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THE OPENING OF THE JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL IN ARMENIA

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It has been 20 years this year since the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Armenia and Japan. In order to commemorate this anniversary a majestic opening ceremony of the Japanese Film Festival in Armenia took place in the Cinema Theater "Moscow". It carries a title "Let peace prevail all over the place." and is organized by the Armenian-Japanese scientific-educational and cultural center "Hikari" in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan in Armenia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of culture of Armenia, in partnership with the Armenian representative office of the company "JT International Luxemburg SA". This is already the second festival of Japanese films in Armenia – the first one took place in November last year.

Going up to the second floor of the Cinema Theater, the visitors of the festival felt as if they had fell from Armenia into Japan. Music, exhibitions of ikebana and origami, and girls wearing kimono. Having enjoyed an atmosphere of the country of the rising sun, the visitors of the festival went into the hall of the theater.

The opening ceremony began with greetings by the Ambassador of Japan in Armenia Chikahito Harada and the head of the Armenian-Japanese scientific-educational and cultural center "Hikari" Karine Poliposyan. The majestic part was followed by the Youth Orchestra of Armenia, which performed a composition of Satoko Ichikawa "Ancient Times" for the first time. They also performed in the program "Miniature for a string quartet" by Komitas/Aslamazyan. Before the demonstration of the film everyone was caught by surprise. Girls in costumes such as forest fairy, or angel, ran out from the stage and gave all the spectators paper cranes. According to the old Japanese legend, if you make a thousand cranes, then your most cherished dream comes true. The organizer of the festival is the Armenian-Japanese scientific-educational and cultural

center "Hikari". Its director Karine Poliposyan was very inspired: "I think that in Armenia these films will be highly evaluated. The Armenian spectators are not very familiar with Japanese films. However, I know that here people love and become interested in the culture of the country of the rising sun. I hope that the maximum number of people will visit the festival and that more is known about Japanese films in Armenia."

The demonstrations of the films will take place from 2nd through 4th of November in the Yerevan Cinema Theater "Moscow", and from 5th through 6th of November – in the Cinema Theater "Oktember" in the city of Gyumri. Entrance is free.

Five films will be presented during the festival; a film directed by Masahiko Makino "The Asahiyama Zoo – Penguins in the sky"; "Spring snow", which was shot on the motif of the first tetralogy "The sea of abundance" by Yukio Mishima, a classic of the 20th century Japanese literature; a film about a war by Kazuo Kuroki "When you live with your father--, the face of Jizo"; a film by Takashi Yamazaki, "Always. The sunset on the Third Street", and a film about a famous Japanese religious activist and philosopher Dogen "Zen".

(End of translation)