

## List of Japan Heritage Ambassadors

Ms. Emi TAKEI, actress

Kyary Pamyu Pamyu, Model, artist, singer

Mr. Hideki MATSUI, former baseball player (Special advisor to GM, NY Yankees)

Mr. Marty Friedman, Guitarist

Mr. Kiyomi MIKUNI, Chef (Owner Chef of Hôtel de Mikuni)

Mr. Yoshihiro MURATA, Chef (Owner of Kikunoi)

Mr. Tokizo NAKAMURA, Kabuki actor, (NAKAMURA Tokizo the fifth)

Ms. Natalie Emmons, actress, singer

## Profile of Japan Heritage Ambassadors

### Ms. Emi TAKEI <Profile>

Born 1993 in Aichi prefecture. Double awardee at the 11<sup>th</sup> Japan Bishoujo (Beautiful Girl) Contest for the Model Award and the Multi-media Award. Ms.Takei began her carrier in modeling in 2006. She was selected as the Best Dresser in Entertainment business at the 39<sup>th</sup> Best Dresser Award 2010. Ms. Takei has appeared in numerous TV dramas and movies. In 2013, Ms. Takei was awarded the Best Newcomer Award at the 36<sup>TH</sup> Japan Academy Award for her roles in “Ai to Makoto”, “Rurouni Kenshin” and “Kyou, koi wo hajimemasu”. Ms. Takei has played leading roles in works such as “Asukou march – the story of Asuka Kogyo High School”, “Taira no Kiyomori”, “Senryokugai sousakan”, “Seisei suruhodo ai siteiru”, “Chushingura no koi – the 48th chushin”. Ms. Takei also appears in many CM films. She is also involved in travel related works.



### Kyary Pamyu Pamyu <Profile>

Born 1993 in Tokyo. Kyary Pamyu Pamyu made her major debut in 2011 with her mini album "Moshi Moshi Harajuku". Her first full album "Pamyu Pamyu Revolution" was ranked No.1 on its first appearance on Oricon Daily Chart. It was rated No.1 in All Japan Chart and electro charts of various countries in iTunes. Thereafter, she launched her first Japan tour, staged a solo Nihon Budokan performance, performed in New Year's Eve NHK Ko-haku Music Show and continued to make advances. In 2013, she completed her first world tour (8 nations and regions, 13 cities), which was a great success. Her second world tour (11 nations and regions, 15 cities) was also a great success. Her third album "Pika Pika Fantasy" was released simultaneously in the 4 continents (regions) and 15 nations in North/South America, Europe, Oceania and Asia. In 2016, she released her first best album "KPP BEST" and went on her third world tour. She has been working on many other projects. She continues to fascinate her fans with her freewheeling and original expressions unimaginable from her extremely cute looks. She is at the center of focus as the icon of HARAJUKU, with her melting pot life style of an artist and fashion leader.



## Hideki MATSUI <Profile>

Born 1974 in Ishikawa prefecture. Mr. Matsui entered Seiryō High School in 1990 and joined the baseball club. He played in 4 of the Koshi-en Spring/Summer National High School Baseball Championship tournaments. He hit 3 home runs in the 64<sup>th</sup> Spring Tournament and earned the nickname of "Godzilla". He was intentionally walked on 5 consecutive batters in the 74<sup>th</sup> Summer Tournament. He joined Yomiuri Giants Baseball team in the same year. After enjoying great success in Japanese professional baseball. Mr. Matsui moved to join the New York Yankees in 2003 and played in the World Series that same year. In 2005, Mr. Matsui played his 425<sup>th</sup> Major League game, thereby rewriting the Major League record for longest consecutive number of games played since debuting in the Major League. Thereafter, his combined streak of consecutive games played in Japan and the United States amounted to 1,768 games. In 2007, Mr. Matsui recorded his 2,000<sup>th</sup> hit in combined hits in Japan and the United States and in 2008 he hit his 444<sup>th</sup> home run in combined home runs in Japan and in the United States, which incidentally equaled the record held by Mr. Shigeo Nagashima. The Yankees won the World Series in 2009 and Mr. Matsui was voted the Most Valuable Player, the first Japanese baseball player to win this award. Mr. Matsui became a free agent at the end of that season and joined the Los Angeles Angels. Thereafter Mr. Matsui played with the Oakland Athletics and the Tampa Bay Rays. He retired from baseball at the end of 2012. Mr. Matsui, together with his mentor and former General Manager of Yomiuri Giants Shigeo Nagashima, his mentor, was awarded the People's Honor Award by the Japanese Government in 2013. Mr. Matsui is serving as special advisor to Yankees GM to assist in training young players.



## Marty FRIEDMAN <Profile>

Born in Washington D.C., U.S.A. After playing in several bands, including Cacophony, Mr. Friedman joined Megadeath in 1990. His playing was instrumental in making Megadeath becoming a popular heavy metal band with worldwide album sales of over 13 million copies. He established himself as a super guitarist with enthusiastic fans all over the world. Mr. Friedman became a "Japanese freak" as he repeatedly visited Japan on his Megadeath tours. He self-taught Japanese. He came in second place in a Japanese language debate held by the Arizona State University. Mr. Friedman left Megadeath and moved his base from the United States to Tōkyō Japan in 2004.

