

Spring 2005

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CJST Quarterly

The Canada-Japan Society of Toronto

CJST Welcomes New Consul General

The CJST recently hosted Consul General Yamaguchi's first major presentation in Toronto: "A Foreign Policy or a Domestic National Identity Quest?: A Japanese Diplomat's Account of Canadian and Japanese Foreign Policy Orientations"

BY CRAIG MARTIN, CJST PRESIDENT

Many of you will recall that in February 2004, Takashi Koezuka, then-Consul General of Japan in Toronto, made a presentation on Competition Law in Japan to a group of CJST members and guests. On February 24th of this year, in what we hope is the development of a tradition, Consul General Hisao Yamaguchi also addressed a group of our members and guests at a luncheon held at McMillan Binch LLP, on the subject of Canadian and Japanese foreign policy approaches.

The CJST was grateful and honoured that Consul General Yamaguchi selected the CJST as his venue for the delivery of his first major presentation in Toronto since assuming his duties here last fall. And quite a presentation it turned out to be! The apparent unanimous view of the approximately 50 members and guests attending the event was that the Consul General's talk was one of the most frank, provocative and interesting that they had heard from a serving diplomat in recent memory.

Much of the substance of the Consul General's talk is captured in an abridged article that was subsequently published in the *Globe & Mail* on March 31, 2005, which we have re-published in this Newsletter for those of you who missed it. Many in the audience, your faithful correspondent included, felt challenged by the Consul General's views of Canadian foreign policy as being driven primarily by a quest for self-identity; several of the guests, including representatives of the Government of Ontario, posed tough questions for the Consul General. But perhaps even more surprising to many were the Consul General's very candid and critical comments regarding Japan's past foreign policies, and its own quest for finding a basis for its foreign policy that was more principled than mere *realpolitik*.

It was truly one of the most memorable events of the year, and we look forward to being able to work with Consul General Yamaguchi further during his tenure in Toronto. ■

You say: 'Because of...' And we say: 'Despite...'



Relations with the United States are the perfect insight into the difference between Canada and Japan

**BY HISAO YAMAGUCHI,
CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN IN TORONTO**

Since assuming my post as Consul General of Japan in Toronto last August, I have been struck by how Canadians seem to invest a lot of who they feel they are as a nation into their foreign policy.

An example of this would be Canada's recent rejection of the ballistic missile defence system proposed by the United States. As a diplomat from a third country for which North American security is not an issue, I would refrain from evaluating one way or another Prime Minister Paul Martin's decision on this matter.

Nonetheless, I find the turn of events fascinating because Japan has taken the exact opposite approach to BMD, and the differences in how we generally approach foreign policy offer a great deal of insight into our countries.

Overall, Canada and Japan share a similar orientation toward foreign policy. Both countries respect international laws and institutions, desiring to arrive at resolutions of issues through co-operation rather than force. At the same time, both devote considerable effort to managing their relations with the United States.

There are stark differences in how we manage this relationship, however, and they arise partly from the differences in the relationship itself. The ties between Canada and the United States, on the one hand, are characterized by "because of's": because of the common cultural and historical roots; because of their common language, television programs and supermarkets; because of their

shared experiences in world wars. Meanwhile, Japan-U.S. relations are those founded on "despites": despite the vast historical, cultural and ethnic differences; despite Pearl Harbour; despite Hiroshima and Nagasaki; despite postwar economic rivalry.

In contrast to Canada-U.S. relations, Japan-U.S. relations are not based on natural ties, but something that is forged as the imperative for Japan's security, economic and foreign policy interests.

Through the postwar period, up to the end of the Cold war, political forces critical of the Japan's alliance with the United States occupied roughly one-third of the seats in the country's National Diet.

During this time, the loudest bickering between the governing and the opposition parties centred on Japan's management of its relations with the U.S. However, the ruling party nonetheless managed to maintain these relations by asserting, when necessary, its will through the power of the majority.

The public did not overly take the government to task for this, as the implications of allowing anti-American sentiments to gain strength were generally understood. The logic ran this way: anti-Americanism would shake the foundation of the Japan-U.S. security alliance, and with less American security commitment to Japan, the Japanese would be forced to strengthen its own defence capability, theoretically even through nuclear armament. Such developments would further jeopardize relations with the U.S., and also make relations with Japan's neighbours more difficult.

Another factor influencing Japan's foreign policy is the degree of confidence with which the Japanese

Consul General Yamaguchi's views on Canadian and Japanese foreign policies (cont'd)

regard themselves within the international community.

Almost 40 years after the Meiji Restoration began in 1868 (when the emperor was restored as head of the country), Japan emerged as the victor of the Russo-Japan War in 1905.

But in the next 40 years, Japan leaned toward militarism in Asia, eventually turning the whole international community against it in a war that led to its devastation in 1945. The incredible ignorance about the world held by Japan's national political and military leaders of the time, the greed of the economic leaders taking advantage of the country's expansionism for their own gains, as well as the populism of the cultural figures fanning the flames of war, resulted in Japan blindly entering a path to self-destruction. This remains a bitter memory of the Japanese, resulting in a deep-rooted ambivalence toward their country.

