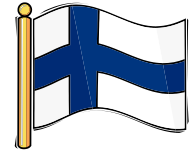


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Press Release

### **1<sup>st</sup> Gathering of the “Japan Alumni Forum”**

18 March 2015

The Embassy of Japan in Finland, with the support of the JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science) Stockholm Office, will host for the first time ever a gathering of the “Japan Alumni Forum” in Helsinki on 19 March (Thurs).

A Japan Alumnus refers to any Finnish national who has lived in Japan for an extended period of time for work, studies, research and many other purposes and reasons, regardless of age, gender, educational background, social status, etc. The Embassy estimates that there may be thousands of such Japan Alumni in Finland, who have immeasurable experience, knowledge, skills and connections which they gained in Japan, and some of these returnees appear to be interested in opportunities to share and compare their memories and experiences during their stay in Japan.

The Embassy, therefore, aims to assist and facilitate the creation of a loose and inclusive framework, which could be called the “Japan Alumni Forum (JAF)”, where fellow Japan Alumni can meet, interact and network. As a pilot project, the Embassy, together with the JSPS Stockholm Office, will hold a seminar and networking session in Helsinki on 19 March (Thurs). Around 150 Japan Alumni are expected to attend the event, which will be a space for creating new cross-disciplinary collaborations and sharing knowledge, ideas and experiences from Japan.

The “Japan Alumni Forum” is still in its nascent stage, and based on the results of this first gathering, the Embassy plans to take it to further levels, with the cooperation of its partners.

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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