

Events

January - December 2014



Arts & Culture

Business & Government

Education

Lectures

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Special Events

For more information or to book for Japan Society events, please visit the website or contact the office.



The Japan Society, 13/14 Cornwall Terrace, London NW1 4QP
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Can Tokyo become a world financial centre in the Asia-Pacific as London is in Europe?



Friday 17 January 2014 9.15am - 1.00pm

The Royal Institute of International Affairs
Chatham House
10 St James's Square
London SW1Y 4LE

Free for Japan Society members and their guests

Booking essential

Booking deadline – Wednesday 15 January

As the capital of one of the world's largest economies, Tokyo's position as a global hub is challenged by other competitive financial centres in Asia, such as Hong Kong, Singapore and Shanghai. The Japanese government is trying to develop further its financial market through several initiatives. On one hand, it is using Japanese Government Bonds to accelerate Japan's strategic investments. On the other, it is encouraging the private sector to expand the domestic and international corporate bond markets, and to broker capital from all over the world. Combined with the 'arrows' of Abenomics, the 2020 Olympic Games will have a significant effect inside and outside of Tokyo, with positive impacts on the local equity market, as shown by the experience of London 2012.

This roundtable, with a keynote speech from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation's current CEO Mr Hiroshi Watanabe, will focus on the potential role of Tokyo as a global mega-city and financial centre in the Asia-Pacific, offering opportunities for comparison with London, Hong Kong, Singapore and Shanghai.

To book, please email internationaleconomics@chathamhouse.org, mentioning that you have registered through the Japan Society.

Organised by:
Chatham House

Supported by:
Japan External Trade Organisation in London, Daiwa Capital Markets, the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation, AstraZeneca, Hitachi, and Development Bank of Japan.

Found in Translation: An Architectural Exchange Between Glasgow, Berlin and Japan - Neil Jackson



Monday 20 January 2014

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended

Nearest underground station: Holborn
Light refreshments will be provided

In 1866, Yamao Yōzō, one of the Chōshū Five, came to work and study in Glasgow and there began a relationship between that great port city and Japan which developed to such an extent that, by the end of the century, there were more Japanese living in Glasgow than in any other British city outside London.

The effect of Japanese culture upon the artists and architects of Glasgow was soon apparent, from the paintings of the Glasgow Boys to the graphic design and architecture of Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Although Mackintosh, unlike the Glasgow Boys, never visited Japan, there is a presence in his work which extends far beyond the Japonisme of late nineteenth-century fashion. The connection to Japan, which made this possible, came through his close friendship with the German architect and writer, Hermann Muthesius. This illustrated lecture argues that it was Muthesius's first-hand knowledge of Japan, as well as Glasgow's Japanese zeitgeist, which allowed Mackintosh's most famous building, the Glasgow School of Art (pictured), to assume such an idiosyncratic yet, at the same time, recognisably Japanese appearance.

Neil Jackson is currently a Professorial Research Associate in the Japanese Research Centre at SOAS (the School of African and Oriental Studies), University of London. He also holds the Charles Reilly Chair in Architecture at the University of Liverpool, has published widely and is currently working on a new book, *Japan and the West: An Architectural Dialogue*.

In association





Thursday 30 January 2014 6.00 for 6.30pm

Simmons & Simmons LLP
CityPoint
One Ropemaker Street
London EC2Y 9SS

Free for Japan Society members and their guests

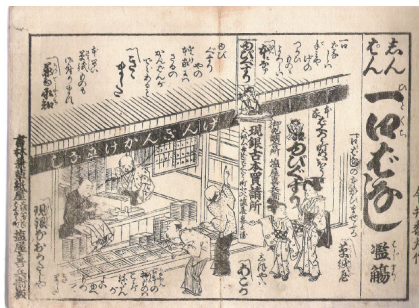
Booking essential
Booking deadline – Tuesday 28 January

In this lecture, Lord Deighton, Commercial Secretary to the Treasury and former CEO of LOCOG, will share his insights on London's experiences during the run-up to the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics and discuss lessons which can be passed to the 2020 Games organisers in Japan.

Tokyo's bid for the 2020 Games proved successful in the summer of 2013, at a time when the triumphs and challenges of the 2012 Games were still fresh in the British consciousness. One of Lord Deighton's key responsibilities as a Government minister is for infrastructure and for the delivery of new projects across the public sector. His Olympic experience is hugely relevant to these responsibilities; he will speak about how these can be applied to some of the major decisions now facing the Government and also all those companies investing in the UK.

The Japan Society is most grateful to Simmons & Simmons LLP for kindly hosting this event.

The Rt Hon The Lord Deighton KBE joined the Treasury following his role as Chief Executive of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Over six and a half years as CEO he was in charge of the day-to-day operations of the Committee, overseeing £700 million of contracts to help deliver the hugely successful Games. Prior to joining London 2012, he was the Chief Operating Officer of Goldman Sachs in Europe, and a member of its European Management Committee.



Monday 17 February 2014

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way (Hall entrance on
Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended

Nearest underground station: Holborn
Light refreshments will be provided

This talk explores the world of the single-sheet prints published by the Osaka publisher and bookseller Shioya Kihei in the first half of the nineteenth century. Overlooked in both Western and Japanese scholarship because of their intrinsic popular nature, Shioya Kihei's corpus of broadsides takes the shape of a vast collection of practical, educational and humorous pieces of illustrated writing, which provide the readers with knowledge and topical information while keeping them entertained.

Being the first study on this material, the present talk will address a broad range of questions. The close reading of selected examples will give further insights in the multifarious nature of these broadsides and originals will be shown in order to offer a clear idea of the materiality of these objects.

For the specialist of Japanese Studies, the talk will shed light on a little known field in Japanese literature and book history. For the non-specialist, it will prompt reflections on the existence and on the meaning of printed ephemera in early-modern Japan and encourage comparisons with examples of broadsides in early-modern Europe.

Dr Laura Moretti is Lecturer in Pre-Modern Japanese Studies at the University of Cambridge. Her field is Japanese early-modern literature, with a specific focus on popular prose. She is the author of various articles among which are 'The Japanese early-modern publishing market unveiled: a survey of Edo-period booksellers' catalogues', *East Asian Publishing and Society* 2:2 (2012), pp. 199-308.



Monday 3 March 2014 5.30 for 6.00pm

Nomura International plc
One Angel Lane
London EC4R 3AB

Free for Japan Society members and their guests

Booking essential
Booking deadline – Friday 28 February

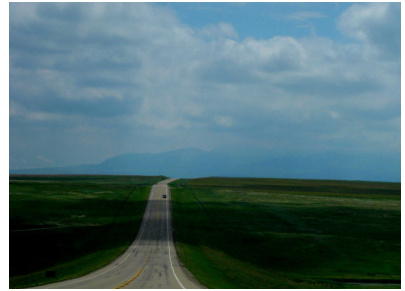
There will be a reception following the talk

In this year's annual update to the Society by the British Ambassador to Japan, Tim Hitchens will share his views on the political, diplomatic and commercial situation in Japan from his unique perspective as the UK's representative in Tokyo. Mr Hitchens has been in his post for just over a year and this talk will be chaired by his predecessor, Sir David Warren.

