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Press Release

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Japanese “Arctic Fact-finding Mission” in March 2015**

25 May 2015

A third “Arctic Fact-finding Mission” led by the Ambassador of Japan in Finland will take place from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May this year.

In 2012 and 2013 LNG was transported from Hammerfest (Norway) directly to the ports in Japan along the Northern Sea Route. Among the business circles in both Finland and Japan, there has been increasing interest and expectation towards the Arctic areas, naturally providing opportunities for business cooperation between the two countries. Finland and Japan are positioned at the western and eastern rims of the Eurasian continent, locations of strategic significance on the Arctic sea route. Both countries pursue sustainable development of the Arctic sea, an area open for all interested countries and actors. Both countries have developed and accumulated arctic-related knowledge and technology: Finland, subject to a harsh natural environment from its northern location, and Japan, whose northern areas are similarly exposed to severe cold climate.

In light of such prospects, in June 2014 and March 2015, the Embassy of Japan in Finland arranged two “Arctic Fact-finding Missions”, consisting of representatives of Japanese research institutes and businesses. The goal of each mission was to get a comprehensive overview of the potential that the Arctic area, in particular, Finnish Lapland and Northern Norway, held. As a follow-up to these missions, a third “Arctic Fact-finding Missions” led by the Ambassador of Japan to Finland, H.E. Mr. Kenji Shinoda, will be arranged from 25<sup>th</sup> May through to 29<sup>th</sup> May. The mission will consist of approximately 10 members, including business and academic representatives. The delegation members represent various industries, including shipping, space, energy, chemical and trade.

The mission will begin with a Finland-Japan Arctic Seminar, co-organized by Finpro and the Embassy on 25<sup>th</sup> May. The mission will continue its program in Rovaniemi, Kemijärvi, Salla, Sodankylä and Inari to overview the potentials of the Arctic region through visits to the Lapland Chamber of Commerce, Keitele Wood Products Oy, Sodankylä Satellite Data Center, and FQM Kevitsa Mining Oy, among others. The mission will end its journey in the northern areas of Norway (Kirkenes and Hammerfest), where members will visit facilities in the energy and shipping sectors.

For further information, please contact Yukiko Nakahari, Head of Public Relations & Cultural Affairs, Embassy of Japan (090-686 0200 / [culture@hk.mofa.go.jp](mailto:culture@hk.mofa.go.jp)).

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