

As autumn can already be felt in the air, how is everyone?

We have exciting news regarding the study of Japanese: The Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) will now be available in Montreal! Held at UQAM (Université du Québec à Montréal), the first session is this winter, on Sunday, December 6. For more details, please [visit the website](#).

I would like to express my gratitude to the organizations that have worked towards making this possible, and I hope this opportunity will inspire even more people to take an interest in the Japanese language and culture.



Festival Matsuri

On July 11 and 12, the annual Festival Matsuri was held at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre of Montreal. Blessed with clear skies, nearly 40 booths lined the grounds, featuring a variety of Japanese foods and ingredients, calligraphy, kimonos, arts, and crafts. In addition, similarly-themed workshops and around 30 activities per day—ranging from a mikoshi parade to Japanese drum and folk dance performances—were presented nonstop. Many visitors wore yukata, thus completing the traditional Japanese summer festival atmosphere. I heard that this year's edition had an attendance of approximately 5,000.



Our Consulate General set up a booth to introduce Japanese culture, tourism, the JET Programme, the MEXT Scholarships, and the working holiday visa. We received many inquiries about travel and tourism in Japan, which once more demonstrated the high level of local interest in the country. I extend my deepest gratitude to all those involved in organizing this event.





Sakura Matsuri

On July 26, the 6th annual edition of Sakura Matsuri, organized by the Association d'amitié Québec-Japon, was held in Québec City. It is under beautiful, clear skies that the many Japan-related performances and booths captivated families and local residents interested in Japanese culture. Our Consulate General shared at its booth information on the MEXT Scholarships and the JET Programme.

Additionally, Japanese baseball players from the Quebec Capitales participated in the event, thus deepening their ties with local fans. I am deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to the organization of this event.



JET Programme Farewell Cocktail

On the 31, a farewell reception was held for the 2026 Quebec and Atlantic JET Programme participants and the new MEXT Scholarship recipient to wish them, prior to their departure, success in their future endeavors in Japan.

After undergoing several months of preparation, training, and workshops provided by the JET Alumni Association Québec/Atlantic (JETAA Q/A) and the Consulate General's Montreal JET Desk, the JET Programme participants will play a vital role across Japan by teaching Japanese students learning English and



strengthening the bonds between Japan and Canada. Furthermore, the MEXT scholar will, through his research, deepen his understanding of Japan and contribute to a stronger friendship between the two countries. I wish them all the best in Japan.

Conferment of the Consul General of Japan Award to the Ice Academy of Montreal (I.AM)

Ice dancing, also known as ballroom dancing on ice, is one of the disciplines in Olympic figure skating.

Founded in 2014, the Ice Academy of Montreal (I.AM) is an institution specializing in the training of world-

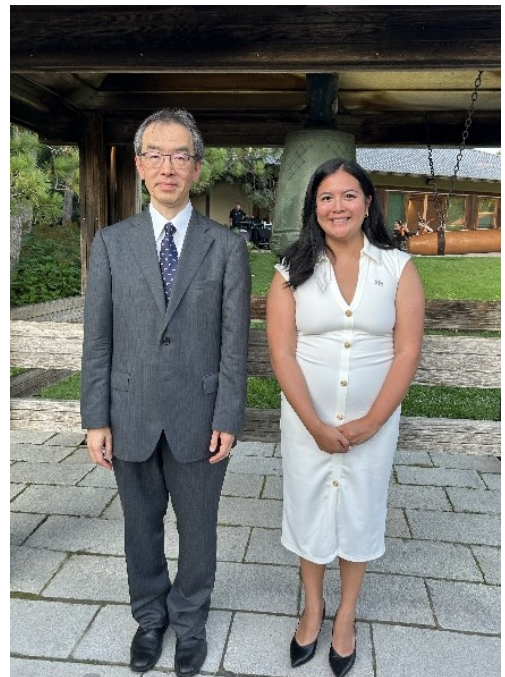


class ice dance athletes and coaches. The Academy, home over the years to many elite Japanese ice dancers who have achieved outstanding results, has significantly contributed to the success of Japanese athletes in the field of ice dancing. It is in recognition of these accomplishments that, on July 31, I conferred upon the Ice Academy of Montreal the Consul General of Japan Award. I have deep respect for its outstanding achievements to date.

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony

On the evening of August 5, I participated alongside Ms. Stéphanie Valenzuela, responsible for international outreach and attractiveness at the City of Montreal, in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony held at the Japanese Garden of the Montreal Botanical Garden. Together, we rang the Peace Bell at the exact time when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima 81 years ago and joined attendees in a moment of silence. The Peace Bell was donated by the City of Hiroshima to the City of Montreal 28 years ago. During the commemoration, a message from Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui was read in French, English, and Japanese.

The event drew many attendees, including members of the Federal Parliament and the National Assembly of Quebec, MRIF representatives, high school students from Hiroshima participating in a short-term study abroad program in Montreal, and a large number of local residents. Within this context of increasingly uncertain international security, the Consulate General of Japan reaffirms its wish for a world without nuclear weapons and renews its deepest condolences to the victims of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



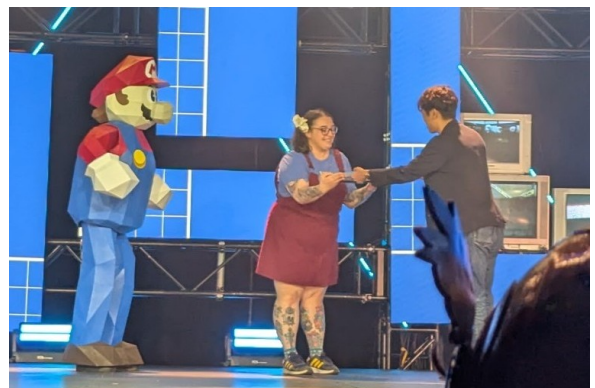
As we look ahead to the 30th anniversary of the sister-city relationship between Hiroshima and Montreal and the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Canada in 2028, I offer my thanks to the City of Montreal, which has organized this event for the past 28 years.



Otakuthon

Otakuthon, Montreal's largest annual Japanese pop culture convention, was held at the Palais des Congrès from August 7 to 9 and drew a record attendance of nearly 37,000 visitors. Throughout the event, numerous activities related to Japanese anime, manga, video games, and music were held, attracting large numbers of participants and making this 21st edition a resounding success.

Our Consulate General had a booth and gave a presentation on site to promote the JET Programme and MEXT Scholarships, introduced traditional Japanese culture through tea ceremony workshops organized by the Montreal Association of Chado Urasenke Tankokai and a judo demonstration by the Shidokan judo club, and



Message by Consul General Uchikawa (2026.07)

presented an introduction to Japanese language. Through these activities, we were able to showcase Japan's diverse appeal to the many visitors interested in its popular culture. In addition, the Consul General of Japan Award was presented at the annual Masquerade cosplay competition.

I would like to express my deepest respect and sincere gratitude to the many volunteers who contributed to this event.



International Jukendo Federation Seminar

From August 10 to 15, the International Jukendo & Tankendo Seminar was held in Montreal under the auspices of the International Jukendo Federation, with Deputy Consul General Yoshiaki Takaku attending its

opening ceremony. Seeing participants not only from Canada but also from Europe and Asia, it became obvious that jukendo is gaining popularity worldwide. In the metropolis, these sports are practiced by the Montréal Jukendo & Tankendo Club.

**In addition to the above, I was able to exchange ideas and opinions with various Japanese and Canadian people and organizations, making yet again for a very meaningful few weeks.*