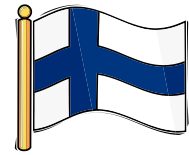


Embassy of Japan in Finland

Unioninkatu 20-22, 00130 Helsinki

Tel: 09 - 686 0200



Press Release

2nd Japanese “Arctic Fact-finding Mission” in March 2015

4 March 2015

A second “Arctic Fact-finding Mission” led by the Ambassador of Japan in Finland will take place from 9th to 13th March this year.

In June 2014, the Embassy of Japan arranged the first “Arctic Fact-finding Mission”, consisting of around 20 representatives of Japanese research institutes and companies. The goal of the mission was to get an overview of the potential that the Arctic area, in particular, Finnish Lapland and Northern Norway, may have for future business and academic opportunities. The mission visited Helsinki, Sodankylä, Ivalo, Kevo, Kirkenes (Norway) and Tromsø (Norway).

As a follow-up, the second “Arctic Fact-finding Mission” led by the Ambassador of Japan, H.E. Kenji Shinoda will be arranged from the 9th through to the 13th of March this year. The mission will consist of approximately 20 members, including business and academic representatives. They represent such industries as shipping, shipbuilding, energy, heavy machinery, transportation infrastructure, electrics and chemical.

The mission will visit Helsinki, Oulu, Rovaniemi and across the border to Hammerfest in Norway. In Helsinki, the delegation will meet with representatives of the Finnish Government as well as the Team Arctic Finland in Helsinki. A visit to the Finnish state-owned icebreaker fleet operator, Arctia Shipping, is also planned. In Oulu, the delegation will meet with representatives of the city and visit Business Oulu, Thule Institute (Oulu University), and companies in the field of arctic business. In Rovaniemi, the delegation will attend the Arctic Business Forum in Rovaniemi, organized annually by the Lapland Chamber of Commerce, and a visit to Lapland University is also planned during their stay. One of the highlights of the mission is a visit to Hammerfest, from where LNG from snohvid gas field was transported directly to the ports in Japan along the Northern Sea Route in 2012 and 2013.

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

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