



Friends of Thailand in Japan

During March - April 2023, members of three associations who are Friends of Thailand in Japan paid courtesy calls on the newly appointed Consul-General Akrapong Chalermnon to congratulate him on his assumption of duty in Osaka, as well as to introduce themselves and report the activities.

First is the Japan - Thailand Education Exchange Society led by Mr. Shigeyo Kimura, President of the Society. The Society was established in 1981 as a non-profit organization in Kyoto to promote educational and cultural exchanges between Thailand and Japan, in particular the organization of the annual Japan - Thai Cultural Fair in Kyoto.



Second is Hakuzo-kai or the Association of Thai Studies major alumni of Osaka University, led by Mr. Tomiya Nishimura, President of the Association. Osaka University is one of the three institutions in Japan which offer Thai language as a major. The Association was established in 1949 and at present, has approximately 800 - 900 members, many of whom work and live in Thailand, or do businesses with Thailand. The Association organizes alumni gatherings annually.

Third is the Thai Club of Japan led by Emeritus Professor Osamu Akagi, President of the Association. The Club was established in 1990 and comprises of members who love Thailand. Past activities include supporting teacher volunteers at schools in Lampang Province in Northern Thailand, organizing academic seminars about Thailand and recently, the revised edition of the Japanese - Thai dictionary which will be available next month.



Mr. Consul-General welcomed and thanked members of the associations for their assistance in promoting Thainess in Japan and in increasing the number of Friends of Thailand in Japan, and took the opportunity to provide funds to support the associations' activities. He confirmed the Royal Thai Consulate-General's readiness to cooperate with Friends of Thailand associations in Japan in strengthening the linkage between Thailand and Japan at all levels, including the people-to-people level.