

# Japan Studies Association of Canada (JSAC)

カナダ日本研究学会



Spring 2015

## Table of Contents

2014 JSAC Conference Report	2
Where in Japan?	2
2015 JSAC Annual Conference in Japan	4
2015 JSAC AGM Agenda	5
Members News	5
Interview with Jon Heese	10
Education Corner	11
A Message from Professor Masako Iino (Tsuda College)	18
JSAC Executive 2015-2016	19

Dear JSAC Members and Friends.

I am writing this at the start of Golden Week in Japan. The e-mail messages from my Japanese friends and colleagues have already 'gone quiet' as many are travelling and commencing their holiday, some to exotic overseas destinations such as Hawaii and Australia. Tokyo's academic, bureaucratic and commercial offices appear to be emptying out. Not so in Canada. Norio Ota (based in Kamakura) and I, together with various hardworking research assistants are hurrying to finish the Program for the JSAC 2015 Conference in Tokyo coming up very soon! Some preliminary information on what is in store on that front is included later in this Newsletter.

With teaching responsibilities over for another academic year our scholarly activities turn in other directions, typically spring and summer research activities, conferences and fieldwork. How is it for you? Last week I attended a workshop of geographers in Chicago who

were interested in the impact of the 'rise of China' on Japan (among several other Pacific Rim countries). My own comments explored how Japan-China relations represent such an interesting paradox. Commercial ties are very strong – just think of all the iPhone and Galaxy phones assembled in China with made-in-Japan high-tech image sensors and display units. But politics. Ah! I listened to Mr. Abe talk in Washington on NHK just a couple of days ago. He made a speech in English to the US Congress that mentioned both the Pacific War and the issue of 'comfort women'. It seemed to go down very well. I wish he would make the same speech in Asia.

Finally, please inspect the JSAC web site, [www.jsac.ca](http://www.jsac.ca), as our webmaster Norio Ota has been busy assembling a range of interesting articles by JSAC members, interviews, conference proceedings and online lectures.

I look forward to seeing you in Tokyo in May.

David W. Edgington, President JSAC

## 2014 JSAC Conference Report

The Ted Rogers School of Management (TRSM) at Ryerson University hosted a productive, thought-provoking and enjoyable 2014 JSAC Conference, October 17 to 19. More than 80 participants gathered to share their ideas about Japan and Japanese, catch up with old friends and build new links. The theme, “Designing Japan: Innovation in a post-growth society” was addressed in several talks and conversations.

The keynote lecture, “Greeting the dead: Managing solitary existence in Japan”, was delivered by Anne Allison of Duke University. Dr. Allison skillfully painted a poignant picture of lonely aged in Japan, drawing on her observations, interviews and analyses of popular media representations of this phenomenon.

### Where in Japan?

The picture in our last newsletter was of Mount Rishiri, Hokkaido. Did you guess correctly? Where is this picture from? The answer will be given in the Fall 2015 edition of the JSAC Newsletter.



Panels on planning in post-growth cities added further insights to life in Japan, which faces challenges all developed countries will all soon encounter. Peter Matanle, of the University of Sheffield, in his presentation on the dynamics of growth and shrinkage in Japan, stressed that rapid growth is not returning to Japan. Therefore policy-makers should accept and embrace the fact of declining populations, and adjust planning accordingly.

As usual there was an eclectic mix of sessions. Japanese language teachers as usual had a strong presence, and historians offered insights from the past. David Welch of the Japan Futures Initiative at the University of Waterloo arranged a very interesting panel on Japan, post 3/11 featuring Masato Kimura (Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Foundation), Masayuki Tadokoro (Keio University) and Gil Latz (Indiana-Purdue). A related session discussed the future of nuclear energy in Japan in light of the Fukushima Daiichi disaster.

Notably post graduate students from the University of Toronto, and UBC and Tsukuba University shared their work. Fortuitously, undergraduate students from the University of Toronto and York University, both which were organizing Japan seminars in the winter 2015 term took part. We enjoyed the energy they bring to the study of Japan.

The Klaus Pringsheim award for graduate students was shared by a Masters student, Kazuki Kawamura of Tsukuba University (“Place attachment and empty-house problems: Comparison of suburban neighbourhoods in the Tokyo metropolitan area”) and Grant Jun Otsuki (“Making ‘ba’ work smoothly: Post-growth discourses at the intersection of biology and information technology”). Congratulations!



We were pleased that so many Japan Foundation staff, including several from outside Toronto and Canada, could participate. It was interesting to learn about their activities promoting Japan studies in other places, and their impressions on what is happening in Canada.

The weekend was rounded out by lively social events. A welcome reception included remarks from the Consul-General Yasunori Nakayama, Japan Foundation Canada Director Takashi Ishida and Ryerson Vice President of Research and Innovation, Wendy Cukier. Ryerson, in the heart of downtown Toronto, provided a very urban setting.

