



Japan Language Group

Co-organisers: The Japan Foundation London and the Department of Japanese Studies, University of Edinburgh

**Supported by Robert Gordon's College
and the Consulate General of Japan in Edinburgh**

JAPAN YOUTH CONFERENCE IN ABERDEEN
Let's Learn Japanese and about Japan!

Tuesday 27 September 2016

幸運

Good Luck!

**The Craig Centre for Performing Arts, Robert Gordon's
College, Schoolhill, Aberdeen AB10 1FE**

10.30 am Arrival and Refreshments

11.00 am Session 1

**12.30 pm Sandwich Lunch with Tasters, Stalls
and Networking**

2.00 pm Session 2, ending at 3.00 pm



**ROBERT GORDON'S
COLLEGE**

**JAPAN FOUNDATION
LONDON**

Japan's principal organisation for promoting
international cultural exchange



The Japanese Language Group supports the 1 + 2 Languages Plan and the need to give all our young people appropriate language skills, together with a wider understanding of global societies and cultures, for their future careers. We need to learn about Japan and to celebrate the pioneering work already beginning in Scotland.

Session 1 11.00 am

Welcome of our Guests of Honour

Our Guests of Honour will be led by the drummers of

Tsuchigumo Daiko

Kate Walker (British Council Scotland, UK Regional Education Lead) is studying Taiko in the UK for her doctoral research topic.

Guests of Honour

Daisuke Matsunaga, Consul General of Japan in Edinburgh

Mr Matsunaga became Consul General in Edinburgh in May 2016, after diplomatic postings including the USA and Hong Kong. He writes: 'it is my firm intention to promote friendship and goodwill between Japan and Scotland, and introduce Japanese culture to people in Scotland and Northeast England. I also want to promote the business and economic relationship between Japan and the region. And I hope to make a lot of friends during my time here, because I am keen to ensure that we learn as much as we can from one another.'

Tomoki Akazawa, Deputy Director, Japanese Language, Japan Foundation London

The Japan Foundation London's Japanese Language Department is part of the Japan Foundation London, and promotes and supports Japanese teaching in the UK. In 2014, the Japan Foundation launched the Primary Japanese Campaign, in order to support primary schools and teachers offering, or aspiring to offer, Japanese language lessons for their pupils. It also provides web-based resources for secondary schools and colleges, and supports events.

Dr Lisa Cameron MP, Member of the International Development Committee: a distant Guest today

Lisa is a Director of the UK-Japan 21st Century Group, a coalition of private sector, public sector and civil society leaders from the countries. It aims to promote dialogue and co-operation between the two countries. The Group's primary goal is to serve as a catalyst for increasing the level of mutual understanding and awareness of the political, economic and social environments in each country.

Simon Mills, Head of College, Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen

Robert Gordon was a merchant from Aberdeen who decided to leave his considerable fortune to found a 'Hospital' for boys' accommodation and education. The 'Auld Hoose' was designed by William Adam. Before it could be occupied, it was taken over by the Duke of Cumberland as a fort for his troops on the way to crush the Jacobite rebellion at Culloden. As a result, the school opened with 14 pupils in 1750. In 1989 when girls were admitted. Gordon's is now a coeducational day school in the Scottish tradition, which remains true to the charitable and educational principles on which it was founded by Robert Gordon over 250 years ago. Simon Mills writes: 'Pupils, staff, parents and supporters work together to give every pupil the best possible education – one which will equip them with the academic, social and emotional skills to find success in a rapidly changing world.'

Dr Yoko Matsumoto-Sturt, Lecturer in Japanese, Japanese Studies, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures, University of Edinburgh

During her postgraduate degrees, Yoko was engaged in research and teaching in Japanese Studies at the University of Edinburgh, and she also had various professional experiences in the translation industry as an in-house interpreter/translator for the BBC (broadcasting translation) and the automobile industry (technical translation). Yoko's main research interests are Japanese Linguistics, methods of teaching and learning Translation, and Japanese social media and digital writing. She is hugely committed to her work and has a very wide range

of roles in supporting the learning of Japanese and about Japan.

Dr Simon Hall, Depute Head, Kirkwall Grammar School

As Principal Teacher of English at Kirkwall Grammar School, Simon won the Saltire Society Scottish First Book of the Year Award in 2010, for his 'History of Orkney Literature'. Now Depute Head Teacher, he took over from Mark Colston the leadership of the Orkney Model for the teaching of Japanese Language and Culture. There are programmes in both Kirkwall Grammar School and Stromness Academy and a live link with a school in Japan, created because of the strength of the renewables sector in Orkney, through the auspices of Aquatera. Now the programme is being extended to the county's primary schools: more news from Orkney at this Conference!

Ruta Noreika, Director, Blue Earth Works Limited

Ruta has been tireless in supporting the learning and teaching of Japanese and about Japan throughout her career. Educated at Cornell and Yale Universities, she has been a highly regarded Senior Relationship Manager at First State Investments. She has been a key leader in the Orkney Model.

Charles Edmond, retired Stockbroking Analyst

Charles spent much of the years 1979-1994 on company visits in Japan, with a view of writing and circulating a piece of investment research for the clients of his firms. He has wonderful stories of his experiences, which inspired him to become a hugely committed Deputy Chairman and Honorary Secretary of the Japan Society of Scotland.

