

**Speech by H.E. Mr. Nobutaka Shinomiya,
Ambassador of Japan to Portugal
On the occasion of the Japanese Sake tasting event,
“Convívio”
July 3, 2013**

**Her Excellency Mr. Guilherme Henrique Da Silva,
Vice-President of Assembly of the Republic,
Honorable Deputy Mr. Miguel Frاسquilho, President of
the "Portugal-Japan Friendship Parliamentary Group",
Honorable Deputies of the Republic,
Excellencies, dear colleagues of the Diplomatic Corps,
Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Boa tarde,

**I am glad to be here with you today, for the Japanese Sake
tasting event, “Convívio”.**

**First of all, I'd like to thank H. E. Vice-President Silva;
the Honorable Deputy Frاسquilho and the honorable
deputies of the Parliamentary Group president, and the
secretariat of the Assembly for making this event possible.**

**In recent years, Portuguese people are more interested in
Japanese cuisine which I think, reflects the demands of**

modern people looking for the health oriented food.

As you know, Japanese cuisine, just like Portuguese cuisine, use much natural and low calorie ingredients, such as fish and vegetable.

I believe now is time to further promote the Japanese Sake in this country, since Sake is essential when having Japanese meals, just like wine for Portuguese meals.

Sake is also believed in our country to be "the chief of all medicine", as "good wine makes good blood".

Today we have a Sake specialist with us, Mr. Hitoshi Utsunomiya who will talk about Sake. He is from the Japanese National Tax Agency, which has an institute of Sake study. Traditionally, the liquor tax plays an important part of Japanese tax income.

After Mr. Utsunomiya's comment, will be followed a Sake tasting. You may discover a new taste of sake.

I hope today's Convívio will not necessarily be just for understanding more about Sake, but to also be an opportunity in future business between our two countries, by further promoting trade of sake and wine.

Sake brings humans happiness. Sake is very effective in smoothening relationships. I cannot be any happier if we can celebrate our 470 years of friendship between Japan

and Portugal, by having delicious Sake with you.

Now, please do enjoy the Convívio event.

I hope you will find a sake of your taste.

Thank you for your attention.

Muito obrigado