The informal dinner at Alio, just down the street from the conference site, was a great mixer. A JSAC member said “It’s great to see all the sensei’s enjoying each other’s company!” A local izakaya offered a taste of Japan for the most committed.

In sum, the Conference served to sustain the network of Japan scholars in Canada. We are able to exchange views and insights, and returned, invigorated, to our home institutions to continue our work. Many thanks to the Japan Foundation and Ryerson’s Office of the Vice President Research and Innovation and the Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson for their generous financial support.

**By Jim Tiessen, Associate Professor and Director of the School of Health Services Management, Ryerson University**



## 2015 JSAC Annual Conference in Japan

### *“Culture, Identity and Citizenship in Japan and Canada”*

This conference will take place over four days in May (20th-23<sup>rd</sup>) in Tokyo, in conjunction with the Japanese Association for Canadian Studies (JACS) and the Japan-Canada Interdisciplinary Research Network on Gender, Diversity and Tohoku Reconstruction (JCIRN).

**Locations:** Embassy of Canada in Tokyo, Japan (20-22 May);  
Chuo University, Ichigaya campus Tokyo, Japan (23 May).

This is the first time that JSAC has held its Annual Conference outside of Canada. I am delighted that we were able to pursue a ‘dream’ by a few of us at the 2013 Conference at Saskatoon to meet in 2015 with scholars of JACS and JCIRN, and to hold a truly international conference on Japanese-Canadian Studies in Tokyo on the theme of “Culture, Identity and Citizenship in Japan and Canada”. Under this theme the three organizations have worked together to arrange Panels on many related issues, such as ‘Citizenship and Diversity in Contemporary Japan and Canada’, ‘Business and Culture’, and ‘Identity and Japan’s Foreign and Security Policy’. These and other Panel sessions at the Canadian Embassy and Chuo University Ichigaya campus will allow exchange of scholarly ideas between leading experts in Japan and Canada (for a Draft Program follow the links on [www.jsac.ca](http://www.jsac.ca)).

JSAC has its traditional Keynote and Reception on the first day (Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May) at the Canadian Embassy. Mr. Jon Heese (former Councilor of Tsukuba city) will give a provocative talk on English language

policies in Japan entitled: “English is Spoken Here: The Challenge of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics”. Our JSAC Annual General Meeting will take place at lunchtime on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May.

The joint organizations’ Banquet sponsored by Manulife is later on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May. Finally, we have a JSAC Field Trip organized by Dr. Tom Waldichuk, exploring the urban fringe at Tsukuba city on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

## 2015 JSAC AGM Agenda

*JSAC Annual General Meeting*  
*12:00-1:00 pm*  
*Thursday May 21st, 2015*  
*Executive Dining Room (EDR)*  
*Embassy of Canada, Tokyo*

1. Welcome - DE
2. Review minutes from the 2014 AGM
3. President’s Address - DE
4. 2014 JSAC Conference Report - JT
5. 2015 JSAC Conference – DE
6. 2016 JSAC Conference Arrangements - AS
7. Membership and Financial Report - NO
8. Any other business, announcements etc.
9. Adjournment.

## Members News

**Ken Coates** (former JSAC President, Professor, Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan) was a recipient of the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation (2014) bestowed due to his contributions to the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Canada

**Millie Creighton** (Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of British Columbia) has a number of new publications:

- (2014) ‘Emergent Japanese Discourses on Minorities, Race, Culture, Identity’, *Global Ethnographic*, 2, 1-30;
- (2015). Civil Society Volunteers Supporting Japan's Constitution, Article 9 and Associated Peace, Diversity, and Post 3.11 Environmental Issues. *Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*. 26(1), 121-143. (This article also exists in an online first version from International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations. pp. 1-25. DOI 10.1007/s11266-014-9479-5. The online first version preceded hard copy of journal, available via Open Access, JSTOR);

- (2015) 'Postscript 59: The Social and Soulful Lives of Things–Millie Creighton On Yuji Agematsu.' *Artspeak Exhibition Article and Commentary*, Vancouver, BC: Artspeak Gallery (accessible via Artspeak site uploads).
- (Forthcoming) 'Wasuren!–We Won't Forget! The Work of Remembering and Commemorating Japan's and Tohoku's 2011 (3.11) Triple Disasters in Local Cities and Communities', *Journal of Global Initiatives*, 9(1).

Millie Creighton was interviewed for and quoted in an article appearing in the *Globe and Mail*, Thursday, March 26, 2015 entitled, 'McGill Program Empowers Women in Japan', by Darah Hansen.

Millie Creighton was re-elected and unanimously re-affirmed as the Vice-President for the British Columbia regional organization of the Japanese Tea Ceremony, which is headquartered in Vancouver (Vancouver Urasenke Branch) at its Annual General Meeting on January 25, 2015.