The Society's annual lecture by the current British Ambassador invariably provides a very useful background to the year ahead. The Ambassador will speak for about 30-40 minutes, after which there will be time for off-the-record discussion and questions.

There will be a reception immediately after the lecture, and the Japan Society is most grateful to Nomura International plc for kindly hosting this event.

Tim Hitchens CMG, LVO read English at Cambridge. He joined the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in 1983 and has since held posts in Tokyo (1985-1989), Islamabad and Paris, as well as increasingly senior roles in London. He was Director for European Political Affairs (2008-2010) and Director for Africa (2010-2012). He and his family moved to Tokyo in December 2012 and he speaks fluent Japanese.



Monday 17 March 2014

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way (Hall entrance on
Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended

Nearest underground station: Holborn
Light refreshments will be provided

On 1 April 1949, the Canadian Government lifted the last of the restrictions it had placed on the Canadians of Japanese descent at the beginning of the Second World War. The seven-year-long incarceration that much of this population were forced to endure had come to an end. But what happened next? This talk considers some of the ways we might begin to approach this important if largely unexplored question.

In 2011, Dr Jonathan D Mackintosh commenced a series of oral history interviews in western Canada, as well as preliminary archival research. His research considers how the Canadians of Japanese descent emerged from the trauma of the Second World War to construct their communities anew. With its focus on the Nisei (second generation), it explores the difficulties that individuals and groups faced and the successes that they achieved.

Dr Jonathan D Mackintosh gained his PhD in Japanese Studies at University of Cambridge in 2005. He is Lecturer in World History at Plymouth University. His research interests include gender and sexuality in twentieth century Japan and East Asia, and more recently, the history of trans-Pacific migrations of Japanese (the 'Japanese Diaspora'). He is author of *Homosexuality and Manliness in Postwar Japan* (Routledge, 2009) which explores the representation of masculinity, the male body, and male-male relationships in the context of Japanese cultural, racial, and national identity.

Joint Lunch with the JCCI: 'More open for business':
Corporate governance and engagement in Japan
– Takafumi Sato



Friday 21 March 2014 12.30 for 1.00pm

The National Liberal Club
Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2HE

£50 per head for members of the Japan Society, the JCCI and their guests

Booking essential
Booking deadline - Wednesday 19 March

The Japan Society and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the UK are delighted to welcome Dr Takafumi Sato, President of Tokyo Stock Exchange Regulation, as the guest of honour at their first joint lunch of 2014.

In the wake of financial scandals affecting markets across the world, and as Tokyo strengthens its position as a world financial centre, the role of the independent self-regulatory arm of the Tokyo Stock Exchange becomes increasingly important. In summer 2013, the 1,100 companies which previously traded only on the Osaka Stock Exchange were merged into the TSE, making it the third largest bourse by number of companies listed. TSE Regulation specialises in the self-regulation of financial instruments exchanges comprised of listing examination, listed company compliance, market surveillance, and participant examination and inspection. It operates independently of the exchange market operators. Dr Sato's career in financial regulation and oversight makes him particularly well-qualified to speak on this crucial area of business.

Takafumi Sato joined the Ministry of Finance in 1973, and has served as a Japanese government official for almost forty years. Before taking up his current position in June 2013, he was Professor of the Graduate School of Commerce and Management, Hitotsubashi University (2010-2012), and Commissioner of Japan's Financial Services Agency (2007-2009). He has read Economics at Nagoya University (PhD, 2002), the University of Oxford (MPhil, 1977), and Hitotsubashi University (BA, 1973).

The Indispensable Nation:
Can Japan save the world in the 21st century?



Tuesday 1 April 2014

6.30pm

The Japan Foundation
Russell Square House
10-12 Russell Square
London WC1B 5EH

Free admission

Booking essential – places are limited

It is hard to find anyone in Japan, suggests Roger Pulvers, who is optimistic about the future of the country – other than members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. The swelling national debt, the denial of the country's past transgressions in Asia, the ominous moves to reverse the course of the country's peaceful diplomacy and replace it with a threatening aggressive stance – all these darken the clouds of a gathering storm over East Asia.

Is Prime Minister Abe Shinzo's 'beautiful Japan' the only past that people can turn to in order to give them a justified pride in their nation? This lecture considers 'another Japan' – and a mainstream one, at that – which offers positive and practical hope for the country.

The basis for this alternate ethos is found in the ethical, cultural and social values, expressed in the works of many of the nation's artists, writers and thinkers. Roger Pulvers argues that, through these values, particularly as described in the works of poet Miyazawa Kenji, film director Ozu Yasujiro, essayist Shirasu Masako and playwright Inoue Hisashi, the Japanese can free their nation from the trap of today's political retrogression and give the world a model of genuine progress worth emulating.

Roger Pulvers is a prolific author, playwright, theatre director and translator, who has published more than 40 books, including several novels and plays written in Japanese.

Co-organised by:



Hosted by:



Book launch: The art lover's guide to Japanese museums by Sophie Richard



Tuesday 8 April 2014

6.00 - 8.00pm

The Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace
London NW1 4QP

Free to attend

Booking via the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation

Copies of *The art lover's guide to Japanese museums* will be available to purchase at the event

The Japan Society is delighted to announce the London launch of a new publication on Japanese art museums by Sophie Richard.

The museums of Japan feature rich collections and excellent exhibitions in world-class galleries. Yet they can be difficult to navigate without first-hand knowledge. *The art lover's guide to Japanese Museums* acts as a personal guide, introducing readers to some of the most distinctive and inspiring museums in the country. In depth information is given about each listed venue, including the story behind their creation. From magnificent traditional arts to fascinating artist's houses and from sleek contemporary museums to idiosyncratic galleries, museums are the perfect gateway to discover Japan's culture both past and present.

Sophie Richard is a freelance art historian. Educated at the Ecole du Louvre and the Sorbonne in Paris, she worked in the art world in New York before moving to London where she is now based. She has travelled to Japan many times during the last 10 years. Passionate about Japanese arts and culture, she set to explore the country's many museums. In the course of her research she has interviewed museum curators and directors, visiting over 100 venues across the country. Her articles on Japanese museums have appeared in magazines in America and the United Kingdom. Her first book, *The art lover's guide to Japanese Museums*, is published by the Japan Society.

The Ceramics of North-East Japan – David Hale



Monday 14 April 2014

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free admission

Japanese sake and light refreshments will be served following the lecture

In this illustrated lecture, collector David Hale will give an overview of the contemporary and historical ceramics of the Tohoku region, a subject on which his book, *Ceramics of North-east Japan*, remains the sole work.

After taking up his wife Anne's hobby of pottery making at the local Tsutsumi kiln, Hale became fascinated by the ceramics of the Tohoku region and began to research contemporary pottery (1966 – 72) and historical examples of local ceramics. Gradually the Hales acquired a collection of pots from all the existing kilns and individual potters as well as from many of the historical kilns. They carefully documented their trips around the region, interviewing potters and photographing the processes involved.

