

**The 39th Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival,  
the Japan Foundation's traveling exhibit "Passage to the Future: Art from  
a New Generation in Japan", and the 31st Washington State Japanese  
Speech and Skit Contest  
(April 25 to April 27, 2014)**

The 39th Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival was held from Friday, April 25 to Sunday, April 27 at the Seattle Center. During the three days of the event, various aspects of Japanese culture were demonstrated and exhibited by groups in the region. This year's focus was celebrating the 180 year anniversary of the first Japanese landing in the United States by three fishermen, including a man named Otokichi from the Chita region (Aichi Prefecture), who washed ashore on Washington State. A troupe from Aichi Prefecture visited and performed the musical "The Tale of Otokichi."



Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival

"The Tale of Otokichi"

Timed to coincide with the festival, the Japan Foundation's traveling exhibit "Passage to the Future: Art from a New Generation in Japan" was presented from Friday, April 18 to Monday, April 28 at the Seattle Center. Also, on Friday, April 25, the 31st Washington State Japanese Speech and Skit Contest was held, and many Japanese language learners from local high schools displayed the results of their daily practice.



The Japan Foundation's traveling exhibit



Japanese Speech and Skit Contest

With great weather, many participants and visitors fully enjoyed the festival, and the events brought great opportunities for them to get closer to Japanese culture.