

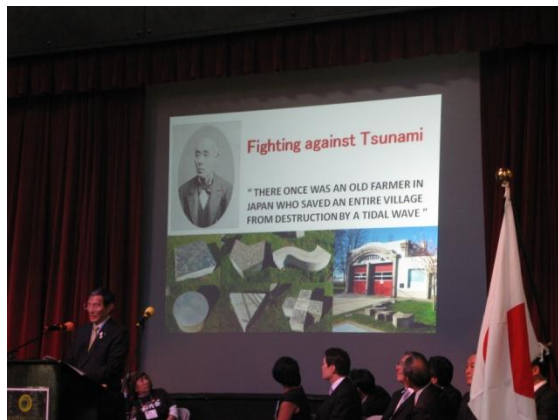
**The 40th Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival,
the Japan Foundation's traveling exhibit "Handcrafted Form-Traditions
and Techniques", and the 32nd Washington State Japanese Speech and Skit
Contest (April 24 to April 26, 2015)**

The 40th Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival was held from Friday, April 24 to Sunday, April 26 at the Seattle Center. During the three days of the event, various aspects of Japanese culture were demonstrated and exhibited by groups from around the region.

The 110th anniversary of the Wakayama Club in Seattle was honored with a visit by Governor Nisaka of Wakayama Prefecture, as well as a group of business representatives. In addition to a speech by Governor Nisaka, promotional activities for products made in Wakayama Prefecture, such as umeboshi (pickled plums), umeshu (plum brandy), soy sauce, and mandarin juice, also took place.



Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival



Presentation by Gov Nisaka'

Timed to coincide with the festival, the Japan Foundation's traveling exhibit "Handcrafted Form-Traditions and Techniques" was presented from Tuesday, April 21 to Wednesday, May 6 at the Seattle Center. Also, on Friday, April 24, the 32nd 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 beautiful weather, the many participants and visitors fully enjoyed the festival, and the events brought great opportunities for them to get closer to Japanese culture.