This research was transformed into a book project after David was introduced to a publisher, Yūzan Kaku of Tokyo, by international ceramics scholar, Koyama Fujio. A Japanese translation of David's original appeared in 1974 but the English text has yet to be published.

To conclude, David will reflect on his return to Sendai in October 2013 after an interval of forty years. In spite of several decades of economic pressure, and setbacks following the disastrous earthquake, tsunami, and the ensuing radiation in March 2011, many Tohoku kilns are alive and well. Traditions and characteristics have largely been maintained and there are some interesting new developments.

David Hale is the author of *Ceramics of North-East Japan (Tohoku-no Yakimono)* published in Japanese by Yūzan Kaku, Tokyo, 1974.

Hosted by:



In association





Saturday 26 April 2014 1.00 – 11.30pm

Kensington Gardens
London W2 2UH

(Meeting on the east side of the Albert Memorial)

No booking required

The Japanese Conversation Group will be holding their annual Hanami cherry blossom viewing party in Kensington Gardens, under the cherry trees close to the Albert Memorial, from around 1pm on Saturday 26 April. Complimentary sushi will be provided early in the afternoon, and of course you may bring along as much additional food and drink as you care to share or enjoy!

This is a popular event and friends and family are welcome, regardless of Japanese language ability. You can pop by whenever you like, or stay the whole day. The day will round off with a trip to the nearby Queens Arms pub (30 Queens Gate Mews, SW7 5QL), which sports an excellent range of English and continental beers, from about 5-6pm, or earlier if the weather does not prove co-operative.



Wednesday 14 May 2014 12.30 for 1.00pm

The Caledonian Club
9 Halkin St
London SW1X 7DR

£60 per head for members of the Japan Society, the JCCI and their guests

Booking deadline – Monday 12 May

For their second joint lunch of 2014, the Japan Society and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the UK are delighted to welcome the Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

The next eighteen months may prove to be a tumultuous period in British politics. The European Parliament elections on 22 May could fundamentally change the way that the UK relates to the EU. Debate surrounding the Scottish independence referendum in September is steadily intensifying, with both sides refusing to back down from their stated aims, and as next year's general election draws closer, the major political parties and others are beginning to assert their differences to gain and maintain votes.

As one of the 'Quad' of high-ranking figures in the coalition, and as the second-highest-ranking Liberal Democrat in government, Danny Alexander is qualified to speak on all of these matters and more.

Danny Alexander was elected to Parliament as the MP for Inverness, Nairn, and Badenoch & Strathspey in 2005. Prior to assuming his current role in June 2010 he acted as Secretary of State for Scotland (2010), Chief of Staff to Nick Clegg (2008-2010) and Shadow Secretary for Work and Pensions (2007-2008). Before being elected to Parliament Mr Alexander had worked in communications for Cairngorms National Park Authority (2004-2005), Britain in Europe (1999-2004) and the European Movement (1996-1999). He read Politics, Philosophy and Economics St Anne's College, Oxford (1990).

Competing Identities:
Japan, the Koreans, and Missed Opportunities
– John Swenson-Wright



Monday 19 May 2014

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free admission

Japanese sake and light refreshments will be served following the lecture

Since 2011, Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) have all undergone important leadership transitions. Abe Shinzo, Park Geun-hye and Kim Jong-un each, in their different ways, reflect both important historical continuities and new opportunities for a breakthrough in diplomatic relations in Northeast Asia.

Notwithstanding this important change in leadership, Japan's relationship with the Korean peninsula remains mired in controversy and the opportunities for an improvement in ties between Tokyo, Seoul and Pyongyang seem frustratingly limited. How much of this is a function of historical disputes, geopolitical tensions, or personal proclivities on the part of individual leaders? To what extent might external actors, whether the United States or China, offer a way out of the current predicament? This talk considers the current situation, drawing upon recent visits to Seoul, Tokyo and Pyongyang, and also from findings from the British archives.

John Swenson-Wright is Senior University Lecturer in Modern Japanese Studies and fellow of Darwin College, Cambridge. He has a BA from Christ Church, Oxford, an MA from SAIS, Johns Hopkins, and a DPhil. From St. Antony's, Oxford. His publications include *Unequal Allies? United States Security and Alliance Policy Towards Japan, 1945-1960* (Stanford, 2005), *The Best Course Available. A Personal Account of the Secret U.S.-Japan Okinawa Reversion Negotiations* (Hawaii, 2002), (with Ruediger Frank) and *Security Issues for Northeast Asia: Korea and East Asia: The Stony Road to Collective Security* (Brill, 2013).

Maritime Security for the Shipping Industry



Thursday 22 May 2014

6.00pm

JETRO
MidCity Place
71 High Holborn
London WC1V 6AL

£12 for members of Japan Society & JCCI and those introduced by JETRO

£18 for non members

Booking essential

Booking deadline – Monday 19 May

In November 2013, Japan passed legislation allowing Japanese registered shipping companies to deploy privately contracted armed security personnel (PCASP) with firearms aboard Japanese-flagged vessels when passing through piracy hotspots in the Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Aden, and the Red Sea. It brings Japan's registered shipping industry closer into line with practices increasingly being adopted by the rest of the world, when shipping passes through areas at high risk to piracy.

Maritime security is a global issue, which affects all nations with merchant fleets; London, as the centre of the global insurance and maritime legal industries, has a particular relevance and expertise in this area. A panel discussion will consider the wider global issues of maritime security, defence against the prevention of piracy and other forms of maritime criminality and the relevant legal financial protective and remedial measures. It will look in particular at the ramifications of the recent Japanese legislation for a shipping industry which caters to energy-dependent Japan's needs. The speakers will also focus on the evolving nature of piracy and other criminal activity at sea, and the countermeasures that can be put in place by both governments and the private sector. With contributions from the private maritime security sector, law firms, the Japanese Ministry for Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) and others, this is a chance to debate this key development with a diverse panel of experts.

From Urashima to Fukushima:
the erotic, political and environmental provocations
of Japanese Surrealism



Monday 16 June 2014 6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free
Booking recommended

The extraordinary, beautiful and sometimes challenging works arising from the collision between Surrealism and Japanese culture deserve to be better known. Histories of Surrealism typically concentrate on the provocations of French practitioners against the rise of totalitarianism in Europe around the time of the Second World War. The case of Japan, where Surrealists were imprisoned by wartime authorities, presents an intriguing but overlooked example of the clash between State and avant-garde. Censorious wartime Japan is said to have prohibited the development of Surrealism, which was overtly provocative. Yet Surrealism proved irrepressible, making lasting impact on practitioners such as Takiguchi Shūzō and Okamoto Tarō.

This talk will expose three important areas of Surrealist provocation: a celebration of the erotic, a commitment to political radicalism, and a burgeoning environmental critique.