From this ambivalence comes the fear among a substantial segment of the public that Japan's armed forces being active overseas, even for peacekeeping activities or humanitarian aid, may lead the country down a path it travelled before. The same ambivalence has been behind an opposing force against the discussion of constitutional reform, against strengthening the armed forces, and against arming Japan with nuclear weapons.

Postwar Japan recovered and grew into a major economic power, and was reintegrated into the international community. Until recently, it was the world's leading provider of ODA (official development assistance), and still holds second place in this respect. Japan has participated in peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, Mozambique and East Timor. It has sent observers to such historic elections as those in South Africa and Palestine. It has helped provide fuel to ships involved in the anti-terrorist campaign in

Afghanistan. Japanese forces have been dispatched for humanitarian efforts in Iraq and to assist victims of the recent tsunami in Southeast Asia.

Through such experiences, the ambivalence of the Japanese toward their own country is finally starting to fade. However, they remain self-critical for much of the time. With respect to their economic strength, they point out that throwing money around does not necessarily win the respect of the international community. During the first Gulf War, Japan, despite putting forward \$13-billion (U.S.) in aid of the allied effort, received little expression of appreciation from the rest of the world. This was described by some as Japan's "second defeat," prompting national debates about its foreign policy with lingering effects to date.

Although Canadians struggle with various issues surrounding national identity, my impression is they feel little or no ambivalence with respect to what their role should be in the international community. Canada after the Second World War assumed prominence as the fourth biggest economy in the world after the United States, the Soviet Union and Britain. With the United Nations as a platform, Canada played a significant role in solving the Suez Crisis, and also played a leading role in such forums as NATO and the Commonwealth. This postwar period seems to serve as a standard for Canadians as to what they are able to, and should continue to, achieve.

Such strong conviction is to be admired, although policies that stem from it will have to be evaluated individually, case-by-case. Both Japan's ambivalence and Canada's conviction can be double-edged, each in its own way. ■

Eating/Shopping Japanese in NYC

Part I: Sake, Izakaya, Ramen

BY ADRIENNE YOUNG

As any CJST foodie knows, Toronto has lots of good things to eat and drink, but not if you like sake, and not if you like ramen. So... for anyone who wants to take advantage of their strong Canadian dollars and come to New York for a weekend of shopping and eating, here are some fun addresses:

First: my favourite sake bar, **Sakagura**. On East 43rd Street at 3rd Avenue. Don't be fooled. There is a Japanese restaurant at street level. THAT'S NOT IT. Walk right past. Into the B-grade office building that houses (among other things) an ESL school. Go through the lobby, past the guard (he'll be sleeping at a battered metal desk), down the basement stairs, and look for what will probably seem like the door to the boiler room. That's Sakagura, the best sake bar on the Eastern Seaboard. Ask to sit at the bar, if you are two or less, and ask for help with ordering sake, if you want. The bartenders know their stuff. My favourite is their Koikawa daiginjo, but there are at least 75 different types, ordered by prefecture and with suggested food pairings. Note: it can get very expensive if you order a lot of food. Bring the corporate credit card or a rich friend if you can.

Next: my favourite izakaya-of-divey-variety, **Go**. 30 St Mark's Place, in the heart of Little Osaka. Go is a place to go when you have a pile of people with you - especially if some of them are poor and you aren't paying. It's a hang-out for Japanese exchange students, serves most of your favourite izakaya type foods (yakitori, tofu, beer, chuhai...), and is a fabulous place to people-watch. Arrive early and sit near the sushi bar for the best view -- of the street, of the game on the TV, and of your fellow diners. Dead cheap. Utterly wonderful.

Last: two excellent ramen spots, **Minca** and **Men Kui Tei**. Both are run by people who know what they are doing. Both have VERY limited menus. Men Kui Tei is very convenient to know about if you are on 5th Avenue and all shopped out. It offers ramen, udon, gyoza and the occasional curry rice and tonkatsu. Minca has ramen, ramen and, for a change, ramen. And gyoza, of course. These are both the real deal, and they are both (by NY standards), cheap.

Sakagura

211 East 43rd St. (at 3rd Ave.), level B1
New York, NY 10017

(212) 953-7253

www.sakagura.com

Open every day for dinner, weekdays for lunch.
Reservations recommended. No sushi.

Go Japanese Restaurant

30 St. Mark's Place (between 2nd & 3rd)

New York, NY 10003

(212) 254 -5510

Minca Ramen Factory

536 East 5th Street (bet. Aves. A & B, East Village)

New York, NY 10009

(212) 505-8001

Cash only, BYOB, evenings only, closed Mondays.

Men Kui Tei

60 West 56th St. (between 5th & 6th)

New York, NY 10019

(212) 757-1642

Very un-swish. Very good. No license.

Oh, P.S.!

