

JAPANESE TAIKO FESTIVAL AT PERADENIYA<July 3, 2015>



The rhythmic and vibrant sounds of Taiko drums reverberated in the campus of the University Peradeniya on July 3rd 2015, as the Japanese Taiko Festival featuring a Taiko group, “SHU,” from Japan got underway at the Appadurai Auditorium of the campus.

This event was organized by the Sri Lanka - Japan Study Centre (SLJSC) in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan and the Japanese NPO “Mango House.” Representing the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. S.Samitha, Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, graced the occasion as a Chief Guest, together with Mr. Kenji Miyata, the head of Public Relations & Cultural Affairs section of the Embassy of Japan as a guest of honor.

Over 250 participants including both academics and non-academic staff from the University and school children and parents from the Kandy area as well as students from the Sputnik Institute, Kurunegala, experienced a taste of traditional Japanese music and dance through the Taiko drumming. The event commenced with the welcome address by Prof. Missaka Wijayagunawardena, Director of SLJSC, followed by speeches by Mr. Miyata and Prof. Samitha before Taiko beats spread around, and it ended with the vote of thanks delivered by Mr. Hiroto Sagawa, Director of the Sputnik Institute, Kurunegala.

The program featured the Taiko drumming by “SHU” led by Mr. Haruto Koji, but it also included musical performances of the western Cello and the Japanese bamboo flute. Participants enjoyed the festival not only by listening to the music but also by dancing to the beats of Taiko drums, followed by enjoyable interactions with the stage performers.

This festival was a wonderful opportunity for fellowship among Japanese and Sri Lankans and enabled the audience to appreciate and enjoy the Japanese culture.