He became a regular member of the cast of the legendary TV Tōkyō musical program "HeavyMeta-san" (anglicized as "Mr. Heavy-Metal") thereby blowing the minds of not only Japanese heavy metal music fans, but also of heavy metal music lovers all over the world through exposure over YouTube. "Rock Fujiyama", a follow up music program to HeavyMeta -san, also generated reactions in various parts of the world. Functioning as a multi-dimensional artist, Mr. Friedman's recent activities are not confined to music, such as giving a presentation on intriguing aspects of Japanese music at the International Cultural Festival East Asia "Kyousei" Forum 2013 organized by the Agency for Cultural Affairs.



## Kiyomi MIKUNI <Profile>

Born 1954 in Mashike-cho, Hokkaido. Mr. Mikuni decided to become a chef at age 15 and trained at Sapporo Grand Hotel and Imperial Hotel. He assumed the position of Chief at the Japanese Embassy in Switzerland in 1974. He trained under Fredy Girardet while working at the Embassy. Thereafter, Mr. Mikuni trained at 3 star restaurants such as Troigros, L'Auberge de L'ill, Loasis and Alain Chapel and opened his Hotel de Mikuni in Yotsuya, Tokyo, in 1985. In 1999, Mr. Mikuni founded the Syndicat de la Haute Cuisine Francaise au Japon, an organization dedicated to training of chefs and taste development education for children. In 2007, Mr. Mikuni was recognized as a prominent craftsman and awarded the "Great craftsmen in the present world" award by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. In 2011, Mr. Mikuni represented Japan and served as one of the Grand Chefs to prepare the gala dinner that was called "The Banquet of the Century" held at the Palace of Versailles in France in commemoration of gastronomic meal of France being registered as UNESCO intangible cultural heritage. In 2013, Mr. Mikuni received an honorable doctorate by The University François-Rabelais in recognition of his contributions to French gastronomic culture. He was awarded the L'ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur Chevalier (National Order of the Legion of Honor Chevalier) by the French government in 2015. The Legion of Honor is the highest French order for military and civil merits, established 1802 by Napoléon Bonaparte. Mr. Mikuni is the first Japanese chef to be honored with this medal. Mr. Mikuni is recently involved with taste development education for children and "Smiles on faces of children!" smiling face project, a reconstruction assistance activity.



## Yoshihiro MURATA <Profile>

Born in Kyoto. ("Kikunoi", a long-established restaurant in Gion, Kyoto) Mr. Murata went to France while still studying at Ritsumeikan University to receive training in preparing French cuisines. After graduating from the university, Mr. Murata trained at Kamome restaurant in Nagoya. Mr. Murata assumed the position of president of Kikunoi Co., Ltd. in 1993. He opened Roan Kikunoi (Kiyamachi) in 1976 and opened Akasaka Kikunoi in 2004. Mr. Murata holds "Properly publicize Japanese cooking to the world" and "Cook for public good" to be his lifework. He is also involved with activities to raise questions on "food underdogs" and finding solutions thereto through "inflight meals (Singapore Airlines)", "dietary education activities", visiting and lecturing at healthcare institutions and schools. Awards: 2012 - "Great craftsmen in the present world", "Kyoto Prefecture Industrial Man of Merit"; 2013 - "Kyoto Prefecture Cultural Man of Merit"; 2014 - "Regional culture Man of Merit (arts and culture)".



## NAKAMURA Tokizo the fifth [Tokizo V]<Profile>

Born 1955 in Tokyo. An authentic female-role playing Kabuki actor with classical air of easy grace. Tokizo V is enjoying popularity with beauty inherited from his father (Tokizo IV) and refined performance that preserves the style. After losing backings from his grandfather (Tokizo III) and father at an early age, Tokizo V had to struggle on his own. Yet he took in the lessons from his elders notwithstanding his family background and internalized those lessons and made the art his own. In addition, having played opposite such accomplished elders as Danjuro, Kikugoro, Koshiro, Nizaemon and Kichiemon on many occasion from an early age must have helped in his development. Although Tokizo V holds the role of palace lady in waiting that his grandfather perfected as his ultimate goal, his performance covers a wide range, playing 10 to 15 different roles in any one year, from a young daughter to a courtesan or a wife that he may be performing for the first time or roles he has performed with some success. Tokizo V was fortunate to have had opportunities to learn from the late Nakamura Utaemon, one of his most respected elder actors. In particular, his performance in “Kagamiyama Kokyouno Enishiki” at the National Theater earned great administration. Tokizo V is quite aware of his position as the top female-role actor and he is devoting himself to self-improvement on a daily basis and expanding his repertoire to villainess and elder roles. Tokizo V has become indispensable to Kabuki.

