



Message from Prime Minister Julia Gillard

I congratulate the Japanese Film Festival (JFF) on reaching its 15th year. The JFF has long been a significant event on the cultural calendar in Sydney and Melbourne, and it is pleasing to see the festival expand this year to include programs in six of our seven capital cities.

Japan is an important partner for Australia, and cultural events such as the JFF play a valuable role in enhancing the people-to-people links that underpin our bilateral relationship.

Images can be more powerful than words alone in forging bridges across national boundaries and building understanding and friendship. I am therefore delighted that Australian audiences will not only be entertained, but will also deepen their appreciation of Japanese culture through the JFF's extensive program of films.

This year has brought unprecedented challenges for Japan, as I witnessed during my visit in April. I hope Australians get behind the film festival in this anniversary year, reflecting our support and encouragement for the Japanese people.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Gillard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underlining the name.

The Honourable Julia Gillard
Prime Minister of Australia

