



Message from the Ambassador Shigekazu Sato

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 15th Japanese Film Festival, Australia's largest and longest-running Japanese cultural event, organised by the Japan Foundation, Sydney.

The festival has significantly expanded its program over the last fourteen years, presenting to the Australian audience aspects of Japanese society and culture that reflect Japan's wide diversity and traditions. Film is a medium that can transcend borders and languages, and provides a suitable foundation for the creation of further bilateral understanding and communication based on a shared fondness for cinema.

As Japan strives to rebuild following the recent earthquake, we also have been reminded of the genuine warmth and affection that Australians held towards Japan and the Japanese people. This, I believe is a fitting testament to the impact that events such as the Japanese Film Festival has had on bilateral ties between our two countries.

It is my sincere hope that this year's festival builds upon its past success, while at the same time sending a resounding message of encouragement and hope to Japan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

His Excellency Shigekazu Sato
The Ambassador of Japan to Australia

