



Consulate-General of Japan in Jeddah 在ジッダ日本国総領事館



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2009 Culture relations

27th Annual Plenary Meeting of the Interaction Council

27th Annual Plenary Meeting of the Interaction Council (commonly known as OB Summit) was held at King Abdullah Economic City (KAEC), Rabigh, from 10 through 13 May, 2009 and H. E. Mr. Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan, H. E. Mr. Sugiura, former Justice Minister of Japan, H. E. Mr. Arima, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan, Mr. Taya, Professor of Rikkyo University, etc. participated in the Meeting. Following the keynote speech given by H. E. Mr. Schmidt, former Chancellor of Germany, opinions were actively expressed by former top level government dignitaries and heated discussions were held among them at the respective sessions on the themes such as "Present State of the World", "Energy Availability and Economic Growth" and "How to Prevent a New Cold War". General consensus was observed on the importance of dialogue and cooperation and on the need of multilateralism. After the adoption of the final communique, H. E. Mr. Fukuda welcomed the decision of holding the next Plenary Meeting in Hiroshima and drew applause from the whole audience. Besides his participation in the Meeting, H. E. Mr. Fukuda visited Petro Rabigh.



Conference room



H. E. Mr. Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan(Right side)

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Performance of Karate Demonstration

On the night of 25 May, 2009, the performance of Karate demonstration was jointly held by the Consulate-General of Japan in Jeddah and the Western Region Branch of Saudi Karate Federation at the Asia Martial Art Defense Club in Jeddah.

4 Japanese Karate experts, namely, Mr. Kesakatsu Kiyohara (7th dan), Mr. Masataka Muramatsu (8th dan), Mr. Kazuo Nasu (7th dan) and Mr. Kazumitsu Nasu (5th dan), gave demonstrations of kata and kumite. More than 300 spectators from the Western Region Branch of Saudi Karate Federation, Consular corps and the Japanese Community participated in this event and enjoyed the powerful demonstration. Some spectators voiced their admiration saying that they were deeply impressed by the exquisite skills displayed by the experts.

The experts also gave guidance for the Saudi Karate instructors as well as players. In the morning on the same day, the experts visited Al-Amjaad Boys School and received a wholehearted welcome. The experts gave guidance to the Karate Club members at the gymnasium of the School. The visit of the Karate experts team to Jeddah greatly aroused the interest in Karate among the people in Jeddah.



Mr. Ishigure's opening address



Karate demonstration by Saudi Karate team



Japanese Karate experts



Japanese karate experts with Saudi Karate coaches

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Tea ceremony demonstration by female members of Japan Maritime Self-Defense Forces

On 7 June, a tea ceremony demonstration was held by three female members of Japan Maritime Self-Defense Forces at the residence of the Consul General of Japan in Jeddah. The wives of some dignitaries of the business circles as well as the wives of ex-Saudi students to Japan and the Consuls General of Asian Countries totalling 14 ladies participated in observing the demonstration. All the guests watched the performances with great interest. They were impressed particularly by the comment made by Mrs. Ishigure, wife of the Consul General of Japan, in which she said that to sense the care of the person who prepares tea as well as to be aware of the gratitude felt by the guest is the attitude expected to be assumed in the calmness during the ceremony. Many participants experienced the way of how to prepare tea under the guidance of the members. All of them expressed their thanks by saying that the ceremony was a splendid event.



Tea ceremony demonstration



Serving tea to the guests



Experiencing the way of preparing tea



Female members of Maritime Self-Defense Forces and wives of the Consulate's General staff

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Graduation Ceremony for the 6th Batch Students of Saudi Japanese Automobile High Institute (SJAHl)

