

Cherry Blossom Day - Hanami 2016

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Many people came to the Cherry Blossom Day in Kungsträdgården, Stockholm, Sweden, 16th April 2016, despite some rain and cold weather.



Cherry Blossom Day in Kungsträdgården, Stockholm, Sweden, 16th april 2016

The Cherry Blossom Day in Kungsträdgården had many visitors even though it rained several times during the day. *Japanska Föreningen i Stockholm* (JFS) organized this celebration of spring in cooperation with Kungsträdgården and City of Stockholm. The day offered lots of entertainment and activities for all ages, and there were many market stands that sold food and commodities.

The program began with taiko drumming performed by the taiko group *Taiko Kai* and a calligraphy-show by Hisayo Oki. *Taiko Kai* was the first taiko group that was formed in Sweden in the mid 1990's.

The painted calligraphy character is the Japanese character for *sakura*, which means cherry blossoms. The cherry blossom has become a

symbol for the impermanence of life and the insight to appreciate its beauty.



The word *hanami* relates to the annual flower-viewing tradition in Japan during springtime. Each year the beauty of the cherry blossoms are appreciated in connection with the spring celebrations.

Inauguration

The Chairman of JFS, Yoko Kaneko, and the Japanese ambassador, Jun Yamazaki, and this year's mascot, Hello Kitty, inaugurated the Cherry Blossom Day at Kungsträdgården.

The Japanese ambassador also held a short inauguration speech and greeted everyone welcome.



It is the 17th year in a row that the Cherry Blossom Day is celebrated in Kungsträdgården. The cherry blossom trees were planted in Kungsträdgården in 1998, the very same year that Stockholm was the cultural capital of the European Union.



Performances and Demonstrations

The program was packed with amazing performances and demonstrations during the day. The *Sakura choir*, which celebrated their 40th anniversary last year, sang four wonderful songs of spring.



A traditional Japanese dance called *Gekizaru* was performed by Satoko Salme.



There were several martial arts demonstrations such as *aikido*, *naginata* and *ju-shinjutsu*.



During the day, there were also two different demonstrations of Japanese garments. One of them was the more traditional Japanese garments – the Japanese *kimono*. The various parts of the kimono were explained in detail.

The other demonstration was a fashion show of Japanese fashion that was presented by *J-Fashion Sweden* (view the whole show at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCI4WfmfoBg>).

This was only a small selection from the many activities that were included in the program. Information about the Cherry Blossom Day can be found at the links below.



References

Wikipedia, link viewed 2016-04-18
https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kungstr%C3%A4dg%C3%A5rden#Nyare_historia

The blog of the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities, link viewed 2016-04-18
https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kungstr%C3%A4dg%C3%A5rden#Nyare_historia

Japanska Föreningen i Stockholm, link viewed 2016-04-18
<http://japanskaforeningenisthm.se/sv/2013/04/11/korsbarsblommans-dag-2013-pa-kungstradgarden/>

Links

Organizers
<http://www.stockholm.se/>
<https://www.facebook.com/events/897632107002864/>

Japanska Föreningen i Stockholm (JFS):
<http://japanskaforeningenisthm.se/sv/>
<https://www.facebook.com/japanskaforeningen/>

Taiko Shin Kai

Taiko Shin Kai is a non-profit organization, that wish to encourage and spread taiko, Japanese drumming, in Sweden. Taiko Shin Kai offers taiko courses and workshops in Stockholm and Uppsala for children and adults.