**Michael Donnelly** (*Emeritus Professor of Political Science, University of Toronto*).

In November 2014 the Emperor of Japan conferred upon Professor Emeritus Michael Donnelly of the University of Toronto the "Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon" for fostering greater understanding of Japan among Canadians, and developing avenues for increased academic exchange between Japan and Canada. The formal conferment ceremony was held in Toronto in January 2015.

**David W. Edgington** (*Professor, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia*) made a number of presentations recently including, 'How Safe is Safe? Radiation Issues in Fukushima, Japan', Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers Meeting, Kamloops British Columbia, March 2015. He helped to organize a number of special events to mark the 3.11 disaster in Japan, including a lunchtime Workshop and afternoon screening of a documentary film.

A recent publication is (2014) 'Local Government Emergency Response Following the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster' in J. Kovalio (ed.) "JAPAN: Facing Major Natural and International Challenges in the 21st Century. Proceedings of the 25th and 26th annual conferences of the Japan Studies Association of Canada [JSAC] / Association canadienne d'études sur le Japon, Ottawa, JSAC, 1-25.

**Stephen Nagy** (*Associate Professor, Politics and International Relations, International Christian University*)

has a number of recent/forthcoming publications:

- (Forthcoming) 'Balancing Trade and Security Relationships in the Asia Pacific: The Advent of a Trilateral Seikei Bunri Relationship between Japan, China, and the U.S.', *Journal of Asian Politics and History*. Spring, Number 4.

- (Forthcoming) 'The Advent of Liberal Democratic Multiculturalism?: A Case Study of Multicultural Coexistence Policies in Japan.' *Electronic Journal of Contemporary Japanese Studies* 1(1).
- (Forthcoming) 'Future Trends of Inter-Regionalism in East Asia', *Japanese Studies-Frontier*, International Christian University, Tokyo, 61-80.

Recent conference presentations include:

'Regionalism in Northeast Asia: Norm and Institution Building based on Environmental Cooperation', March 19, 2015, Chinese University of Hong Kong; 'Japan-China Mutual Re-balancing Strategies in an Era of Structural Change: Examining the Strategic Enmeshment in Trade Pacts in Northeast Asia by Japan and China', March 5-6, 2015, Nordic Association of Japanese Studies, Lund, Sweden; 'Mutual accommodation in Northeast Asia: A comparative examination of Japan-China mutual re-balancing strategies 北東アジアに於ける相互の適合 : 日本及び中国の相互リバランス戦略を事例をとして', International Association of Japanese Studies, Kyoto Women's University. December 14, 2014; 'Japan-China Bilateral relations, Territorial Disputes and Shifting Business Sentiments on China: A Case Study of Japanese Business Investment Changes in China Following the 2012 Territorial Friction', The 5th Annual Conference of the International Association for Asia Pacific Studies, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) East and North-East Asia Office (ENEA), Incheon, Republic of Korea. November 27-28, 2014.

Media interviews:

- 'Japanese Hostage Situation' <http://video.cnn.com/gallery/?video=3000350576>;
- 'Hostage Killings Highlight Threat, Meager Options for Japan', [http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/02/02/world/asia/ap-as-japan-islamic-state-limited-options.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/02/02/world/asia/ap-as-japan-islamic-state-limited-options.html?_r=0);
- 'Japan Held Hostage by Its World View in Islamic State Crisis', <http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1695112/japan-held-hostage-its-world-view>.

**Brian Pendleton** (*Professor Emeritus, Asian Studies, Langara College*) retired in January after 40 years of college and university teaching and administration, but continues to teach one course at Simon Fraser University in the Asia-Canada Program. In October 2014 he presented a paper at the North American Japanese Gardens Association (NAJGA) Conference, hosted by the Chicago Botanic Garden. Brian will spend a month researching gardens in Korea and Japan before the JSAC conference in Tokyo.

**David A. Welch** (*Professor of Political Science, Senior Fellow CIGI*) has made a number of presentations:

'Why Do the Neighbours Fear a 'Normal' Japan?' Presentation to the Japan Symposium, Glendon College, York University, Toronto, ON, March 29, 2015; 'Improving Security Governance in a Context of Misperception and

Mistrust: The Case of East Asia' (with Benoit Hardy-Chartrand). Presentation, Centre for International Governance Innovation, Waterloo, ON, February 10, 2015; 'Northeast Asian Security: Canada's Potential Contribution'. Presentation to the 12th Canada-Korea Forum, Busan, Korea, October 17, 2014;

David's recent publications include:

- (2014) 'The Dangerous False Fear of Japanese Militarism', *Asahi Shimbun*, October 4, <http://ajw.asahi.com/article/views/opinion/AJ201410040020>.
- (2015) 'Unhappy Anniversary.' *CIGI Asia-Pacific Security Blog* no. 19, February 27.
- (2015) 'How to Fix Japan-Korea relations (Part 3 of 3).' *CIGI Asia-Pacific Security Blog* no. 16, January 13.
- (2014) 'How to fix Japan-Korea relations (Part 2 of 3).' *CIGI Asia-Pacific Security Blog* no. 12, October 14.
- (2014) 'How to fix Japan-Korea relations (Part 1 of 3)'. *CIGI Asia-Pacific Security Blog* no. 10, September 12.