On 15 August, 2009, the graduation ceremony for the 6th batch of 215 students was held at the Saudi Japanese Automobile High Institute (SJAHI) with the presence of H. R. H. Prince Mishaal Bin Majid Bin Abdul Aziz, Governor of Jeddah. Among the participants, there were H. E. Mr. Toshimitsu Ishigure, Consul General of Japan in Jeddah, Mr. Shin Hosaka, Director, Automobile Division, Ministry of Economy (METI), Trade and Industry, Mr. Shigeru Maeda, Executive Technical Advisor to the Director General, Industrial Development Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Mr. Kazuhisa Matsuoka, President, Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE), Mr. Satoshi Aoki, Chairman, Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA), etc. from the Japanese side and Dr. Ali Bin Nasser Al-Ghafees, Managing Director, Technical and Vocational Training Cooperation (TVTC), top executives of Japanese car dealers, etc. from Saudi side. This ceremony was also marked as the occasion of honouring JICA for its support extended to SJAHI for 8 years and of welcoming the new support of Japan through METI. H. E. Mr. Ishigure welcomed the guests including the Governor of Jeddah and said in his address, "SJAHI is an important symbol of friendship and cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Japan. The graduates of SJAHI are the big assets for the Saudi automobile industry. I am confident that the cooperation being extended by METI through JICE and Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) will add another chapter in the success story of SJAHI."

H. R. H. Prince Mishaal handed over the graduation certificates to the graduates and made honourable recognition of the graduates who achieved excellent records.



VIPs and Participants



Mr. Ishigure, delivering his address



Recognition of H. R. H. Prince Mishaal Bin Majid Bin Abdul Aziz



Commemorative Photo

(Courtesy SJAHI)

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Presentation of booklets for the guidance on the study in Japan to Saudi Association of Japan Graduates (SAJG)



Presentation Ceremony

On 7 October, 2009, H. E. Mr. Toshimitsu Ishigure, Consul General of Japan in Jeddah presented some booklets for the guidance on the study in Japan (including the promotion DVD entitled "Study in Japan") to Mr. Reda Sejiny, Secretary General of Saudi Association of Japan Graduates (SAJG) at the office of the Consulate-General. This presentation was made in response to the request by Mr. Sejiny. These booklets are to be kept at the recently established Information Center for those people wishing to study in Japan. Mr. Sejiny said, "There is a possibility that the number of Saudi students will increase as a reaction to the program entitled "Thought" which was televised during Ramadan on MBC TV with the aim of introducing Japan. We would like to provide the people wishing to study in Japan with the information by utilizing the booklets which have been presented to the Association."

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Presentation of Japanese Books



Presentation of Japanese Books

On 26 October, 2009, H. E. Mr. Toshimitsu Ishigure, Consul General of Japan in Jeddah, presented Arabic versions of two Japanese books entitled "The economic development of Japan, the Path travelled by Japan as a Developing Country" and "Meiji - Manpower which led the Restoration" to Dr. Abdul Mohsen Faraj Al-Gahtani, Chairman of Jeddah Literary & Cultural Club (JLCC) .

Dr. Al-Gahtani expressed his gratitude by saying that some other books had been gifted to JLCC in December last year preceding this presentaion of books.

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2010 Culture relations

Ikebana Demonstration

On 9th February, 2010, Ikebana Demonstration & Workshop by Ms. Rika Arai, Sogetsu School Instructor, was held at the Consul General's residence. Wives of businessmen and university professors, wives of Consuls General and media reporters totaling 30 women, participated in this cultural function. The participants were looking with keen interest at the performance of Ikebana made by Ms. Arai. All the participants experienced by themselves Ikebana arrangements under the guidance of Ms. Arai. Many of them expressed their appreciation of this function by saying that it was a wonderful opportunity for them to learn a lot about the art of Ikebana.



