

MEXT Scholarship gathering 2009

FEBRUARY 2009

MEXT SCHOLARSHIP GATHERING 2009

What is a MEXT Scholarship?

The Japanese Government (MONBUKAGAKUSHO/MEXT) offers scholarships to Norwegian students who wish to study at Japanese Universities.

Today, 3 different types of Japanese government scholarships are offered to Norwegian citizens. A 5 year scholarship for taking a bachelor degree in Japan, a 1 or 1.5 year scholarship to study the Japanese language and culture, and a 1.5-2 year scholarship for Research Students.

More information: see the Embassy's HP

It was in 1970s when the first Norwegian student received a MEXT Scholarship and went to Japan to study. Since then, about 40 students have received Scholarships and gone to Japan.



In the middle of February, the Embassy of Japan invited former MEXT Scholarship students to the Japanese Ambassador's residence for a gathering. 15 people came to the gathering.

The Embassy held this event to facilitate interaction between the MEXT recipients and to develop a network between the Embassy and those who are well-versed in Japan or those who are friendly toward Japan. The gathering consisted of three parts; a lecture by one of the former MEXT Scholarship students, a presentation of the Japanese situation now, by the Embassy and a discussion.

MEXT Scholarship gathering 2009

Date: 20th February 2009

Time: 17:00-19:00

Place: Japanese Ambassador's residence

Arranged by: Embassy of Japan In Norway

MEXT SCHOLARSHIP 2010 APPLICATION

The Scholarship for 2010 will be offered in the following 2 categories. Application documents can be downloaded from the Embassy's website, and applicants should send the application with required documents to the Embassy.

Category	Deadline for application	Exam and interview
Research Student	12 June 2009	The first week, July 2009
Undergraduate Student	17 July 2009	The first week, August 2009

Ms. Magni Martens, Professor of Sensory Science at University of Copenhagen in Denmark, and senior research scientist at Nofima Mat at Ås in Norway, was awarded a the scholarship from 1972 to 73 and studied at Kyoto University.

In her lecture she told about her experiences, 35 years ago when not so many European women studied in Japan. She explained the Japanese word “Umami” which is an unignorable concept in Sensory Science.

Professor Martens is now active in the academic environments both in Norway and Denmark, and we are pleased that her academic career has its roots in Japan.

Not only professor Martens, but also many former

MEXT scholarship recipients are active in a variety of fields such as the Public sector, Business, Academia, the Media after returning from Japan to Norway. The Embassy looks forward to meeting more former recipients and talking about Norway and Japan.



In his welcome note, Ambassador of Japan to Norway, Mr. Hisao Yamaguchi, pointed out that Japan has both strengths as well as weaknesses. The presentation by



the Embassy of Japan was also about this point.

Japan is now facing challenges such as an economy in recession, a declining and aging of the population, and a huge amount of national debt.

However Japan has shown its presence in many fields in the world, and these aspects are often underestimated. In the presentation Japan's contribution to the world in economics, knowledge, science & technology, politics and culture, was mentioned. These aspects are significant in making Japan attractive. The presentation concluded that Japan will continue to enhance its multi-faceted attractiveness against the backdrop of a number of challenges it is facing.

It was a good opportunity for the Embassy to discuss the future of Japan with people well-versed on Japan.

Concert with Japanese traditional musical instruments	October 2009
Ikebana Demonstration	autumn/ winter 2009
Japan Photo Exhibition	February/ March 2010

For further information, please refer to the Embassy's website.

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