

<<< Press release from the Embassy of Japan, 17th May 2015 >>>



On 14th May, the Ambassador of Japan H.E. Hisaeda and his wife hosted the **Japan Workshop for Female Students** at his residence to celebrate the opening of a new Japanese language course at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) this semester, and the ongoing success of the Oman-Japan Friendship Association (OJFA) Japanese language course, which began in 2005.

In his opening remarks, the Ambassador described the opening of a Japanese course at SQU as, “a dream come true and one of the highlights of my time as Ambassador to Oman”, telling students, “learning the Japanese language will be helpful for your future careers and further contribution to the strong Japan-Oman relationship, and through your interest in Japan, its culture and language, I consider you all ambassadors of Japan.”.

The workshop was also intended to help the ladies deepen their knowledge and understanding of feminine aspects of Japanese culture, such as *ikebana* and *yukata*, as well as world famous Japanese cuisine, *sushi*.

It began with a lecture and demonstration of *ikebana*, or flower arrangement. After having learned some basics of the technique, some students tried to arrange flowers on their own trays. The students also had the opportunity to dress up in colorful Japanese *yukuta*, a traditional but casual and light summer *kimono* which is seen during the hot months in Japan. Many students truly enjoyed this special

experience. Some of them were so delighted that they took photos with one another or had their photos taken in *yukata* with H.E. and Mrs. Hisaeda.

This was followed by a lecture from the Ambassador and a live *sushi*-making demonstration by his award-winning Japanese chef. The lecture was carefully prepared by the Ambassador himself so that the students could learn how to best enjoy sushi and observe its etiquette in any first class sushi restaurant in the world. The freshly prepared sushi was then served with other hors-d'oeuvres and Japanese green tea.

Finally, the students were treated to a lucky draw where everyone got the chance to win a Japanese prize, including popular *Hello Kitty* items.

Aside from the opening remarks and lecture by the Ambassador, all events were managed by Mrs. Hisaeda and female staff, so that the students could relax and enjoy the women-only atmosphere.