Mrs. Ishigure, delivering a speech



Ikebana demonstration



Ikebana demonstration



Ikebana demonstration



Ikebana



Workshop for participants



Ms. Rika Arai, Sogetsu School Instructor and wives of the Consulate-General staff

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3rd Asian Film Festival

From 17th February through 1st March 2010 "Asian Film Festival 2010" was held by the Asian Consuls General Club (ACGC) in Jeddah. The inauguration of the Festival and the Japanese Film Show took place on 17th February in the official residence of the Japanese Consul General. In the inauguration ceremony, opening remarks were made by H.E. Mr. Toshimitsu Ishigure, Consul General of Japan, followed by unveiling of the Festival logo. After a short break during which the visitors enjoyed the taste of Japanese shushi, yakitori and other food, H.E. Mr. Ishigure made a brief remark introducing the Japanese films followed by screening of the Japanese documentary entitled "Yokoso Japan" first, then the feature film entitled "Always Sunset on 3rd Street : Part II" (Director : Takashi Yamazaki). Many audience from the Consular Corps, business circles, TV and newspapers, etc enjoyed the films and gave a burst of applause at the end of the feature film which, as they said, had greatly impressed them.



Invited guests



H.E. Mr. Ishigure, giving an inaugural address



Unveiling of 2010 Film Festival logo



Invited guests enjoying the tast of Japanese sushi



H.E.Mr.Ishigure, introducing the Japanese film



ASIAN Film Festival 2010

Japanese Film Night

17 February 2010



The feature film screened at the Japanese Film Night

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Asian Food Festival

On 1st March, 2010, the last day of the 3rd Asian Film Festival, Asian Food Festival was held as one of the activities of the Film Festival at the pool-side of the Brunei Consulate-General in Jeddah. The Consulates General of 13 Asian countries participating in the Film Festival took part also in the Food Festival presenting some of their genuine national cuisines which they are proud of. The venue was overwhelmingly crowded with over 250 attendants. At the Japanese food corner, sushi, a renowned typical Japanese dish, was served and gained sweeping popularity among the guests who rushed to the Japanese corner and emptied all the sushi plates in a few minutes.



Sushi, typical Japanese dish



Japanese food corner



Venue of the food festival

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Lecture on Japan for MBO Members

On 2 May, the Consulate-General of Japan organized a lecture mainly for the members of Minaret Business Organization (MBO, A group of leading businessmen in Jeddah) who are scheduled to visit Japan to study Japanese culture and economic situation for a week starting from 13 May. The lecturer was Dr. Hassan Abdulmouti, General Manager, Abdul Latif Jameel Co. , Ltd. , and the title was "The Key to Japan's Competitive Success, Toyota Philosophy". At the outset, H. E. Mr. Toshimitsu Ishigure, Consul General of Japan, made an opening speech in which he welcomed the forthcoming visit of MBO members to Japan and expressed his hope that they could enhance their understanding of Japan through the lecture. Following the lecture, the attendees were engaged in active interaction and exchange of views while enjoying the Japanese cuisine at the dinner hosted by H. E. Mr. Ishigure at the garden of his residence.



H.E.Mr.Ishigure,making opening speech



Dr.Abulmouti, andrandience



Mr.Alnouri,Chairman of MBO making a remark after the lecture



The attendess enjoying the japanese cuisine

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SJAHl 7th Technical Skills Contest

The 7th students' Technical Skills Contest" was held on 7th June,2010 at the Saudi Japanese Automobile High Institute(SJAHl) in Jeddah. About 250 Saudi students participated in this contest. They were divided into 5 teams which competed each other and demonstrated high skill and proficiency standards. It was clearly noticed that the level of this unique annual Contest advances every year. Mr.Ishigure,Consul General of Japan,applauded and encouraged SJAHl students in his address at the ceremony and highlighted that this Contest is indeed a brilliant manifestation of the fruitful cooperation between Japan and Saudi Arabia. It was really exciting to see how happy and confident the students were at the prize awarding ceremony.



SJAHl students in contest



H.E.Mr.Isigure,making speech



Commemorative photo

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Graduation Ceremony for the 7th Batch Students of Saudi Japanese Automobile High Institute

On 22 June, 2010, a graduation ceremony for 235 students of 7th batch was held at the Saudi Japanese Automobile Institute (SJAHl) in Jeddah. H. E. Mr. Shigeru Endo, Ambassador of Japan to Saudi Arabia, H. E. Mr. Toshimitsu Ishigure, Consul General of Japan in Jeddah, Mr. Ahmed Al Zamil, Director General of Human Resources Development Fund and many other guests attended the ceremony and congratulated the graduates. From SJAHl, Mr. Salem Al Asmari, Executive Director and other instructors and staff took part in the ceremony.

