

May 4th, 2018

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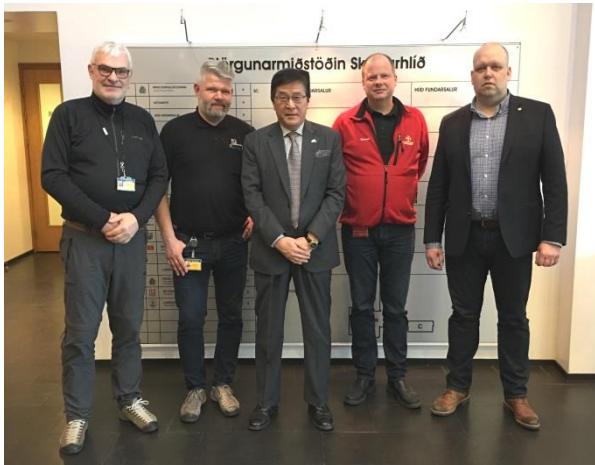
The first annual meeting of the Japanese–Icelandic Chamber of Commerce was held at the Ambassador's residence. Ambassador Kitagawa gave a welcoming speech to the members, followed by H.E. Mr. Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, who gave a speech on the achievement of the bilateral relations since the establishment of the Chamber, the importance of strengthening the bilateral relationships in the business field, and his scheduled trip to Japan in the end of this month. The meeting ended with a great success attended by many of the members of the Chamber and the government officials.



**February 2nd, 2018**

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Ambassador Kitagawa visited the HQ of the ICE-SAR (Icelandic Association For Search And Rescue). The ICE-SAR rescue teams, that mostly consist of volunteer staff, take seach and rescue operations all over the country in case of unexpected accidents and distress. With the increasing numbers of Japanese tourists and the consequent risk of accidents and distress also arising, further effort to strengthen the relationship between ICE-SAR and the Embassy was agreed.



**January 31st, 2018**

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Ambassador Kitagawa paid a courtesy call on H.E. Mr. Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson, Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources, who took the position on the 30th of November 2017. Initiative to deepen the bilateral relations in economic and business field was discussed, as well as further enhancing cooperation in the area of renewable energy and other environment related technologies.



**January 24th, 2018**

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Ambassador Kitagawa paid a courtesy call on Mr. Steingrímur J. Sigfússon, the Speaker of Alþingi, who took the position on the 14th of December 2017. After reconfirming the importance of the bilateral relations between the two countries, various topics and views were shared in the meeting, ranging from further facilitating interchanges between parliamentarians of both countries, trade, investment and cultural relations, to cultivating the cooperation in the field of geothermal energy and disaster prevention.



**January 18th, 2018**

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Ambassador Kitagawa paid a courtesy call on Ms. Áslaug Arna Sigurbjörnsdóttir, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Alþingi, who took the position on the 12th of December 2017. Discussion went on to various topics and valuable views were shared during the meeting, including the business and cultural relationship between Japan and Iceland, and further fostering the amicable bilateral relations.





January 15th, 2018

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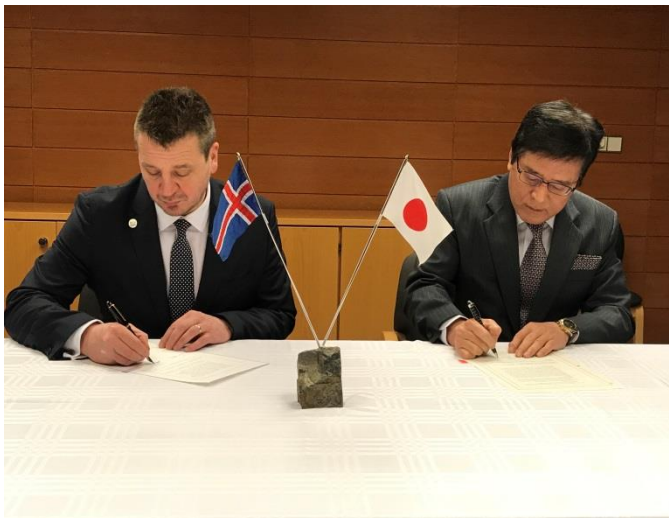
"Convention between Japan and Iceland for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance" (Tax Convention between Japan and Iceland) was signed in Reykjavik by Mr. Yasuhiko Kitagawa, Ambassador of Japan to Iceland, and H.E. Mr. Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland.