**Noriko Yabuki-Soh** (*Assistant Professor, Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, York University*) has published 'Nihongo gakushuusha, bogowasha ni yoru sutoorii teringu chuu de no rentai shuushokusetsu no yoohoo [The use of noun-modifying clauses in storytelling by L2 learners and native speakers of Japanese]. *Gengobunka to Nihongo Kyooiku [Japanese Language Education]* 46, 1-10.

Recent conference presentations include: 'A Comparative Analysis of Narrative Strategies: Mental Representations in L1 English and L2 Japanese Compositions'. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of Association canadienne de linguistique appliquée /Canadian Association of Applied Linguistics (ACLA/CAAL 2013), Brock University, St. Catherines, Canada, May 26-28, 2014; 'Deictic Expressions in L2 narratives in Japanese: The Case of Demonstratives and Donatory Verbs'. Paper presented at the Annual International Conference of the Japanese Society for Language Sciences (JSLs 2014), Bunkyo University, Saitama, Japan, June 28-29, 2014; 'Development of "Kanji Lists" for university JFL courses'. Poster co-presented with K. Inutsuka at the annual conference of the Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education (CAJLE 2014), Best Western Ville-Marie Hotel & Suites, Montreal, Canada, August 20-21, 2014; 'Narrative Strategies in First and Second Language Japanese Storytelling Compositions'. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Japan Studies Association of Canada (JSAC 2014), Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, October 16-19, 2014.

Invited talk: 'Nihongo kyooshi no tame no gengogaku kiso chishiki' [Introductory linguistics for Japanese language teachers]. Talk given at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Toronto, Canada, December 14.

Other service included: Organizing the 32nd Ontario Japanese Speech Contest held at University of Toronto, Canada, March 8, 2015.



**Kimie Hara** (Professor; Director of East Asian Studies, University of Waterloo) has two new publications: Kimie Hara ed., "The San Francisco System and Its Legacies: Continuation, Transformation and Historical Reconciliation in the Asia-Pacific, Routledge, January 2015; and Tim Liao, Kimie Hara, Krista Wiegand eds., "China-Japan Border Disputes: Islands of Contention in Multidisciplinary Perspective", Rethinking Asia and International Relations Series, Ashgate, May 2015.

**Jacob Kovalio** (Associate Professor, Department of History, Carleton University) has made a number of presentations including "Confronting China's New Order in East Asia : Japan, 70 Years after the End of the Pacific War," at the INDEPTH Annual Symposium on "Japan Embattled - a Nation in Transition," University of Toronto, February 28, 2015. 2; a presentation on "Japan and the Geo-Strategic Situation in Asia Pacific" at a Japan Symposium: "Shining a Light on the Land of the Rising Sun", at Glendon College, York University, March 28, 2015. Both of these events were organized by students, and were a wonderful example for other institutions in Canada and beyond.

**Bill Sewell** (Associate Professor, Department of History, St. Mary's University) hosted a JSAC/Japan Foundation Toronto/SMU presentation in February, 2015, by Jeff Alexander (History, University of Wisconsin) on "Brewed in Japan", based on Dr. Alexander's latest book.

Please send your updates for the Autumn 2015 Newsletter to

[david.edgington@ubc.ca](mailto:david.edgington@ubc.ca)

## Interview with Jon Heese

I recently met up with Jon Heese, who will be our JSAC Keynote speaker at the Tokyo Conference in May. Jon, who is from Saskatchewan, is a Japanese citizen. He is one of the few 'foreigner' politicians in Japan and has been a Tsukuba City Councillor. Last year he ran (unsuccessfully) for election in the Ibaraki Prefecture Assembly. Jon will make his presentation on the theme of 'English is Spoken Here: The Challenge of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics'.

**D.E.** Jon, tell me something about yourself. How did you come to live in Japan?

**J.H.** I am originally from a fly speck of a village just south of Swift Current, SK. After high school I spent 2 years bumming around Europe. Upon graduating from the University of Regina (Music Education) in 1991 I jumped on a plane to Japan a few months later. My education degree was more a ticket to excitement than anything else. I have an adventurer's heart, it seems.

**J.H.** As for why Japan, well, that was more just something many people did around then. Japan was booming, in their bubble at that time. Many of my classmates ended up in Japan after graduation. Most returned to Canada but a few of us are still here.