H. E. Mr. Ishigure handed over a present to the top graduate. The valedictorian made a speech in which he called on the graduates of secondary schools all over the country to come to SJAHl for acquiring high skills. He also expressed his gratitude to all the people concerned for making the future of SJAHl graduates brighter.



H.E.Mr.Ishigure handing over a present to the top graduate



H.E.Mr.Endo,Mr.Al-Zamil,Mr.Al-Asmari and H.E.Mr.Ishigure sitting in the honoured guests' seats



Guests and SJAHl Executive Director with the graduates

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Lecture on the history of Tea of Warriors (Samurai) and performance of the Tee Ceremony

On 25 September, a lecture on the history of Tea of Warriors, Samurai, and performance of the Tea Ceremony were held at the residence of the Consul General of Japan in Jeddah.

After the introductory brief speech given by H. E. Mr. Toshimitsu Ishigure, Consul General of Japan in Jeddah, Mr. Akira Matsura, Grand Master of Chinshin-ryu Tea School and 41st head of the Matsura Family, which ruled Hirado fiefdom as a feudal lord during the Edo Period, delivered a lecture on the history of Tea of Warriors. He explained the history of Tea Ceremony which originated in China and was introduced to Japan, Zen Buddhism as a foundation of Tea Ceremony, the custom of performing Zen and Tea Ceremony among warriors, the difference between warriors and commoners, the importance of Tokonoma (alcove) in the tea room, the way of serving the guests as a once-in-a-lifetime chance, the origin of Chinshin-ryu School and its activities, etc. Following the lecture, Mr. Osamu Matsura, son of the Grand Master, performed the Tea Ceremony and 3 guests, who sat on the tatami mattress, were treated with Japanese style cakes as well as tea prepared by Mr. Osamu Matsura. All the guests were eagerly listening to the lecture and were gazing attentively at every move of the performance.

At the reception, which was held in the garden of the residence after active questions and answers, many guests surrounded the Grand Master and his son and had pleasant talks with them with respectful looks. Many guests greatly admired the luminous explanation of the Grand Master and the excellent performance of his son.

According to historical records, the ancestor of the Matsura Family is Prime Minister Minamoto no Tooru who was the 18th son of the 52nd Emperor Saga whose reigned over the country from 809 to 823 A. D.



Speech by H.E. Mr. Ishigure, Consul General



Lecture by Mr. Akira Matsura, Grand Master



Performance by Mr. Osamu Matsura



Questions and Answers



H.E. & Mrs. Ishigure and Mr. & Mrs. Matsura



Reception

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Reception held in celebration of the birthday of H. M. the Emperor of Japan

On the night of 7 December, 2010, a reception was held in celebration of the birthday of H. M. the Emperor of Japan at the residence of the Consul General of Japan in Jeddah. 230 guests including dignitaries such as the representatives of Makkah Region Branch of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Shoura Council Member, Director of Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, IDB Vice President, etc. gathered and celebrated the 77th birthday of H. M. the Emperor.

In his speech, H. E. Mr. Ishigure, Consul General of Japan, besides touching upon the close trade and investment relations between Japan and Saudi Arabia, highlighted the concluding of the Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and the completion of Petro-Rabigh Refining & Petro-chemicals Project and referred to the achievements of Saudi-Japanese Industrial Task Force in the promotion of investment, Japan's cooperation in the field of human resources development and the number of Saudi students in Japan. H. E. Mr. Ishigure also announced the success of the Asian Film Festival which was held 3 times so far and the Asian Food Festival which was held for the first time this year. Finally, H. E. Mr. Ishigure concluded his speech by expressing his conviction of further development of the relations between the two countries in the years ahead and his gratitude for the support extended to him and his wife during the tenure of his assignment in Jeddah.

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