

The Honourable Alexis Tam Chon Weng, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture,

The Honourable MOK Ian Ian, Director of the Cultural Affairs Bureau,

The Honourable Maria Helena de Senna FERNANDES, Director of the Macau Government Tourism Office,

The Honourable SIO Chi Wai, Legislative and Executive Councilor,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening. Thank you for joining us tonight to celebrate the official opening of the Art Macao 2019 “Japan Pavilion”.

As you may already know, in Japan, Emperor Naruhito succeeded to the throne and the Reiwa Era commenced on 1st of May this year. As the word “Reiwa”, meaning “beautiful harmony” in Japanese, suggests, I wish from my heart that the friendly relationship between Japan and Macau can continue to develop “harmoniously and beautifully”.

Also, as 2019 marks both the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Macau Special Administrative Region, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the people in both China and Macau.

In this commemorative year for both Japan and Macau, it is my great pleasure to celebrate the opening of our “Japan Pavilion” with all of you here tonight. “Art Macao” is a grand festival on art and culture co-organised by the Macau SAR Government, major integrated resorts and foreign consulates. With the objectives of “Art

Macao” being to further promote Macau’s reputation as a city of art and culture, and to deepen its relationship with the world, it is our great honour that Japan can be one of the participants of this magnificent project. I would like to express my gratitude to the Macau SAR Government for inviting us to join this event.

With the support of Toppan Printing Co. Ltd., our co-organizer, and other partners including Japanese prefectural governments, various organisations and individual artists, the Consulate-General of Japan will be introducing a diverse range of Japanese culture at this “Japan Pavilion” for three months starting from today.

The posters which you can see here are original works by prominent Japanese contemporary artists. Toppan Printing used their world-class advanced technology to reproduce those works in an authentic way. In addition, you can appreciate the magnificent beauty of digital flowers produced by the digital media artist and Kyoto University Professor Naoko TOSA, with generous sponsorship by Toppan Printing and Mr. SIO Chi Wai, for whose support I would like to express my profound appreciation.

Besides, works by the famous Japanese calligrapher Ms. Mieko IMAI and the renowned muralist Ms. Mariko HAYASHI are also showcased in this exhibition.

Moreover, between July and September, there will also be series of exhibitions including traditional handicrafts, photos, paintings and sculptures and so on. Visitors can also enjoy various programmes such as music performances, Japanese liquor tasting, flower arrangement, tea tasting and many more. I hope all of you will spare the time to frequently visit the “Japan Pavilion” during the

event period, and experience the extensive yet profound culture of Japan.

This evening in our opening of the “Japan Pavilion”, we will also hold the Consul-General’s Commendation presentation ceremony for Mr. Akira HAYASHI, who is Executive Chef of Yamazato Fine Dining at Hotel Okura Macau. I am presenting this commemorative award to Chef HAYASHI for his great contribution to “WASHOKU” and food culture in Macau.

Being a city of gastronomy, diners may enjoy various cuisines from all over the world in Macau. However, if you wish to try authentic Japanese cuisine, one of my highly recommended restaurants would be “Yamazato”, which Chef HAYASHI belongs to. There you will be able to taste traditional “WASHOKU” using seasonal ingredients from Japan.

Also, we are delighted to announce that Hotel Okura Macau has prepared for us all the splendid food served here tonight. And I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Mr. Niek HAMMER, General Manager of Hotel Okura.

Following this award ceremony, a Certification of Japanese Food and Ingredient Supporter Stores Overseas will be presented to Yamazato Fine Dining by JETRO Hong Kong.

Lastly, I would like to propose a toast with all of you.

To celebrate the opening of the Art Macao “Japan Pavilion”;
To pray for the further development of friendly and cooperative relations between Japan and Macau; and
To wish everyone good health and prosperity;

Kampai!!