The Convention will enter into force after each country has completed its domestic procedure and an exchange of diplomatic notes.

It is expected that, while eliminating double taxation and preventing international tax evasion and tax avoidance, this Convention promotes further mutual investments and economic exchanges between the two countries. See below for further details.

[http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_001867.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_001867.html) (MoFA of Japan)

<https://www.government.is/news/article/?newsid=c78968d8-fc58-11e7-9423-005056bc4d74> (MFA of Iceland)



**December 5th, 2017**

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The Embassy held the National Day Reception at Grand Hotel Reykjavik. The reception was attended by approximately 150 guests from various fields: the government, diplomatic missions, private sectors, educational, cultural and academic sectors. Those exclusive guests included the Central Bank Governor, Mr. Már Guðmundsson and the chairman of the Japanese–Icelandic Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Úlfar Steindórsson. The reception was complemented by Japan-related companies with the display of their products, together with the demonstration of sushi-making by the Japanese Ambassador's chef.



October 7th, 2017

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Ambassador Kitagawa attended a testimony given by hibakusha, or atomic bomb survivor, of Nagasaki at the Reykjavik city hall and made a speech subsequently to an opening remark by Ms. Líf Magneudóttir, President of Reykjavik City Council. Ms. Tokuko Kimura, an atomic bombing witness in Nagasaki and Ms. Shion Urata, Youth Communicator for a World without Nuclear Weapons, told their stories, which was followed by a Q&A session. Opinions were actively exchanged and strong wish toward realization of the world without nuclear weapons was shared.





August 29th, 2017

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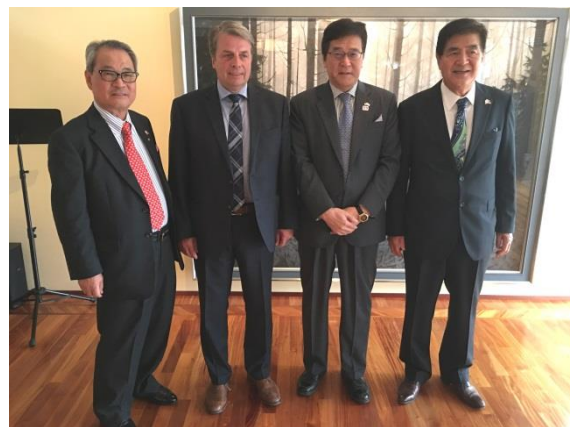
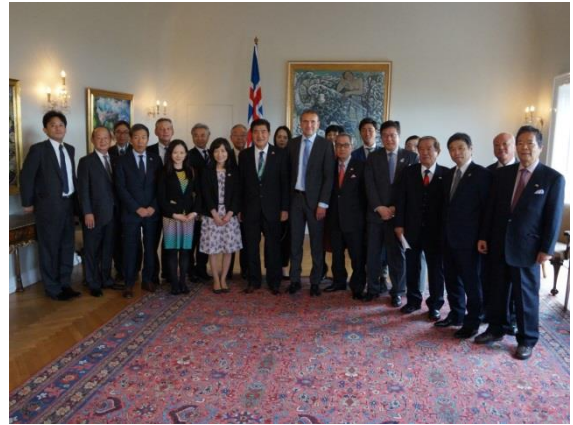
Ambassador Kitagawa took a business trip to the east Iceland and paid a visit to the biggest aluminium smelter in Iceland. The Ambassador also met Mayor of Fjarðabyggð city, Mayor of Fljótsháð city and the managing director of “Austurbru” where they discussed how to strengthen a bilateral relationship between Japan and Iceland. Then the Ambassador visited a biggest fishery company in the east region and exchanged views, among other things, of export trends of capeline and mackerel to Japan.



August 24th, 2017

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Members of the Japan Iceland Friendship Society visited Iceland between 24th and 28th of August 2017. The members paid a courtesy visit to President of Iceland, H.E. Mr. Guðni Th. Jóhannesson in Bessastaðir. The members also took part in various activities, including exchanging opinions with the board members of the Japanese-Icelandic Chamber of Commerce at the Ambassador 's residence.

