

The 160th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Switzerland

February 2025, Embassy of Japan in Switzerland

1 Logo

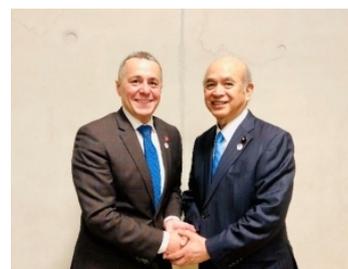
An open logo competition was held in August and September 2023. Representatives of the foreign ministries of both countries served as jury members and selected the winning design out of 224 entries. It was created by Mr. Anthony CHERBUIN from Canton of Fribourg. The application procedure for project accreditation to use the logo was also posted on the Embassy's website, together with the pamphlet introducing a quick overview of the shared history.



2 High level visits



On June 15, then Prime Minister Kishida visited Switzerland and attended the “Summit on Peace in Ukraine” in Bürgenstock. From August 4 to 8, Ms. Amherd, then President of the Swiss Confederation, visited Japan and held a summit meeting with then Prime Minister Kishida. She also had meetings with then Minister for Foreign Affairs Mrs. Kamikawa, and with then Minister of Defence Mr. Kihara. Furthermore, His Majesty the Emperor of Japan held audience to President Amherd. (Photo: Website of the



Prime Minister's Office of Japan). From 16 to 20 October, Mr Yoshifumi Tsuge, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs visited Switzerland and attended the “Ukraine Mine Action Conference”. He also paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Mr. Ignazio Cassis.

3 Conferment of Order, Awards of Foreign Minister's Commendation and Ambassador's Commendation

Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, was conferred upon Mr. Martin Herb, President of the Swiss-Japanese Chamber of Commerce (SJCC) in September. Foreign Minister's Commendations were awarded to Mr Ichiro Ando and Ms Yasuyo Ando, Director and Vice Director of the Japanese Information Bureau in Grindelwald in May, and to the Bern Historical Museum and the Swiss-Japanese Youth Exchange Association in September, and to Musée Ariana, Fondation Baur (Musée des Arts d'Extrême-Orient), Fondation Martin Bodmer in November, and REGA in December, and Ambassador's Commendations were awarded to the Zurich Airport Church in May and the City of Carouge in Geneva in September.



4 Receptions and Ceremonies

● Opening Reception

A reception was held on 6 February, the day where the diplomatic relations between Japan and Switzerland were established 160 years ago (1864). Mr. Nussbaumer, then President of the Swiss National Council, and around 150 other attendees got to know more about the safety and taste of Japanese food and drinks, such as Hokkaido scallops, Sake from Fukushima Prefecture, and other products.



- Celebratory Ceremony of 5th Japan Festival in Bern

On September 5, just before the Japanese Festival in Bern, the Embassy hosted a celebratory ceremony at the Bern Historical Museum, which was attended by the State Secretary for Migration, Mrs. Schraner Burgener,



amongst others. The reception that followed, also provided an opportunity to promote the Osaka-Kansai Expo 2025 and for the approximately 150 attendees to learn more about the above-mentioned Expo while enjoying food and sake from the Kansai region.

5 Lectures

During the year different lectures were held. In February, a representative from YOSHINO WOOD held a lecture on Japanese timber at UZH, while in March Prof. Thomsen held one on the cultural exchange between Japan and Switzerland at UZH. Prof. Moe Honjo from University of Nagasaki, also held a lecture in March on Animal Law in UZH. Ambassador Fujiyama talked about Japan and Switzerland as partners with shared fundamental values, and Prof. Makiko Hashinaga from Sapporo Gakuin University talked about Ethical Consumption in Switzerland and Japan at UZH in April. In June, Prof. Yu Awatsuji from Kansai University talked about the Japanese and European comparative law at UZH. Prof. Hiroshi Nakanishi from Kyoto University Graduate School, held a lecture on Japan's Security Policies at UZH in September. Ambassador Fujiyama delivered a talk about 160 years of Japanese-Swiss diplomatic relations in September and November and attended the panel discussion titled "Global Tensions and Business: A View from Europe and Asia" in October. Dr. Yuhito Shibaïke, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan talked about planetary science in December.

6 Japanese Festivals

The Japan Festival in Bern was held from September 7 to 8, with 5,000 participants over two days. Furthermore, from September 21 to 22, the Japan Matsuri (Japanese festival) was held in Ticino with 17,000 participants. On September 29, the Japan Club of Geneva (JCG) held the JCG Japan Festival in Geneva.



7 Cultural Events

- Organised by the Embassy

The Embassy held cultural events such as Japanese Film Screenings and the "Short-Short Film Festival" in February, a Sumi-e Demonstration in May, a Shamisen performance by Keisho Ono and a Kiri-e Exhibition in September.



- Organised by others

48 commemorative events such as Ukiyo-e exhibition at Kunstmuseum Basel were held across Switzerland.