If you come to New York, you're going to want to pack home a bottle or two of sake. (The LCBO is a wonderful institution, but they don't have a great sake selection, do they?)

Try these places, or ask the folks at Sakagura where they like to shop:

Astor Wines & Spirits

12 Astor Place (not far from Go)

New York, NY 10003

(212) 674-7500

www.astorwines.com

Ambassador Wines and Spirits

1020 2nd Ave (at 54th)

New York, NY 10022

(212) 421-5078

www.ambassadorwines.com

Next time: Part II - Where the Expats Shop

Adrienne Young is a former CJST board member and a serious foodie, currently working in New York as an investment banker. ■

Japanese Hair Straightening: Are you worth it?

Confessions of a formerly wavy-haired woman

BY CHI DIEP

Are you a victim of coarse, wavy, unmanageable hair? Does your hairstylist sigh in exasperation? Do you dream of straight, silky hair? I did, until I discovered...

There is a 'Hair God' out there. Some refer to this Hair God as: Japanese Straightening; Japanese Straight Perm; Thermal Reconditioning; Ionic Straightening; Bio-ionic Straightening; Rebonding; Yuko System... and what have you.

Japanese Straightening is a five- to six-hour (!) salon treatment, whereby your disobedient hair is coated with proteins, treated with chemicals to break the cystine bond in your curly/wavy hair, then ruthlessly ironed into stick-straight submission. Cystine bond, for those of you who aren't experts in hair chemistry, is the molecular arrangement that gives hair its shape.

It all sounds rather harsh, but you'd never know it from the results. Hair comes out soft, glossy... and straight, as if you were born with it. And yes, it's permanent. Of course, the treatment can't help you with the subsequent hair growth, but you can always go back to get the roots done.

Such wonderfulness is a recent phenomenon. Old-school hair relaxers contained corrosive ingredients such as sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide, and calcium hydroxide. These ingredients corroded the hair enough to force it straight, but left the hair feeling like straw...and the curls eventually returned.

The Japanese Straightening process originated in Japan, spread to other parts of Asia, and has just started to take hold in North America within the past several years. My first encounter with this magical

procedure was in 2002, in Hong Kong. I had heard of Japanese Straightening while I was living in Japan a few years before that, but my schedule was so tight that I couldn't squeeze in the five-hour appointment. (Besides, Japanese Straightening sounded odd – as in, hellooo, why would Japanese women need to get their hair straightened?)

So, this time in Hong Kong, I wasn't going to let this opportunity pass, especially as I had seen so many women walking about with impossibly glossy and straight hair. A friend referred me to a hairstylist who uses the real Japanese products for the straightening and charged a reasonable price. There were better deals elsewhere, but I had read and heard horror stories about the cheap, damaging non-Japanese versions, and was not into the possibility of resembling Captain Picard.

I have only positive things to say about my Japanese Straightening experience. Okay, maybe the price is not such a positive factor: reputable salons in the Toronto area charge anywhere from \$300 to \$700 for the treatment, depending on your hair's length and texture.

However, whatever you do, don't be tempted by the \$99 specials at those cheap salons that have *People* and *Chatelaine* magazines from 1998 sitting around. There are reasons why you are being charged so much for the procedure, such as proper equipment and products, properly trained stylists and technicians, and proper staffing (it can take up to four people to fuss over your hair).

Perhaps this is the time to adopt the L'Oreal hair-colour ad slogan on TV as your mantra - "Because you're worth it!"... "Because you're worth it!"... ■

Luncheon for Justice Kazuko Yokoo

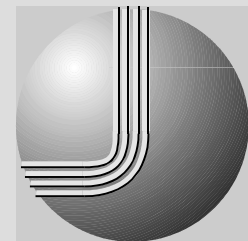
In February 2005, CJST President Craig Martin attended a luncheon held at the Four Seasons Hotel for Justice Kazuko Yokoo of the Supreme Court of Japan.

Justice Yokoo was visiting the Faculty of Law of the University of Toronto during a tour of Canadian Law Schools and judicial institutions. The Faculty of Law of the University of Toronto has hosted junior judges from various courts in Japan for one-year programs for the past several years.

CJST President Craig Martin, a graduate of both the Faculty and the Graduate School of Law at Osaka University, has often been involved in making the young judges feel at home in Toronto.



From left: Consul General Hisao Yamaguchi; Professor Lorne Sossin, Associate Dean of the U of T Faculty of Law; Justice Kazuko Yao of the Legal Training and Research Institute; CJST President Craig Martin; Justice Stephen Gouge of the Ontario Court of Appeal; Justice Kazuko Yokoo of the Supreme Court of Japan; Justice Satoru Uchida of the Tokyo District Court, currently studying at the U of T Faculty of Law; Mrs. Chieko Yamaguchi; and Professor Ron Daniels, Dean of the U of T Faculty of Law.



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We welcome comments, suggestions and contributions you may have on Japan and related topics for this publication.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not of the CJST or its Board of Directors.

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