Majella Munro is an art historian, journalist and Japanologist, whose research focuses on censorship and cultural repression. She is interested in art production under totalitarian political regimes, inter- and trans-national exchange within the avant-garde, and the sociological study of erotic art. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at Tate's Asia-Pacific Research Centre, researching a monograph entitled *Close to Nature: Japanese Artists and the Environment from Hiroshima to Fukushima*. Her monograph *Communicating Vessels: The Surrealist Movement in Japan* was released through Enzo Arts and Publishing in December 2012.

Japan Society Annual General Meeting



Wednesday 18 June 2014 6.00pm

Embassy of Japan
101-104 Piccadilly
London W1J 7JT

Free
Booking essential

We hope to see many members at this year's AGM. Please remember that the Embassy of Japan's security policy means that you need to let us know in advance if you are planning to attend.

Please also bring with you to the meeting a form of photographic ID.

Following the formal business of the AGM there will be a drinks reception to which all members are most welcome.

All documentation concerning the AGM, including the formal Notice of AGM and Proxy Voting Form, and the Trustees' Report / Japan Society Accounts (ending 31 December 2013), is available on request from the office.

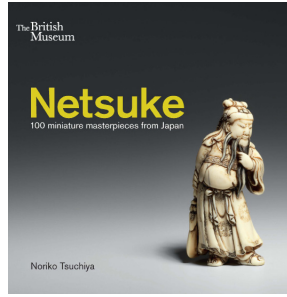


REMINDER TO MEMBERS

The Japan Society Awards are presented each year to mark significant contributions in the field of UK Japan relations which have not otherwise been recognized. All members are encouraged to nominate those who they feel are deserving of such an Award, at any time during the year. Please do not tell the nominee that you have put his or her name forward for an Award.

Nominations should be made by post to Heidi Potter at the Japan Society offices, or by email to heidi.potter@japansociety.org.uk

Please see www.japansociety.org.uk/about/awards/ for more information



Sunday 22 June 10.00am to 6pm

Royal Festival Hall
Southbank Centre
Belvedere Road
London SE1 8XX

Free
Booking essential

Thursday 3 July 2014 6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free
Booking recommended

Be part of something big this summer!

As part of the Southbank Centre's Festival of Love, huge Tanabata fukinagashi streamers will be hung on the balcony of the Royal Festival Hall.

Together with the Southbank Centre and award-winning design team Kinetika, the Japan Society is hosting a workshop day, during which we will work on decorations to hang from the fukinagashi. Come and participate in the making of these iconic decorations, which will bring a touch of Japan to one of London's great landmarks throughout the summer.

The workshops are open to all, but booking is essential so that we know how many people to expect. You can come just for a few hours, or stay for the morning or afternoon, or even the whole day. However, please note that places are limited.

To reserve your place, please contact the Japan Society office and, when making your booking, please let us know what time you plan to come. We will give you directions to the workshop room.



The Southbank Centre, Embassy of Japan and Japan Society are teaming up for more Tanabata celebrations on Sunday 13 July. Please watch this space for further information.

Tanabata photograph c Yasufumi Nishi c JNTO

We are delighted to welcome Noriko Tsuchiya, author of a new British Museum publication *Netsuke: 100 miniature masterpieces from Japan*, and art dealer Max Rutherford to speak at this special event. They will discuss the history of netsuke, the small toggles intricately carved from various materials including ivory, wood and metal, and how they evolved from relatively insignificant objects to artistic treasures prized by collectors around the world. Uncovering the story of specific pieces and their individual and contextual significance, this talk will provide an insight into the world of netsuke from creation to collection.

To coincide with the publication of the book, between 19 June and 17 August the British Museum is holding a special exhibition of the finest pieces from its 2300-strong collection of netsuke, placing them in their original context as worn accessories.

Noriko Tsuchiya is a Project Curator at the British Museum. Together with external experts, she examined all the netsuke in the British Museum's collection and identified the top 100 for inclusion in this new publication.

Max Rutherford is Chairman of Max Rutherford Ltd, an Asian art dealership that specialises in netsuke. In November 2010 he was joint organiser with Rosemary Bandini of the London Netsuke Symposium, and in 2013, they organised the International Netsuke Society's Convention in London.

Copies of *Netsuke: 100 miniature masterpieces from Japan* will be available to purchase on the night at the discounted price of £10 (RRP £14.99)

Japan Society Book Club
with translator Stephen Dodd



Monday 14 July 7.00pm

The Japan Society
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace
London NW1 4QP

Free
Booking recommended

Copies of the book available for purchase / loan

The Japan Society book club is delighted to welcome Stephen Dodd, Senior Lecturer in Japanese at the School of Oriental and African Studies, to discuss his new book *The Youth of Things: Life and Death in the Age of Kajii Motojiro*. The focus of the book club will be on Dodd's translations of Kajii's short stories, which comprises the second half of the book.

When he died from tuberculosis at the age of thirty-one, Kajii Motojiro had written only twenty short stories. Yet his life and work, Dodd argues, shed light on a significant moment in Japanese history and, ultimately, add to our understanding of how modern Japanese identity and literature developed.

The book club is held every month. There is no restriction on the nationality of the authors read, but books should be available in translation in both Japanese and English. The discussion is conducted mainly in English, but you can choose the language in which you read the book. The intention is simple: to explore the themes of the book, express personal opinions on the style and content, discuss how the book has changed (or not) in translation and to have a relaxed discussion with others who have similar interests.

Carmen Blacker Lecture 2014 - Peter Kornicki



Monday 21 July 2014 6.45pm

Swedenborg Hall
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free
Booking recommended

Few Japanese or tourists ever visit Tsushima, the conjoined islands lying between Japan and Korea. This is a shame not only on account of its unspoiled natural beauties but also because of its intrinsic historical interest. Up to the end of the nineteenth century it served a crucial role as a conduit for goods, knowledge and information moving between Japan and Korea and in the early twentieth century it is famous as the site of the great naval battle of the Russo-Japanese War in 1905. Peter Kornicki will endeavour to convey something of the appeal of these rugged mountainous islands with their fjords and beautiful islets before exploring their historical significance. Tsushima may lie on the margins of Japan, but it had a fascinating role to play in the transmission of knowledge to Japan.

The Carmen Blacker Lecture Series honours the memory and scholarship of Carmen Blacker (1924-2009). Each year a senior scholar will lecture on a theme related to Japanese religion or folklore. Peter Kornicki studied Japanese and Korean at Oxford and completed his doctorate in 1979. He taught for some years at the University of Tasmania in Australia and at Kyoto University, where he was the first foreigner to hold an associate professorship in eighty years. He moved to Cambridge in 1985 and is now Professor of Japanese and Deputy Warden of Robinson College. He received the Japan Foundation Special Prize in 1992 and the Yamagata Bantō Prize in 2013, and in 2000 he was elected a fellow of the British Academy. He has worked for many years on the history of the book in Japan and has published catalogues of old Japanese books in Cambridge, Moscow, Lille and other places.