**D.E.** When did you decide to become a Japanese citizen?

**J.H.** I naturalized when I decided I wanted to get into politics. It sounds unflattering to be so self-serving, but it was one of the hoops that needed to be jumped through. I have no regrets but I have to admit, giving up Canadian citizenship is not something one does lightly. To be blunt, my heart is in Japan and had been for a long time before I made the decision to go all in. Politics only provided the push I needed.

**D.E.** What were your goals when you were a councillor at Tsukuba City?

**J.H.** I saw myself as someone who could present policies, programs and plans that other cities around the world had used to address similar issues. I also tried to address problems that I'd encountered in my daily life in Tsukuba. I know plenty of foreigners who struggle because of their illiteracy so I tried to get the city to use icons rather than kanji, for example. As for specific policies, I did my best to get the city to renew the many cycle paths around the city. I also pushed for solar panels and other green policies.



**D.E.** What do you remember most about the electioneering campaign for a position on the Assembly at Ibaraki prefecture in September 2015?

**J.H.** City elections are actually very civilized with almost no mudslinging amongst council candidates. The election system makes mudslinging pointless so it was quite a surprise to hear the complete BS that was being said about me by other prefectural candidates. It was said I couldn't read any Japanese, for example. Or that I hadn't asked a single question of the administration in council meetings. That in spite of having served as vice chair of Health & Welfare as well as the Construction committees and chair of the newsletter committee. The actual campaigning was very similar to city campaigns, just a lot fewer candidates. I found out later it was only one candidate who was the primary liar-in-chief so it was disappointing to lose the election, especially by a relatively small margin, but satisfying to kick his butt anyway!

## Education Corner

**Millie Creighton (Department of Anthropology, University of British Columbia) discusses the Opening of an Innovative New University Credit Course on 'Chado', Japanese Tea Ceremony, a First for Canada.**



April signifies opening and awakening. In Japan, January first as the day now celebrated as New Year's Day, Oshogatsu, marks the beginning of things. However, April first also signifies the beginning of things. It marks a beginning of spring with the awakening of buds of leaves and flowers, the beginning of company employment for new *shain* (company members), the opening of the school year, and it is associated with the opening of cherry blossoms accompanied by *hanami* or flower viewing gatherings. On April 1, 2015 university students from a class of 25 involved in a special embedded learning of chanoyu, often called The Japanese Tea Ceremony in English, arrived at Nitobe Garden on the University of British Columbia's Vancouver campus to take part in their first actual *chakai* or Japanese Tea Ceremony. In groups of about eight students each, they walked through the garden they had now grown more familiar with, and then waited together in the *machiai* or garden waiting area. Each group selected from among their members a first guest and a last guest. To begin their session each group of eight removed footwear and wearing white socks (to signify Japanese *tabi*) entered the Tea House and the tatami mat room on their right foot and walked in the style they had practiced to their places, sat in *seiza* style, and performed their roles as guests. They knew how to greet the host and each other, how to bow while seated on the tatami mat floor, how to handle utensils, how to receive the sweets and *matcha*. The Japanese Tea Ceremony highlights seasonal and place associations. Seasonal associations for this Tea Ceremony included those from both Japan and Canada. A dry Japanese sweet with a ginkgo leaf pattern on it was accompanied by marshmallow bunnies—an association of spring in Canada—in neon pink colour, on a lacquer tray passed by each student guest to the next and consumed before drinking the *matcha* that was prepared for each of them.



Although this was their first actual *chakai*, the students had been preparing for it for months as part of a new innovative course created and initiated by myself (Dr. Millie Creighton) at the University of British Columbia. Believed to be the first of its kind in Canada (some similar courses have existed at a few universities in the United States), it is a full three credit university course that combines academic lectures and discussions in the classroom, with learning and practice of doing Japanese Tea Ceremony in *Ichiboan* the Tea House (a contribution to the University of British Columbia by Japan's Urasenke Foundation of tea ritual) within Nitobe Garden, along with extensive learning about the garden. In the classroom students learn Japanese history in relation to the Tea Ceremony, related Japanese aesthetic and philosophical concepts, including Zen, geographical concepts of place and space, and anthropological analyses of how the Tea Ceremony reflects

gender, class, and status, or is used in social networking. During embedded practice within the Tea House, students learn how to bow to each other, how to handle the *fukusa*, or ritual silk cloth, to walk, sit, and stand, use or pass utensils appropriately.

