

Remarks by Ambassador Eiichi Kawahara

On October 23 from 16:30-

At Rafael Landivar University

Gracias por su amable presentación.

Buenas tardes!

Allow me to make a few remarks on commonality between Japan and Guatemala in English.

Japan and Guatemala has many things in common.

For example, we have earthquakes, volcanoes, hot springs, beautiful landscapes and rich cultures;



Most Japanese people including myself love hot springs or On-Sen(温泉) in Japanese. On-Sen has been well known pastime for ordinary people. On-Sen started long time ago from ancient times. On-Sen has kept people clean and healthy.

I am interested to know if Guatemalan people also like On-Sen. Yesterday evening, I found one gentleman who loves hot spring, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, El Sr. Espinoza.

Romans also love hot springs. So they developed hot springs all possible places in Europe with expansion of the Roman Empire. Romans have a habit of taking public bath every evening after work.

It is fascinating to see how people use the natures surrounding them. Japanese use their surrounding nature as tourist destination and promoting good health. They try to live in harmony with surroundings.

Japanese is also prepared to natural disasters such as earthquake. Japanese building code is the highest standard in the world, since Japan is densely populated. Japanese buildings are resilient to earthquakes. Buildings survived even at the time of an unprecedentedly huge scale earthquakes which took place in 2011.

Japan and Guatemala have been hit yearly by typhoons and tropical storms respectively.

I wish to see more exchange of people and experience between the two countries.

Both countries also find other things in common; diverse cultures and hundreds of gods in nature of for which people has been admiring for so long. Though I have no time here to touch upon this matter now.

I wish to point out the fact that Japanese foods have been very popular and have been recognized as world top class cuisine. Michelin Restaurant Guide in 2011 gave Japan the largest number of three star –premiere class - restaurants, which exceeded the numbers of three star restaurants of France, where Michelin Restaurant guide was first published.

I hope one day I could invite some of today's audience to my residence. My Japanese chef will serve you the best Japanese cuisine here in this city.

I hope in future we could share more things on these topics. In the meantime, please feel free to contact our embassy for anything Japanese.

Now, I am looking forward to the speech by DG Yamada on Japan's foreign policy to South America. Mr. Yamada is the most appropriate person to speak on this matter since he is the man actually decides the Japanese policy to this region at Tokyo.

Gracias