Behind the scenes - members tour of Japanese collections in Cambridge



Wednesday 23 July 2014 10.45am meet

The Fitzwilliam Museum
Trumpington St
Cambridge CB2 1RB

Free for Japan Society members
Booking essential - numbers strictly limited

The Japan Society is organising a special visit to two Japanese archives in Cambridge, the Japanese print collections at the Fitzwilliam Museum and the Japanese Department at Cambridge University Library. Members will make their own way to and from Cambridge (unless otherwise requested), allowing them to explore the town at their leisure following the day's programme of events.

The Fitzwilliam's extensive collection contains prints that have been used in headline exhibitions, such as *Snow Country: Woodcuts of the Japanese Winter in 2013*, alongside others rarely displayed. Japan Society members will have the opportunity to meet with the Fitzwilliam's print keeper, Craig Hartley, and explore the museum's archives in detail, including the work of Kitagawa Utamaro, Tsukioka Yoshitoshi and Utagawa Kunisada.

Following a break for lunch at the famous Fitzbillies Cafe, members will continue onto Cambridge University Library to join Noboru Koyama, Head of the Japanese Department, for a tour of the archive. We will examine some of the rare books in the collection, many of which regularly feature in museum exhibits, such as the current *Buddha's Word: The Life of Books in Tibet and Beyond* at the Museum of Archeology and Anthropology.

Don't miss this chance to see behind-the-scenes at two outstanding collections.

An evening of Rakugo



Tuesday 29 July 2014 6.30pm

Clifford Chance
10 Upper Bank Street
London E14 5JJ

Free admission

The Canadian High Commission and the Japan Society invite you to an evening of rakugo; comic storytelling from Japan with Canada's own Katsura Sunshine. We are very grateful to Clifford Chance for hosting this event.

Rakugo is an ancient form of comic storytelling in Japan, still very much alive and well, with over 700 professional storytellers practicing today in the two main traditions of storytelling, that of Tokyo 'Edo' and Osaka 'Kamigata'. Toronto-born Katsura Sunshine is the first ever Western rakugo storyteller in the history of the 'Kamigata' tradition, and the only Western professional rakugo storyteller today. A regular on Japanese television, Sunshine will be appearing at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

"Hilarious. Charming. Traditional. Universally funny and yet so very Japanese." – EFF

Sunshine Katsura studied classics at the University of Toronto, where he got his first introduction to the works of the Ancient Greek comic playwright, Aristophanes, under the renowned scholar of ancient comedy, Eric Csapo. He became involved in translating, adapting, and performing in versions of Aristophanes' comedies for the Department of Classics. On September 1st, 2008, Sunshine was accepted as an apprentice to the great Rakugo storytelling master, Katsura Bunshi VI, and subsequently received the name Katsura Sunshine. In the Rakugo tradition, he received both his master's last name and part of the first (his master, Sanshi combined the first part of his name, 'San', meaning 'Three', with the Japanese word for 'Shine', and gave it the Japanese pronunciation of the English word 'Sunshine').

In association with:



In association with:





Monday 11 August 2014

7.00pm

The Japan Society
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members

Hello Kitty, earthquakes, manga, samurai, robots and sushi. These are some of the things we think about when we think about Japan. This small island nation looms large in the popular imagination, in often contradictory ways: as the epitome of refinement and tradition, and as an embodiment of a shiny, soulless future.

What is Japan to those who really know it? This issue includes translated work from the most exciting Japanese writers today, alongside work in English. Here are twenty new Japans by its writers and artists, by residents and visitors and neighbours. This special issue of Granta has been published simultaneously in Japanese and English.

The book club is held every month. There is no restriction on the nationality of the authors read, but books should be available in translation in both Japanese and English. The discussion is conducted mainly in English, but you can choose the language in which you read the book. The intention is simple: to explore the themes of the book, express personal opinions on the style and content, discuss how the book has changed (or not) in translation and to have a relaxed discussion with others who have similar interests.



Sunday 7 September 2014

10am – 1pm
& 2pm – 5pm

Cecil Sharp House
2 Regents Park Road
London NW1 7AY

Free (booking essential)

We are delighted to offer Japan Society members and their families the opportunity to participate in an activity-packed workshop led by the Furusato Project at the iconic Cecil Sharp House. You will make *hari-e* postcards using Japanese paper collage techniques; discover the connection between *kocarina* and the 2011 earthquake and tsunami; try your hand at seasonal calligraphy; and create autumn haiku under the expert guidance of Karen Tamamura.

The volunteer members of the Furusato Project are keen to share a sense of Japanese community spirit with workshop participants. Though they are based in the Kansai and Tokyo regions, they have been actively engaged in supporting people in tsunami-devastated Tohoku, where many are still unable to return to their hometowns.

Workshop timetable

Morning Session

10:00 *Hari-e* post cards with Japanese paper
10:45 *Kocarina*
11:30 Calligraphy
12:00 Haiku
13:00 Finish

Afternoon Session

14:00 *Hari-e* post cards with Japanese paper
14:45 *Kocarina*
15:30 Calligraphy
16:00 Haiku
17:00 Finish

When booking please indicate which session you wish to attend (10am or 2pm).

Music and nature in the transnational shakuhachi scene - Joe Browning



Monday 15 September 2014 6.45pm

Swedenborg Hall
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free (Booking recommended)

Once the instrument of a sect of Zen Buddhist monks, the *shakuhachi*, has, since the 1960s, become important to a growing number of musicians outside Japan, especially in Australia, Europe and North America. This lecture explores the significance of "nature" in the lively transnational scene surrounding this Japanese end-blown bamboo flute. For those encountering the *shakuhachi* for the first time, the lecture will introduce the instrument's captivating music; for those more familiar with the instrument it will raise questions about the contemporary journeys of Japanese traditions on the world stage.

Ideas about natural materials, places and phenomena pervade understanding of this instrument's construction, performance contexts and sound – as encapsulated in the idea that the *shakuhachi* sounds like 'wind through a bamboo grove'. The lecture will trace the transposition of these ideas amongst *shakuhachi* players in the West, where the histories and geographies associated with *shakuhachi* music are open to distinctly contemporary reinterpretation. Browning will consider the diverse ways in which the naturalness of this instrument is heard, felt and understood: in texts that root the *shakuhachi* in landscapes both inside and outside Japan; in recordings that incorporate environmental sounds alongside the *shakuhachi*; in new compositions that evoke particular landscapes and animals; and in changes to the materials, sounds and forms of the instrument itself. Along the way Browning will ask why nature plays this important role in Western ideas about the *shakuhachi*, arguing that it provides an imaginative resource for players to negotiate cultural differences and to explore broader hopes and anxieties about the place of nature in the modern world.

Japanese home cooking with vegetables: special class with Sozai Cooking School



Wednesday 17 September 2014 7.00pm

Sozai Cooking School
5 Middlesex Street
London E1 7AA

£38 – special price for members of the Japan Society and their guests

They say in Japan that autumn is the season for eating, so how would you like to learn how to make your own Japanese food? Thanks to Sozai Cooking School we are delighted to offer Japan Society members the opportunity to join a Japanese home cooking class. This is a wonderful chance to learn Japanese cooking skills from a professional chef, Akemi Yokoyama. Akemi will teach you how to cook some popular, healthy and tasty Japanese vegetable dishes at home.