The University of British Columbia's current slogan is "A Place of Mind". This slogan might suggest a Western dualism of Mind and Body. This new innovative course embraces greater possibilities of the slogan by using actual places (Nitobe Garden and *Ichiboan* the Japanese Tea House), while merging learning both through the mind and mental engagement with learning through the body in actual practice of the Japanese Tea Ceremony. This draws the slogan into greater alignment with the Japanese or Asian non-duality of Mind and Body. In Japanese the same character, read as *kokoro* (or *shin*), means Mind/Heart/Body and encompasses both mental and physical aspects of human existence, along with emotional aspects, rather than positioning a division among them. This is the second year the course has been taught for credit under a generic code and number. From next academic year it will be offered as a credit course with its own title and code number based in the Department of Anthropology at UBC

This photo was taken at an event hosted by the Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver, at which members of the Urasenke Vancouver Branch of *chado* or *chanoyu*, often called The Japanese Tea Ceremony in English, performed the ritual for gathered guests. Appearing in the photo left to right are: Mr. Evan Koike, Ph.D. student in Anthropology at UBC, Dr. Millie Creighton, a professor in the Department of Anthropology at UBC, Mr. Seiji Okada, Consul General of Japan in Vancouver, and wife Yasuko Okada, and Ms. Chizuru Kinjo an undergraduate student in Anthropology at UBC from Okinawa, Japan. Dr. Millie Creighton has created and initiated a new university credit course on The Japanese Tea Ceremony at UBC, believed to be the first of its kind in Canada, and Mr. Evan Koike and Ms. Chizuru Kinjo (both student participant in JSAC) were students in it the first time it was taught.



(Photo by Koichi Saito)

*Creating a new Honours Minor Degree program in Japanese Studies at York University, By Norio Ota, York University*

### **Language as an independent discipline**

Most degree programs in Japanese Studies are a part of East Asian Studies. The underlying assumption is that a language program should serve area studies. In this model a language program has not been given a chance to grow as a full-fledged program. In recent years, the language programs have started walking on their own, while the East Asian Studies programs have been on a decline. Students who wish to become fluent in the target language have increased in number, but universities have failed to create competent language speakers for a long time. As a language professional, I wanted to 'liberate' the language programs and help them to stand on their own as independent disciplines.

### **Language in Liberal Arts**

Languages are considered to play a major role in Liberal Arts education, but how? What is the discipline involved in language teaching and learning? In my view cross-cultural education and experience is at least one of the disciplines a language program can offer. I would add acquisition of a new identity as well. I planned to set up a degree program in Japanese Studies based on this objective about ten years ago. The following is a list of achievements for preparing for a degree program.

- Web/server-based course and material development
- Developing distance education courses
- Students' outstanding performance in extra-curricular activities such as speech contests
- Securing a large enrollment
- Hosting the Japanese Proficiency Test
- Increasing the number of full-time faculty members
- Winning external funding
- Supporting exchange programs
- Internationalization – project in Cuba
- Community services
- Involvement in secondary education
- Internal and external networking
- Research activities
- Accommodating students' needs
- Holistic planning and great patience and endeavor
- Internal and external support

Foreign language programs have been receiving second-class citizenship in post-secondary education. There are three main reasons for this.

1. Lack of understanding regarding the development of foreign/second language teaching and learning among colleagues, who base their assessment on their own experience of language instruction.
2. Language professionals have failed to implement new theories and strategies developed in SLA/FLA.
3. Language programs are treated in the same way as other programs.

In Canada, students are in class for only six months out of the year, excluding summer courses. Most students forget what they have learned in the previous year, when they return in September, and as a result a substantial portion of the first semester is spent in review. The level of proficiency ends up being at the level of advanced intermediate level at best after four years of study. Most students cannot afford taking post intermediate courses due to the restriction of the number of electives they can select.

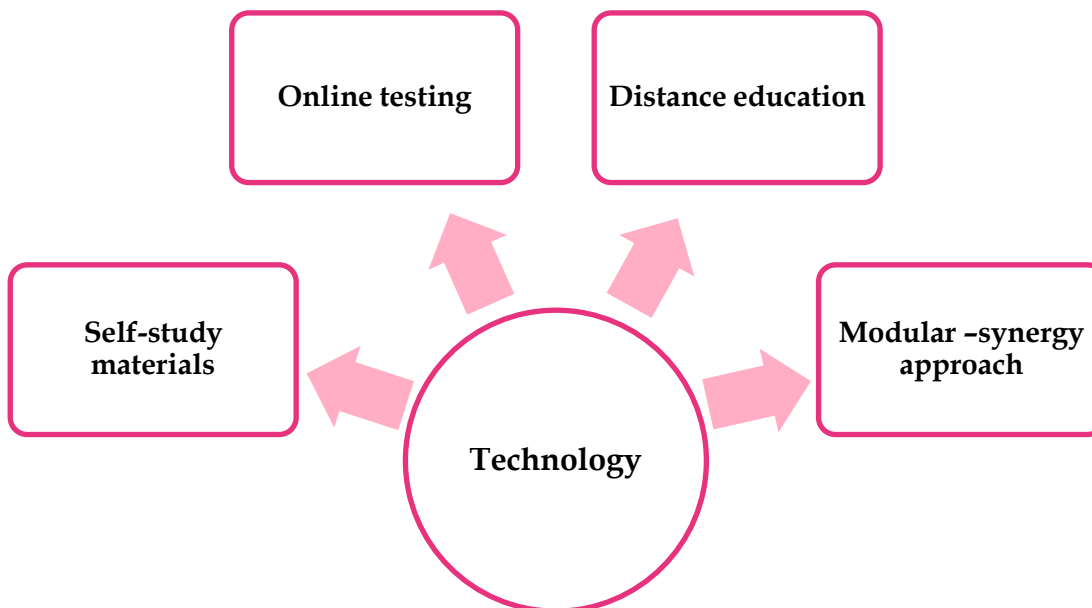
The solutions to this situation at York University have been:

