

## **Japanese Film Festival Opening Ceremony November 21, 2022**

Director of Japan Foundation Sydney, Mr Keiji Shono;  
Distinguished guests; Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the opening of the 2022 Japanese Film Festival. This festival is an annual highlight for many Western Australians, and the opening film never fails to draw a crowd. And as you can see, this year is no exception.

I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Kenji Shono and his team at the Japan Foundation Sydney for organizing this festival, and for all of your efforts to continue this Australia-wide event through what has been a difficult few years. Thank you for bringing the Festival to Perth, an important city that even Prime Minister of Japan visited last month.

I am great fan of Japanese Films myself and I enjoyed organizing Film Festival by myself in my previous posting in South Africa. Out of 26 Japanese Film Festivals in South Africa, ten were organized by me.

Films can provide insights into society and everyday life of Japan, what Japanese value, and what we cherish. Through films we can share and showcase beauty and goodness of different aspects of Japan, while enjoying the entertainment.

I am sure tonight's film will shine a light on the contrast between modern and traditional Japan. I hope you tonight's film, Dreaming of the Meridian Arc, while deepening your understanding and appreciation of Japanese history and culture along the way. It is about Inou Tadataka, who made accurate modern Map of Japan in Edo period in 1821.

But don't forget, tonight's film is only the start of this weeklong showcase of Japanese cinema, and I sincerely hope you will take this opportunity to see many more Japanese films on the big screen.

Thank you.