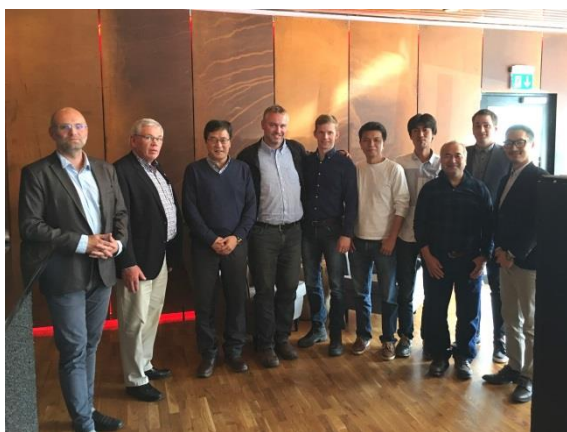




August 15th, 2017

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Ambassador Kitagawa visited the Heimaey island of the Westman Islands with Mr. Vilhjalmur Bjarnason, Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. The island owns the biggest fishing port in Iceland and the Ambassador paid a visit to a fishery company to discuss, among other things, exports trends of capeline, herring and mackerel to Japan. The Ambassador also exchanged opinions with executives of the municipal government.



**August 9th, 2017**

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The annual "Candle floating" was held at Tjörnin lakeside by Samstarfshópur friðarhreyfinga ("the collaboration group of pacifist movements") and Ambassador Kitagawa participated in the event. This year marks the 33rd time since the 1st floating was held in 1985. About 200 citizens including H.E. Mr. Kristján Þór Júlíusson, Minister of Education, Science and Culture, Ms. Katrín Jakobsdóttir (Member of Althingi) and Ms. Steinunn Árnadóttir (Member of Althingi) participated in the floating and commemorated the victims of the nuclear bomb attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Candles were lit with the hopes for a world without nuclear weapons.



June 20th, 2017

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Ambassador Kitagawa invited His Excellency Mr. Guðni Jóhannesson, President of Iceland, and Mrs. Eliza Reid to the residence and exchanged opinions on the bilateral relationships and overall socio-political affairs. Ambassador also informed the President of current economic and political situation in Japan. President Jóhannesson expressed his interests in further strengthening the bilateral relations including his future visit to Japan.





June 16th, 2017

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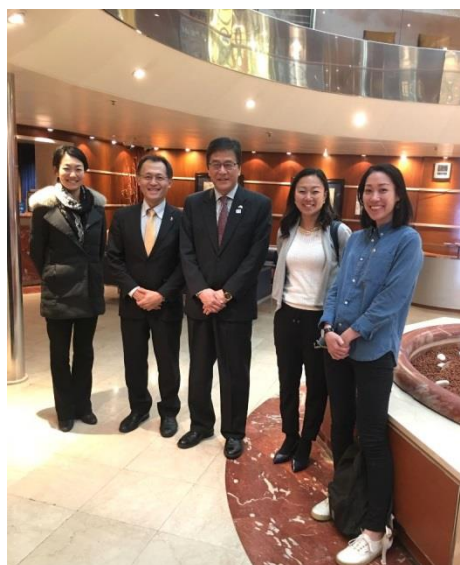
Ambassador Kitagawa invited former President Madame Vigdís Finnbogadóttir to the residence and exchanged opinions about the overall bilateral relationships. Madame Finnbogadóttir described her favourable impression and memory of her frequent trips to Japan and they enjoyed talking in a friendly atmosphere.



June 9th, 2017

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Ambassador Kitagawa attended testimonies by hibakusha, or atomic bomb survivors, of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the Reykjavik city hall and made a speech subsequently to an opening speech by Ms. Líf Magneudóttir, President of Reykjavik City Council. Also Ambassador visited aboard Japan-based international NGO Peace Boat which organized the testimonies and had an opportunity to learn about „Orizuru Project“. In this project, Hibakusha travel around the world giving personal testimonies about the effects of the atomic bombs and calling for nuclear abolition.