1. Developing online self-study materials for review and preparation
2. Promoting exchange programs for one-year study in Japan
3. Supporting extra-curricular activities such as speech contests and the Japanese Language Proficiency Test
4. Creating opportunities for experiential education (EE), such as internship and co-op programs
5. Developing a degree program

### **Paradigm shift in foreign language teaching and learning:**

It is important to articulate a theoretical framework for a new degree program. Ota (2013) presents such a core framework for second language acquisition using the concept of washback. This kind of research helps to change the understanding of language learning and teaching among colleagues in different disciplines, which is often based on their experience in learning foreign languages. Needless to say, this is mainly due to poor quality of teaching, based on the former paradigm of language teaching and learning. With the advent of IT, the

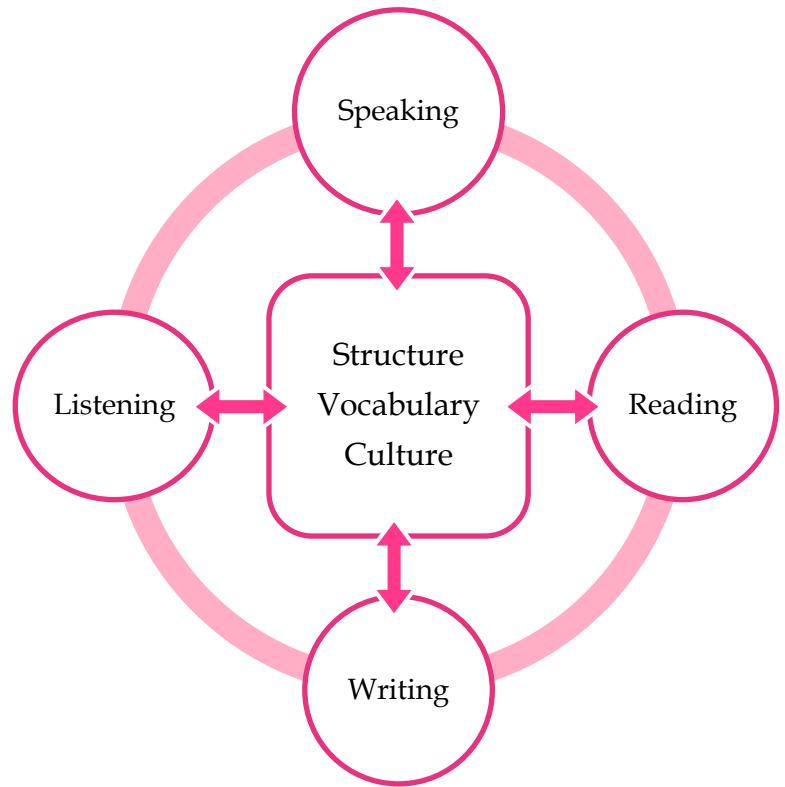
paradigm has shifted immensely since the instructors studied foreign languages. To educate one's colleagues in different disciplines regarding SLA as a clear and established discipline is particularly important to get their support for a new degree program.



*What technology has made possible*

## Modular-Synergy approach

- No core textbook
- Authoring instructional materials for specific purposes
- Each module has its own syllabus.
- Modules enhance synergistic effects.
- Developing materials to enhance synergy
- Personalizing instructional materials
- Developing internally condensed materials for short study period
- Communicative-empathic approach
- Content-based language learning
- Language learning for university education
- Taking advantage of extra-curricular activities
- Increasing accessibility via the Internet
- Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL)
- Multi-dimensional – involving distant learners
- Empowering language professionals and learner



