

**Address by H.E. Ambassador FUJIMURA Kazuhiro
at the Opening of “Under the Cherry Blossom - Japanese
Woodblock Prints” Exhibition on 5 October 2022**

Hyvä museojohtaja Kirsi Eskelinen ja hyvät kutsuvieraat. Hyvää iltaa.
Olen Japanin Suomen-suurlähettiläs Fujimura Kazuhiro. On ilo tavata
teidät kaikki.

Onneksi olkoon ”UNDER THE CHERRY BLOSSOM”
–Japanese woodblock prints.

Kiitoksia paljon myös Finnish Japanese Society, Chado Urasenke
Tankokai Finland Association, Friends of Japanese Culture, Sogetsu Ikebana
Finland and other organizations concerned.

This year 2022 is a special year for the friendship between Japan and
Finland.

In 1792, more than 200 years ago, thanks to support by Erik Laxman, a
Finnish naturalist, Daikokuya Kodayu, a Japanese sailor whose ship had
been wrecked and drifted to Siberia, successfully returned to Japan, which he
had longed for for many years.

This year 2022 marks the 230th anniversary of Kodayu’s return home.

Historically, this is said to be the first Japanese-Finnish encounter.

The Embassy of Japan marks this year as “Finnish and Japanese
Friendship Year 2022” and has been organizing various events in order for
people to recollect our bilateral history of interaction as well as to further
connect our strong bonds. Our cooperation on this great exhibition is also one
of such initiatives.

On the occasion of her visit to Japan in May, Prime Minister Marin held
a summit meeting with our Prime Minister Kishida and referred to Japan as
“Trusted Partner”. Recently in New York, Prime Minister Kishida worked
together with President Niinistö at the United Nations General Assembly last
month.

Furthermore, lately, on behalf of Finland, Minister for Foreign Affairs Haavisto visited Japan to attend at the State Funeral for our former Prime Minister ABE Shinzo and had a meeting with Foreign Minister Hayashi.

These well illustrate that our bilateral amicable friendship that originated 230 years ago has been passed on to the present time steadily and vigorously.

I conclude my remarks by wishing that this exhibition would further deepen our robust friendship. The Embassy of Japan also will hold some workshops of a bookbinding and calligraphy during this exhibition. I hope that many people will come to experience and enjoy them.

Kiitos.

(End)