

**COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
JAPAN-BHUTAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
3 – 5 November 2011**



Presented by:

Embassy of Japan
Japan Foundation
JICA Bhutan Office

In cooperation with:

Royal Government of Bhutan

SCHEDULE

Date/Day	Time	Venue	Events	Entry
3rd Nov (Thu)	10:00 hours	Paro College of Education	(1), (2)	By invitation
4th Nov (Fri)	10:00 hours	National Library, Thimphu	(1)	By invitation
	15:00 hours	Youth Development Centre, Thimphu	(1) ~ (3)	Free
5th Nov (Sat)	15:00 hours	Clock Tower, Thimphu	(1) ~ (5)	Free

- (1) Japanese Calligraphy Demonstration (2) Japanese Film Shows (3) Photo Panel Exhibition
(4) Yosakoi Japanese Dance (5) Judo Demonstration

JAPAN-BHUTAN RELATIONS

The diplomatic relations were established with the signing of Exchange of Notes between Japan and Bhutan on 28 March 1986. Even before the establishment of diplomatic relations, Japan International Cooperation Agency has been dispatching technical experts to Bhutan since 1964. Among those, Dasho Keiji Nishioka's enthusiastic contribution in Bhutan is well known.

The eventful twenty five years of friendly relationship witnessed the exchange of visits by high dignitaries between both countries, such as, H.I.H. Crown Prince Naruhito, T.I.H. Prince and Princess Akishino and Former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Makiko Kikuta to Bhutan and H.M. King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, H.R.H. Ashi Kezang Choden Wangchuck , H.R.H. Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck, Prime Minister Lyonchhen Jigmi Thinley, Chairperson of the National Council Lyonpo Namgye Penjor to Japan.

Celebrating the 25th anniversary, the following events will be organized jointly by Embassy of Japan, Japan Foundation, JICA Bhutan Office in cooperation with the Royal Government of Bhutan:

(1) JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY DEMONSTRATION BY YUJI YAMAMOTO



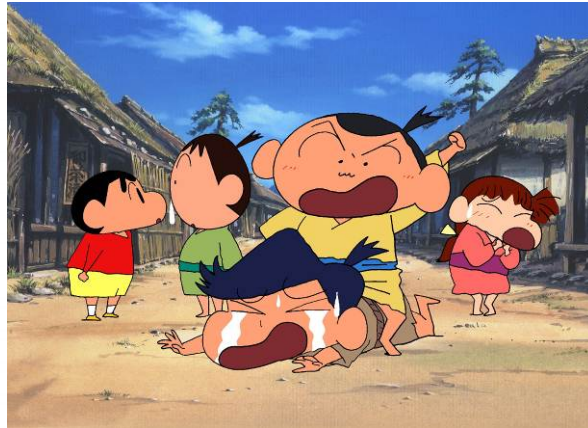
Yamamoto was born in Anjo city, Aichi Prefecture in 1981. He did his Masters in Fine Arts from Tsukuba University specializing Calligraphy. He is a member of Association for Calligraphic Studies. He has held lectures and exhibitions in Lithuania (2009), Chile (2011).

He captures 'Calligraphy' with the classical and pure view point and advocates the technique and theory of the calligraphy in an easy way. He always aims to bring grace and elegance in his works. As a calligrapher living in modern times, he developed many varieties in his calligraphic creations.

(2) JAPANESE FILM SHOWS

CRAYON SHIN CHAN: BRAVO! SAMURAI BATTLE (2002, 95 min.)

Directed by Keiichi HARA



After Shin chan and his family dream about a beautiful lady dressed as a feudal princess, their dog Shiro uncovers an ancient box of letters while tearing up the garden. Inside, they find a note written in Shin chan's clumsy script, but he can't remember writing it. Suddenly he finds himself transported to the chaos of Japan's Warring States Period. Will Shin chan's crazy antics save his new samurai friends and rewrite history?

BALLAD - BALLAD *namonaki koi no uta* (2009, 132min)

Director: Takashi YAMAZAKI



By sheer chance, Shinichi is transported back to 1574. His sudden arrival happens to save the life of Ijiri Matabee, a samurai general known as "Demon Ijiri". He finds that Matabee and Princess Ren, the daughter of his lord and a childhood friend, are in love with each other. But Princess Ren's beauty has become famous throughout the region, and Takatora, a fiery-tempered lord of a powerful domain, asks for her hand in marriage. She refuses, which results in a battle between the two domains.

(3) PHOTO-PANEL EXHIBITION

The familiar faces of Japanese experts and volunteers, living and working together with the locals at complete ease, is true reflection of the sincerity and dedication of Japanese cooperation in Bhutan. These photos depict the contributions made by Japanese experts and volunteers for economic development and promotion of goodwill.

(4) YOSAKOI - JAPANESE DANCE PERFORMANCE



Yosakoi is a unique style of dance that originated in Japan. Yosakoi started in the city of Kōchi in 1954, as a modern rendition of Awa Odori, a traditional summer dance, performed by men and women of all ages. The style of dance is highly energetic, combining traditional Japanese dance movements with modern music. The choreographed dances are often performed by large teams. Yosakoi is also a popular event during the sports festivals.

(5) JUDO DEMONSTRATION



Judo meaning "gentle way" is a modern martial art and combat sport created in Japan in 1882 by Jigoro Kano. Its most prominent feature is its competitive element, where the object is to either throw or takedown one's opponent to the ground, immobilize or otherwise subdue one's opponent with a grappling maneuver, or force an opponent to submit by joint locking or by executing a strangle hold or choke.