*Module and Synergy*

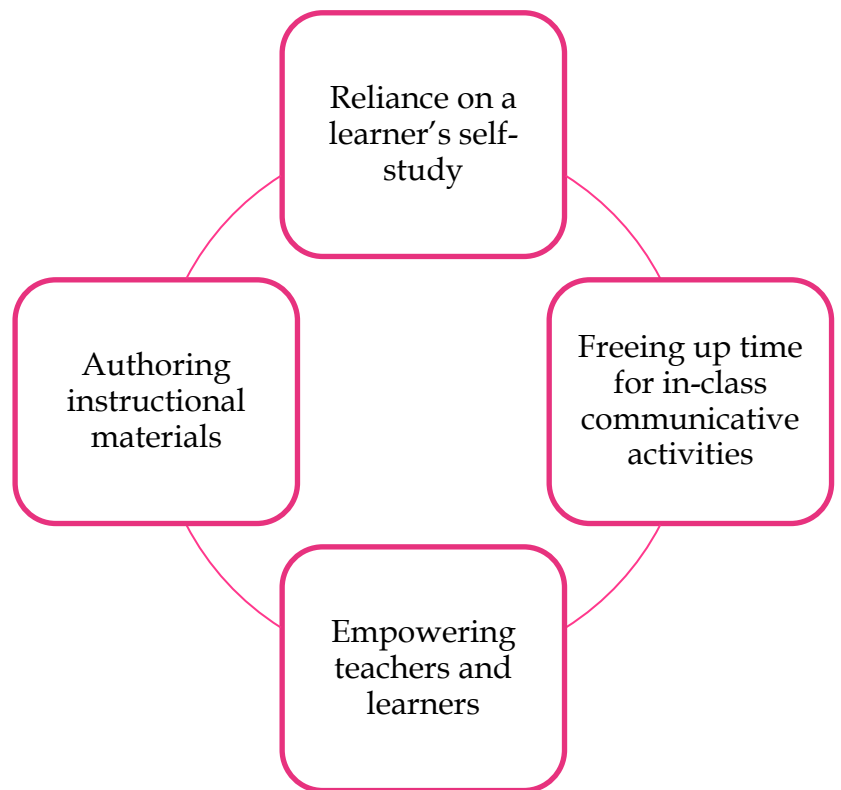
## Administrative processes:

At the time of submission of the first proposal for a degree program in 2010, the enrollment of Japanese was approximately 450 and four full-time faculty members (2 tenured, 1 tenure-track and one CLA) plus one part-time faculty. Originally a proposal for an honours minor degree program was submitted, but I was encouraged to rewrite it for a major degree program. My proposal was supported by the departmental coordinators, but the dean's office indicated that they would support only a minor degree program. It took four years since submission of the first proposal until the commencement of the program, but this would not have been possible without a few strong allies. I fought this battle very hard and never gave up, mainly because I wanted to create a strong hold for my colleagues and students for further development of a major degree program in the future. I won this after thirty years of service at York University, and am still wondering why it had to take so long. I managed and developed the program to its current level with external funding, excellent success in students' activities, focus on internationalization, community service, and research activities. Under the current rules and regulations it appears impossible to create a degree program. I think raising a hurdle is reasonable to ensure the quality of instruction and education, but not many people would even try what I had done.



**Conclusion - What worked:**

- Holistic planning and much patience and endeavor
- Internal and external networking and support
- Accommodating students' needs
- Empowering colleagues
- Showing results
- Creative, innovative and risk-taking
- Taking advantage of opportunities
- Securing a large enrollment
- Creating and adopting new strategies and approaches
- Obtaining external funding in order to increase the number of full-time faculty – Tanaka Fund
- Success in students' extra-curricular activities – speech contests
- Pioneering TEL projects – web-based course and material development, distance education via video-conferencing, online testing, online seminars
- Internationalization – exchange programs, JET program, technical cooperation to Cuba
- Research activities – hosting and attending international and domestic conferences
- Spearheading in Experiential Education (EE) – summer internship and co-op programs
- Community involvement – participating in post-secondary education, hosting the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), online seminar for high school teachers



*Essence of new paradigm*

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## A Message from Professor Masako Iino (Tsuda College)

Masako Iino (Past President, Tsuda College) will make the Japanese Association for Canadian Studies (JACS) Keynote Address at the JSAC/JACS/JCIRN Conference in May 2015 in Tokyo. Her talk is entitled: "Japanese Canadians and Their Identity".

“It is my great honour to be part of the 2015 JSAC/JACS/JCIRN Conference on “Culture, Identity and Citizenship” to be held in Tokyo in May. I look forward to meeting you all.

I have been a member of the Japanese Association for Canadian Studies (JACS), a counterpart of JSAC across the Pacific, since it was established late in the 1970's. The first work I was involved in, with other members of JACS, was translation of *The Pelican History of Canada* by Kenneth McNaught (1969) into Japanese, which was published in Japan in 1977. What a long time has passed since then! All these years, learning about Canada, a very attractive country, has been a very rewarding experience for me. I also realize to learn about Canada is one way to learn about our own country, Japan, as well.

I am looking forward to having another opportunity of learning more about Canada and Japan at the 2015 JSAC/JACS/JCIRN Conference in Tokyo in May.”

**Professor Masako Iino**



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