Menu:

- Mixed Japanese mushroom and ginger rice cooked with sake
- Kakiage (crispy tempura made with mixed vegetables strips)
- Grilled aubergine with black miso
- Spinach with white sesame sauce
- Green beans with Tofu and sesame sauce

All ingredients and cooking equipment will be provided, but you may wish to bring an apron.

Akemi Yokoyama's enthusiasm for gastronomy originated early in her childhood in Sapporo, where enjoying the spoils of foraging for wild vegetables and sea fishing were a regular part of family life. This gave her an understanding of the importance of using the freshest, highest quality ingredients and of the taste pairings in Japanese food. Akemi came to London in 1985, where she learned sushi making while working in London's popular Japanese restaurant Hiroko.

Sozai is the first cooking school in the UK dedicated to authentic Japanese food, offering a wide variety of classes covering traditional cuisine and casual and street food.

In association with:





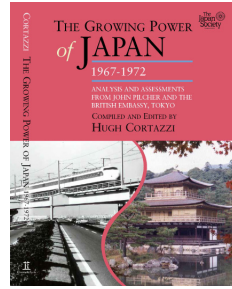
Monday 29 September 2014 6.45pm
 Swedenborg Hall
 20-21 Bloomsbury Way
 (Hall entrance on Barter St)
 London WC1A 2TH
 Free (Booking recommended)

We are delighted to welcome Reijiro Tsumura to discuss the origin, history and styles of Japan's noh theatre. This will be a rare opportunity to hear at first hand from a master of the genre and 'living national treasure'.

One of Japan's major classical theatre traditions, noh has a rich history going back to the 14th century. In his talk, Tsumura will consider its characteristics and development as well as the meanings embodied in its name. He will also consider the noh mask, its use and range of expression.

Reijiro Tsumura is head of the Ryokusenkaï group within the Kanze School of noh and received the designation 'important intangible cultural asset' in 1991. After training under Kimiko Tsumura while studying at Hitotsubashi University, Reijiro Tsumura gained the level of master in 1969 and became head of the Ryokusenkaï in 1974. Since 1979 he has been engaged in the planning and organising of the annual night time, fire-lit Takigi Noh event in Koganei. In addition to regular performances of classical noh plays, he is active in the training and development of young actors.

Reijiro Tsumura performs widely, not only within the traditional repertoire but in creating new productions and commissioning new plays. He has toured internationally to countries including the UK, Belgium, Spain, Singapore, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Indonesia, where he has frequently worked in collaboration with other performers from different genres including opera and dance. In 2010 he travelled to Russia and Hungary to teach as an Ambassador for Cultural Exchange under the auspices of the Agency for Cultural Affairs.



Monday 6 October 2014 6.45pm
 The Japan Foundation
 Russell Square House
 London WC1B 5EH
 Free (booking essential)

We invite you to join us for the launch of *The Growing Power of Japan, 1967-1972: analysis and assessments from John Pilcher and the British Embassy, Tokyo*, compiled and edited by Sir Hugh Cortazzi. The publishers, Renaissance Books in association with the Japan Society, would like to thank the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, Julia Bonas and others for their generous help towards the costs of publication.

In this volume Sir Hugh has compiled the defining reports from Sir John Pilcher's time as ambassador to Japan from 1967 to '72, a period in which Japan's economy and power grew significantly and her relations with the United States became increasingly strained. Sir Hugh, who worked with Pilcher during these years and was himself Ambassador to Japan from 1980 to '84, will open the launch with an overview of the changing character of Anglo-Japanese relations and of the first overseas visit by a Japanese Emperor. This will be followed by an open discussion led by Chairman of the Japan Society, Sir David Warren, and a drinks reception. We are delighted to announce that all attendees will receive copies of the book.

This collection of Pilcher's reports to Whitehall provides a valuable record of Japan's progress at this turning point in her post-war history, as well as insights into the hopes and expectations of the British government in her dealings with Japan. His writings on Japan have remained largely inaccessible, and unknown to most researchers, and *The Growing Power of Japan* offers readers a unique insight into the thoughts of this distinguished scholar-diplomat.

Joint Lunch with the JCCI: The Middle East in Turmoil: Implications for the region and the wider world – Sir William Patey



Monday 13 October 2014 12.30pm for 1.00pm

The National Liberal Club
Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2HE

£50 per head for members of the Japan Society, the JCCI and their guests

Booking essential (deadline 9 October)

For their third joint lunch of 2014, the Japan Society and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the UK are delighted to welcome Sir William Patey, former Ambassador to Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Sudan.

The Middle East, which is a key trading and investment area for a very significant number of UK and Japanese companies, is in turmoil. The situations in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, the Horn of Africa, Egypt and Libya are of particular concern, influenced not only by ethnic and religious tensions but also by the evolving strategies of the USA and its coalition partners. Insights into the cultures, systems and characteristics of the people involved are vital, as are perspectives of possible eventual outcomes. The situation will affect us all, whether deeply invested in the region or not. Sir William is extremely well qualified to give those attending some sense of the fast-changing and complex situation, a feel for what is likely to happen and a better idea of the resulting commercial implications.

Sir William Patey KCMG joined the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in 1975, and served as a diplomat for over 30 years. Before becoming Ambassador to Afghanistan, he was also Ambassador to Saudi Arabia (2007-2010), Iraq (2005-2006), and Sudan (2002-2005). After leaving the FCO, Sir William advises businesses working in the Middle East, in particular on topics relating to the oil and gas sector, financial services, and defence. He read for an MA in History from the University of Dundee (1975).

Following a two-course lunch, Sir William will speak for about 20 minutes, after which there will be time for questions until 2.30pm.

The nightmare: troubled sleep in tsunami evacuation shelters in Yamada, 2011 – Brigitte Steger



Monday 20 October 2014 6.45pm

Swedenborg Hall
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free (Booking recommended)

'Ato wa neru dake' – 'And then all that's left to do is to sleep.' This is how two middle-aged women ended their summary of life in a small tsunami evacuation shelter in Yamada, Iwate Prefecture. Talking in mid-July, four months after the large tsunami and fires of March 2011 had completely destroyed their houses, they had found a daily routine of household chores and some stability. Sleep seemed a simple matter.

However, during the night(s) immediately following the tsunami not a single person was able to sleep peacefully. Their sleep was disrupted by continuous aftershocks, lack of comfortable bedding, cold, dirt and crowds of often noisy strangers. They were haunted by anxieties over the whereabouts of loved ones (or the assumption of their death) and by ghosts; they were bewildered that they had lost their homes and livelihoods.

Based on narrative interviews and participant observation, this lecture explores life in the shelters, in particular the sleep habits and sleep problems of tsunami survivors living in evacuation shelters in Yamada. It analyses the vulnerability of sleepers and how people were gradually able to find restful slumber.

