

2015 Orlando Japan Festival



On November 11, 2015, the Orlando Japan Festival took place at the Village at Hunter's Creek in Orlando, Florida. This year marked the 15th anniversary of the festival organized by the Japan Association of Orlando. The Consulate General of Japan in Miami has also been a proud supporter since 2002.

As a special addition to the opening ceremony this year, Mr. Takemasa Ishikura, founder of Maturiza taiko group, was presented with the Foreign Minister's Commendation by Consul General Okaniwa for the many years he has dedicated to promoting Japanese culture and forging bonds of friendship between the United States and Japan. In addition to Consul General Okaniwa, Honorary Consul General Harris Rosen and Orlando District 5 Commissioner Regina Hill were also in attendance and gave remarks.

On stage, members of the renowned Wakayama Performance Troupe performed Edo Satokagura, a traditional performance art with roots in ritualistic Shinto shrine dances. These special guests were invited all the way from Japan specifically to perform at this festival.

Beyond the stage, a number of booths shared cultural information and Japanese-inspired services, including Japanese tea, Yukata try-ons, and traditional festival games. With the assistance of the Orlando Hoshuko (supplementary Japanese school), the Consulate General of Japan held an origami corner where student volunteers showed visitors of the festival how to fold origami cranes. Reporters from the Orlando Sentinel, a local media outlet, visited our booth and interviewed Consul General Okaniwa. The footage was released the same night.

In a wonderful turnout, thousands of people attended and enjoyed the festival until the very end, despite the blistering heat.

We are looking forward to sharing Japanese culture with even more people for many years to come.