

From April 6 to April 8 at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle, WA, one of the biggest Japanese animation festivals took place.



On Friday, April 6 at the opening ceremony, Consul General Kiyokazu Ota and staff of the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle gave a performance of a short skit using *koi nobori* as their material. In Consul General Ota's speech he explained that Japan that is open for both business and travel, and expressed the sincere gratitude of all Japanese for all the assistance given to Japan after the Great East Japan Earthquake. Furthermore, he congratulated Sakura-Con on their 15th year anniversary and expressed his hope for their further growth in the future.



At the booth, the focus of the activities was on trying on samurai armor and traditional Japanese clothing, participants who stopped by were able to try this samurai armor, and learn how to tie *furoshiki* in a seminar. Information on the JET Program and Japanese Government Scholarships was also provided by alumni of both programs. Those who tried on the armor, *happi*, and *samue*, were also able to have their pictures taken while dressed in costume at the booth.



Nearby Nico Nico Douga interviewed Consulate-General and sang a song on that was streamed live with Consulate staff!

