Takeuchi

The Ambassador of Japan to Singapore His Excellency Haruhisa Takeuchi, graced the occasion and addressed the audience at the event. He expressed gratitude to Fide Fashion Weeks for their diligence in putting together Japan Couture Evening and presenting Japanese designs by renowned designers to the Singapore masses.

In a special lineup, on a catwalk, professional models showcased the TOP 3 Designs from Japan and Singapore of the 3rd JCC Sustainable Fashion Design Contest in the 'Japan Creative Centre Presents' segment of the fashion week. The winners got the privilege to be back stage and prepare their assigned models for the runway. After the walk, the students both from Japan and Singapore were welcomed on stage to introduce and express their appreciation.



TOP 3 Japan and Singapore garments displayed on the runway

2.5 WASABI THE SPIRIT OF JAPAN : THE SOUND OF TRADITIONAL INSTRUMENTS



*Introductory WASABI performance at Esplanade Concourse
© Japan Creative Centre*

In celebration of the 40th year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, WASABI, a group of talented young musicians, concentrated on traditional Japanese instrumental compositions and music, visited Singapore during their tour of Southeast-Asian nations. During their visit to Singapore, organized by the Japan Foundation, WASABI performed on 21st October at the Esplanade Concourse in a introductory public performance as well as on 22nd October at Fusionopolis, Genexis Theatre.

WASABI performed two 30 minute shows at the Esplanade Concourse on 21st October. With instruments like the Shamisen (Japanese Guitar), Taiko (Japanese drum), Shakuhachi (Japanese flute) and the Koto (Japanese Stringed Instrument), WASABI captivated viewers with the spirit of traditional Japanese music. The short performances attracted many onlookers and some people were inspired to learn the Shamisen. This performance aimed to give a glimpse of WASABI and the beauty of traditional Japanese instrumentation and music.

The performance attracted a vast number of onlookers to the point where seats were fully taken and many stood around to watch. Enchanted guests even stayed or returned for the second performance which was held from 8:15 to 8:45. Students from KotoKottoN (Koto ensemble NUS) were present and had the rare opportunity to meet and speak with a professional Koto player from WASABI. Visitors who attended this introductory session also described the performance as a unique experience to view Japanese traditional music and instruments at close proximity.



*WASABI performance at Fusionopolis
© Japan Creative Centre*

The group performed the following day at Fusionopolis, Genexis Theatre to a crowd of more than 400 guests. The instrumental blend provided a fresh experience into the beauty and spirit of Japanese traditional music. It was a much anticipated performance and indeed guests expressed their appreciation after this performance.

In total, WASABI performed 12 original pieces, fascinating the crowd more than expected. The musicians made the performance interactive by engaging the audience to clap and sing along. At the end of the performance, loud applause from the audience garnered an encore from WASABI which they performed in a different outfit.

After the concert, the musicians lined up to convey their gratitude to the attendees in a rare hand-shaking session. Many guests left the performance with wide smiles especially after handshakes from members of WASABI. Amidst the positive feedback from the guests, many shared that their favourite piece was 'Rekko', which they described to be upbeat and energetic. Being a single day concert, those who attended also mentioned that it was a shame that it only a one day concert.

2.6 JCC CINEMA : LOVE & HONOUR

In the month of October, JCC screened 'Love & Honour' or 'Bushido no Ichibun', the third and final installment of Yoji Yamada's Samurai Trilogy Collection. The movie spoke of a low ranking samurai who is blinded from toxin in his food, and how he battles a higher level samurai who dishonours his wife and eventually defeats him despite his disability.

On 26th October, visitors of various walks of life patronized the event to watch 'Love & Honour' as well as attend the sharing session held afterwards. The sharing session was unlike other JCC Cinema session particularly since there was a presentation of the art of Kendo as well as a rare demonstrations on Kendo techniques.



During the movie screening



Presentation by Mr. Akinori Wada

A special demonstration was conducted by Mr. Wada and Mr. Kenichi Ishihara, from Singapore Kendo Club. This was followed-up by Ms. Grace Lim and Mr. Desmond Lye from Singapore Kendo Club, who displayed their skills in a sparring session. The audience were enthralled by the demonstrations which was a very invigorating experience for Singaporeans.



A live Kendo demo and match

3 JAPANESE CULTURAL FACT OF THE MONTH

3.1 SHICHI-GO-SAN

November 15 is Shichi-go-san, a day of prayer for the healthy growth of young children. Shichi-go-san literally means seven, five, three; in most regions around the country, boys and girls aged three, boys aged five, and girls aged seven visit a Shinto shrine with their parents. Most girls wear kimonos when making their Shichi-go-san visit, while boys don *haori* jackets and *hakama* trousers. In recent years, though, an increasing number of children are wearing Western-style dresses and suits.

In medieval times, aristocratic and samurai families celebrated the growth of infants into healthy boys and girls in the following ways.

- Boys and girls aged three stopped getting their hair shaven and were allowed to grow their hair.
- Boys aged five put on hakama for the first time in public.
- Girls aged seven began using obi sash to tie their kimono, instead of cords.

By the Edo period (1603-1868), this practice spread to commoners, who began visiting shrines to have prayers offered by priests. The Shichi-go-san customs followed today evolved in the Meiji era (1868-1912). November 15 was chosen for this celebration because it was considered the most auspicious day of the year, according to the traditional Japanese calendar. Because the date is not a national holiday, most families pay their Shichi-go-san respects on the weekend just prior to or after November 15.

Following the visit, parents generally buy *chitose-ame* (longevity candy) for the children. The candy is shaped like a stick and comes in a bag that carries illustrations of cranes and turtles--two animals that are symbols of long life. Chitose literally means a thousand years and is used to denote very long periods of time. The candy and the bag are both expressions of parents' wish that their children lead long, prosperous lives.

One of the most popular Shichi-go-san destinations in Tokyo is Hie Shrine in Akasaka. It has been frequented by many families celebrating Shichi-go-san since the Edo period, and today it is visited by around 2,000 families every year.



*Children wear their finest formal clothes.
(Kyodo)*

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.**