Professor Andrew Porter FRSE FRSB, University of Aberdeen

Andy is Professor of Biotechnology and Director of the Scottish Biologics Facility, as well as the Founder and CSO of Haptogen Ltd. He also part owns a Michelin Guide Japanese Restaurant, Yatai. Andy is part of the team behind Langstane Liquor Ltd, Aberdeen's first Gin distillers for 100 years. Porter's Gin hit the shelves in December 2015 to great reviews and Andy's embarrassment!

Professor Trevor Runcie, Chairman, Japan Society Scotland

Trevor is a Visiting Professor at Robert Gordon University and Owner of Agile Knowledge Management Limited. He is a former pupil of Robert Gordon's College and his four sons have been or are being educated there.

Ronald Stewart Ronnie Watt OBE 9th Dan karate, Order of the Rising Sun, National Karate Institute Scotland

Ronnie Watt is a Scottish master of Shotokan karate and the founder, president and chief instructor for the National Karate Institute Scotland. He has trained over 20,000 students. In 2010 he was presented with the Order of the Rising Sun with Gold and Silver Rays, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to karate and his commitment to strengthening the relationship between Scotland and Japan. He founded the Scottish Samurai Awards twenty years ago.



**A Display of Traditional Japanese Shotokan Karate Do
With Ronnie Watt 9th Dan OBE ORS
Founder of the Scottish Samurai Awards**

Remember Scottish Samurai Thomas Blake Glover, Order of the Rising Sun (1838-1911), the Scottish merchant, born in Aberdeenshire, who was a Scottish merchant in Bakumatsu and Meiji period Japan. He was a key figure in the industrialisation of Japan, helping to found the shipbuilding company that was later to become the Mitsubishi Corporation. His Scottish home, Glover House in Bridge of Don, is to be restored with the help of Aberdeen Asset Management.

PROGRAMME: MORNING SESSION

Welcome to Robert Gordon's College

Simon Mills, Head of College

Why are we here?

Judith McClure, Convener of the Japan Language Group, and
George Roberts, Head Teacher of Danestone Primary School,
Aberdeen

Friendship and Mutual Understanding

Daisuke Matsunaga, Consul General of Japan in Edinburgh

Let's look to our futures and learn Japanese and about Japan!

Dr Simon Hall, Deputy Head Teacher of Kirkwall Grammar School,
with colleagues and students, tell us about the Orkney Model

Two Model Students who love to learn about Japan

Bella Wang is from Xi'an in China. She studied for her Highers and Advanced Highers in Edinburgh and decided to teach herself Japanese in her spare time! Now she is studying Economics at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. She took Japanese in her second year and achieved a first class mark! Now, why....? Bella will tell us.

At St Margaret's School in Aberdeen, students study Japan as part of their Advanced Higher History course. One of them, **Ayesha**, is passionate about all things Japanese since living there 10 or more years ago. Ayesha has actually continued to study the language independently for many years and has just accepted a place at Stamford for next year. She will tell us about her enthusiasm, her experiences and her hopes.

The Scottish Samurai Awards and a Karate Demonstration

Hayley Bloodworth, Daimyo Samurai 3rd Dan and Corporate Solicitor, will tell us about the Scottish Samurai Awards and the Junior Karate Club at Robert Gordon's College will give us a

demonstration.

LUNCH WITH TASTERS, STALLS AND NETWORKING

12.30 – 2.00 pm

- ❖ *You will be able to win delightful Japanese souvenirs, sent by the Japan Centre, London*
- ❖ *Yoko Matsumoto-Sturt and some of her students from the University of Edinburgh, and the Japan Foundation, will hold three parallel workshops:*
 1. **Japanese Popular Culture, including *manga, anime* and *game* (30 minutes: the University of Edinburgh)**
 2. **Japanese Language: however new for you! (2 consecutive workshops of 30 minutes: the Japan Foundation)**
 3. **Japanese for Teachers: by the Japan Foundation (one hour: bring your sandwich!)**
- ❖ **Kate Walker, British Council Scotland, has arranged taster **Drumming Sessions** with Tsuchigumo Daiko! **MAIN LECTURE THEATRE****

SESSION 2

2.00 – 3.00 pm

Where are we now and where are we going?

Let's be brave!



We are committed in the Kingdom of Fife!

Dr Petra McLay, 1 + 2 Languages Development Officer, Fife Council and former Deputy Director of Scotland's National Languages Centre (SCILT), will tell us about progress with Japanese in Fife, with lots of pictures and sound bites!

Go on: join a Japanese Language Class!

Charles Edmond will show us the perils and pitfalls of introducing ourselves and encourage us to forget our embarrassment! In conversation with Judith McClure.

Tomoki Akazawa will demonstrate the **free** online resources provided by the Japan Foundation.

Have you thought of pursuing your studies about Japan?

Dr Yoko Masimoto-Sturt and her students will explain all that is available at the University of Edinburgh and the massive contacts with learning in Japan.

This is your future: let's talk, let's learn and let's work together

Lisa Cameron MP is engaged at a high level of dialogue. She will ensure we realise that these aims are for all of us in this video message. We shall also have a supportive message from **Alex Johnstone MSP** for North East Scotland.

Over2u!

An open discussion: tell us what YOU would like to see next!



Alex Johnstone MSP with fellow Japan enthusiasts at the Scottish Parliament