Brigitte Steger is Senior Lecturer in Modern Japanese Studies at the University of Cambridge. Her research interest lies in the cultural and social embeddedness of seemingly natural, bodily matters and in daily – and nightly – life. Steger's most recent publications include: *Manga Girl Seeks Herbivore Boy* (ed. with A. Koch, 2013), *Sekai ga mitometa Nippon no inemuri* (2013), and *Japan Copes with Calamity* (ed. with T. Gill and D. Slater, in Japanese and English, 2013).

In association with:





Monday 3 November 2014 6.30pm

King & Wood Mallesons SJ Berwin
10 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1BE

Free for members of the Japan Society or JCCI

Booking essential (deadline 31 October)

In his tour of Eastern Africa earlier this year, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe pledged over £8.7 billion in aid and trade deals. A large portion of this amount would be channelled towards infrastructure development, which will give strength to the East African export market.

While the UK's presence in Africa has existed for longer, there is less of a concerted push from the British government, despite its very long-established links with many countries in the region, into sub-Saharan development. The steadily increasing working-age population of the region, however, is creating new markets for telecommunications and other high-tech industries which in turn provides more opportunities for private investors.

In the shadow of well-established presence by other countries across the continent what implications does the current situation in Africa hold for British and Japanese companies looking to invest? This panel discussion aims to examine some of the issues common to both countries, and ways in which they can be surmounted.

The keynote speaker for the panel is Alex Vines OBE, Director of the Africa Programme at Chatham House. He is joined by Haruki Hayashi (Regional CEO for Europe & Africa, Mitsubishi Corporation) and Jun Arima (Director-General, Japan External Trade Organisation). The event is chaired by Sir David Warren.



Wednesday 12 November 2014 1.00pm to 1.30pm

Bloomberg European Headquarters
City Gate House
39-45 Finsbury Square
London EC2A 1PQ

Free for members of the Japan Society, the JCCI and those introduced by Bloomberg

Booking essential (deadline 10 November)

In their 7 October 'Statement on Monetary Policy', the Bank of Japan Policy Board has decided largely to maintain the status quo, continuing their policy of aggressive monetary easing measures designed to combat deflation, such as an annual increase of Japan's monetary base by about ¥60-70 trillion (£343-400 billion).

Takehiro Sato's prior experience and current position make him an ideal candidate to better explain the current state of Japanese monetary policy. His background as Japan's prominent market economist, and his current role as a member of the Bank of Japan's Policy Board, allows him to speak with authority on the Bank of Japan's monetary and macroprudential policies.

Takehiro Sato read Economics at Kyoto University, and began working for Sumitomo Bank Ltd after graduating in 1985. Following a 14-year period working for Sumitomo he joined Morgan Stanley Japan Ltd in 1999 where he held a number of positions such as Chief Economist for Japan (2006-2010), Managing Director and Head of Japan Interest Rate Strategy (2010-2012), and Head of Japan Fixed Income Research (2012). He has held his current position as Member of the Bank of Japan's Policy Board since July 2012, and his term will run until July 2017.



Wednesday 12 November 2014 7.30pm for 8.00pm

1 Great George St
London SW1P 3AA

Members under 30: £30 (first 30 to apply)
Members (& guests): £55
Non-Members: £90

Booking essential (deadline 7 November)

The cost includes drinks on arrival, three course dinner, wine and coffee.

For its 2014 annual dinner the Japan Society is delighted to be returning to the Great Hall of the spectacular One Great George Street, in the heart of Westminster, home to the Institution of Civil Engineers.

This Grade II listed building is a monument to Edwardian decadence and has played host to a range of historic events, including the signing of the charter establishing UNESCO in 1945. More recently it has provided a backdrop for films including *Star Trek for 10*, *Ghandi* and *Bridget Jones: Edge of Reason*, along with TV dramas *Foyles War*, *Spooks* and *Silent Witness*. The Great Hall's magnificent chandeliers and painted ceiling – depicting soaring biplanes and steel cranes – were donated by a former president of the Institution of Civil Engineers as a reminder of the role its members played during the First World War.

The dinner is traditionally a black tie event and many guests will wear formal dress, but for those who prefer lounge suits, this is perfectly acceptable. Most people will be sitting at round tables of 10. If you have any seating preferences, please specify with whom you wish to be seated. Please also inform us of any special dietary requirements. Tickets will be sent to all those attending.

The Japan Society Awards 2014 will also be announced and presented during the evening.

We are very grateful to JTI for their support which enables us to offer discounted tickets to all members and a further discount to members under 30, ensuring that the event can be enjoyed by everyone.

This event is kindly supported by:



Monday 17 November 2014

6.45pm

Swedenborg Hall
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free (Booking recommended)

This paper is about how history is remembered, memorialised, and displayed for the purpose of national defence. It focuses on how the legacy of the Imperial Navy lived on in the post-war Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF), informing its strategic thinking and working as a military organisation. This paper sets forth the rather controversial argument that, contrary to common academic views, the ability of the JMSDF in articulating its roles as a tool of statecraft within a national maritime strategy rested on its ability to re-examine the imperial experience and the wartime defeat. Indeed, the paper contends that the post-war navy cannot be understood outside the context of its process of interaction with the imperial past.

This paper focuses on one particular dimension of this complex process, the development of naval policy. It tells the story of how, throughout a period of sixty years, the post-war navy met the challenges of rearmament and modernisation to create a modern naval force that today stands as one of the pillars of the country's security policy. Indeed, in the making of the post-war naval policy, the Imperial Navy provided the mortar and the blueprints.

Alessio Patalano is lecturer in East Asian Warfare and Security at the Department of War Studies, King's College London, where he specialises in Japanese naval history, strategy, and East Asian security. He has been a visiting researcher at GRIPS; he is affiliated with the Institute of Contemporary Asian Studies, Temple University Japan, and is currently a visiting professor at Aoyama Gakuin University.

A Japanese View on World Energy Future: The Impacts of Lower Economic Growth in China and India

Japanese Beer Tasting at Tsuru



Wednesday 19 November 2014 10.30am for 10.45am

The Japan Foundation
6th Floor, Russell Square House
10-12 Russell Square
London WC1B 5EH

Free for members of the Japan Society or those introduced by JETRO

Booking essential (deadline 17 November)

JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization), London, and the Japan Society would like to invite you to a seminar on a Japanese view on world energy outlook with special focus given to analysing the impacts of lower economic growth in China and India.

Professor Ken Koyama, Chief Economist and Managing Director of the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ), will present an outline of the IEEJ's recently announced Energy Outlook, and will also touch upon Japan's recent energy policy challenges. Before discussion is opened up to the floor, comments will be given by Professor Paul Stevens, Distinguished Fellow for Energy, Environment and Resources at Chatham House, and Peter Hughes, Director of Peter Hughes Energy Advisory Ltd.

Professor Ken Koyama received his BA and MA degrees in Economics from Tokyo's Waseda University, and his PhD from the University of Dundee where his thesis was titled *Japan's Energy Strategies toward the Middle East*. He joined the IEEJ in 1986 and has held various positions within the Institute, such as Senior Economist and later Head of the World Oil and Energy Group, and Senior Research Fellow in the Energy and Strategy unit. Alongside his current position, Professor Koyama has also taught at the University of Tokyo's Graduate



Wednesday 19 November 2014 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Tsuru Restaurant Bishopsgate
Broadgate Plaza (off Primrose Street)
London EC2M 3AB

£35 per head for Japan Society members and their guests

Booking essential (deadline 17 November)

Following the success of our wine and whisky tasting events at Tsuru restaurant, we are offering our members another opportunity to get an insight into the world of contemporary Japanese beverages. This is a chance for Japan Society members and their guests to enjoy an exclusive tutored Japanese beer tasting led by 'sommALEier' and international beer judge, Melissa Cole.

Tsuru have selected a line-up of Japanese craft beers from Yo-Ho Brewery along with a stand-out offering from the London-based Redchurch Brewery. Despite the explosion of craft brewers in Japan, getting hold of their products in the UK remains a challenge; join us and you can sample Yo-Ho brewery's takes on classic European and American beers accompanied by a menu of dishes tailored to match.

Menu

Shinsu SunSun Organic Lager, 5%
with beef jerky and edamame beans

Suiyoubi no neko Belgian White Ale, 4.5%
with prawn or shiitake gyoza dumplings with Yuzu Soy

Indian Ao-oni IPA, 7%
with chicken kara age with Eat the Bits chilli oil mayo

Hitachino Nest XH, 8%
with katsu curry

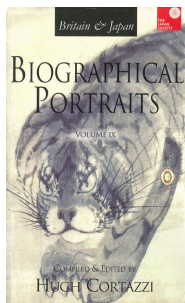
Redchurch Old Ford Export Stout, 7.5%
with chocolate brownie

In association with:



In association with:





Monday 1 December 2014

6.45pm

Swedenborg Hall
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Booking essential (deadline 28 November)

To mark the publication of *Biographical Portraits Volume IX*, the Japan Society is holding a special book launch, with accompanying talks by the editor and key contributors. This presentation will last for approximately fifty minutes, giving attendees a flavour of some of the personalities and institutions featured in this volume, and will be followed by a short Q&A session.

This book forms part of a series recording the lives of men, women and institutions who have played a significant role in the development of UK-Japan relations. The current volume, which contains 57 'portraits', brings the Japan Society's collection of individual memoirs to a cumulative total of nearly 500. When read together these give a many-faceted picture of modern history, shedding light on controversial issues, illuminating past successes and failures, and providing a valuable point of reference for researchers and historians.

Structured thematically in four Parts – Japan in Britain, Britain in Japan, Scholars and Writers, Politicians and Officials – the highlights in this volume include 'The Great Japan Exhibition, 1981-82', 'Japanese Gardens and the Japanese Garden Society in the UK', 'Cricket in Late Edo and Meiji Japan', 'Norman Macrae, pioneering journalist of *The Economist*', 'Arthur Balfour – managing the emergence of Japan as a Great Power', 'Michio Morishima, an economist 'made in Japan'', and 'Margaret Thatcher – a pragmatist who radically improved Britain's image in Japan'.

We are delighted to be able to offer copies of *Biographical Portraits Volume IX* free of charge to members of the Japan Society, while stocks last. Copies will be available to collect on the night.



Thursday 4 December 2014

6.30pm

Embassy of Japan
101-104 Piccadilly
London W1J 7JT

£17 per head (deadline 1 December):
Members and their guests only

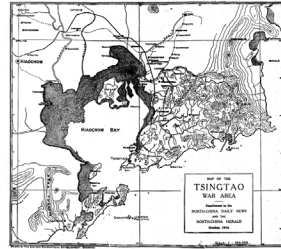
Please bring photographic identification with you as those without may be denied entrance

This year's Christmas Party will once again be held in the Ballroom of the Japanese Embassy.

This annual gathering provides members with a great opportunity to catch up with friends at the close of the year and start thinking ahead to new challenges in 2015. Please bring guests but space may well be limited and places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis so early booking is advised.

Once again, we are extremely grateful to the Japan Centre who are generously providing the party canapes for the evening.

Names are required for the Embassy security in advance therefore early booking is advised. You will be sent confirmation of your booking.



Friday 12 December 2014

7.00pm

Leicester Square Theatre
6 Leicester Place
London WC2H 7BX

£15 per head (includes £5 discount):
Japan Society Members and a guest only

Booking essential (deadline 10 December)

Monday 15 December 2014

6.45pm

Swedenborg Hall
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free (Booking recommended)

The Japan Society is delighted to offer its members discounted tickets for theatre phenomenon SIRO-A, who are returning to Leicester Square Theatre with new elements for 2014. Whether you have so far missed SIRO-A, or have only caught parts of their show at Japan Matsuri or HyperJapan, nothing comes close to the 'full' SIRO-A experience, which mixes fast-paced and highly technical choreography of sound, light and movement with engaging nods to Japanese cultural traditions.

Through dance, mime and puppetry, the company of six SIRO-performers interact with technology in a way never seen before, fusing mime, groundbreaking visual effects and an electro soundtrack to create a mind-blowing theatrical experience that is a feast for the senses.

SIRO-A is fast becoming a worldwide phenomenon and following sold-out German and American tours has returned to London with brand new seasonal elements.

'It's a mind-blowing show'
Metro

'A mesmerising mix of techno, high-tech light engineering, performance art, dance, comedy, animation and futuristic shadow-puppetry'
Daily Star

In 1914, Europe was not the only continent coming to terms with a new form of conflict. Through a mix of complex alliances and global ambition, the war had spread to northern China, where the German-held port of Tsingtao became a key battleground. To strike a blow at Kaiser Wilhelm's naval forces, Britain and its ally Japan laid siege to the port during October and November of that year. In this lecture celebrated historian Jonathan Fenby will examine the causes of the battle, the ulterior motives for it, and the path on which it set East Asia for decades to come.

The Siege of Tsingtao was to be the only armed clash of the First World War in East Asia, and – involving 32,000 troops and a death toll of less than 500 – was a tiny affair compared to the conflict being fought in Europe. However, the victory ensured that the First World War would not extend in the region beyond 1914, as Germany's naval squadron was deprived of an operational base in East Asia and was subsequently destroyed by the British as it tried to return to Europe. Japan was later to reap the rewards of declaring war against Germany when, at the Treaty of Versailles, they were granted concession over Tsingtao, sparking tensions with China that were to have significant long-term ramifications.

Jonathan Fenby, a former editor of the *Observer* and *South China Morning Post*, is editor in chief of the information website, *Trusted Sources*. He is an author of several popular books on China, including the acclaimed *Tiger Head, Snake Tails, The Penguin History of Modern China, Generalissimo: Chiang Kai-shek and the China He Lost*, and *Will China Dominate the 21st Century*. His latest book, *The Siege of Tsingtao*, was published in 2014 as part of a Penguin series marking the 100th anniversary of the First World War.