June 6th, 2017

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The inaugural meeting of the Japanese-Icelandic Chamber of Commerce was held at the Ambassador's residence. The mission of the Japanese-Icelandic Chamber of Commerce is to contribute to strengthen the ties between Japan and Iceland in the area of economy, trade and the private sector. Joined by the Icelandic companies with business relations with Japanese companies, the Japanese-Icelandic Chamber of Commerce formally started its activities.





**June 1st, 2017**

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Ambassador Kitagawa paid a courtesy visit to Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson and exchanged opinions about the overall bilateral relationships. In the evening, they participated in a contract signing ceremony for a business agreement between a Japanese company and an Icelandic company.



March 16th, 2017

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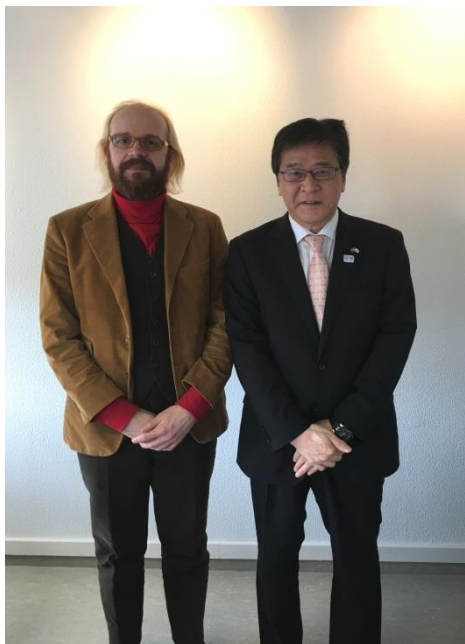
Ambassador Kitagawa visited the Hellisheiði Geothermal Power Plant with individuals from a Japanese company and discussed issues including the geothermal energy-related business opportunities with executives of Reykjavik Energy, which operates the plant, and ON Power.



**March 16th, 2017**

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Ambassador Kitagawa paid a courtesy call on Mr. Óttarr Proppé, Minister of Health who assumed the office on January 25th and exchanged views to promote bilateral relations such as health and welfare.



**March 15th, 2017**

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Ambassador Kitagawa paid a courtesy call on Mr. Kristján Júlíusson, Minister of Education, Science and Culture who assumed the office on January 25th and exchanged views to promote bilateral relations such as education and culture.





**February 28th, 2017**

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Ambassador Kitagawa paid a courtesy call on Mr. Guðni Jóhannesson, Director General of the National Energy Authority and exchanged views to promote bilateral relations such as business and energy.



**February 28th, 2017**

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Ambassador Kitagawa paid a courtesy call on Ms. Þórdís Gylfadóttir, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Innovation who assumed the office on January 25th and exchanged views to promote bilateral relations such as economy and industry.



**February 28th, 2017**

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Ambassador Kitagawa paid a courtesy call on Ms. Unnur Konráðsdóttir, Speaker of Alþingi who assumed the office on January 26th and exchanged views to promote bilateral relations, especially such as Arctic and gender equality.



**February 27th, 2017**

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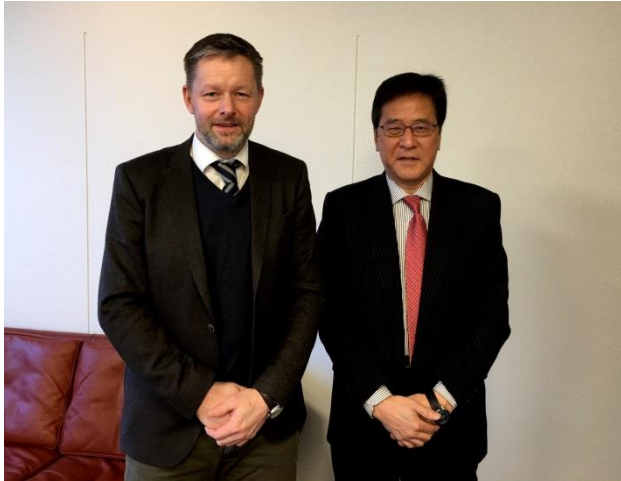
Ambassador Kitagawa paid a courtesy call on Mr. Óli Kárason, Chairman of the Economic Affairs and Trade Committee of Alþingi who assumed the office on January 25th and exchanged views to promote bilateral relations such as economy and business.



**February 23rd, 2017**

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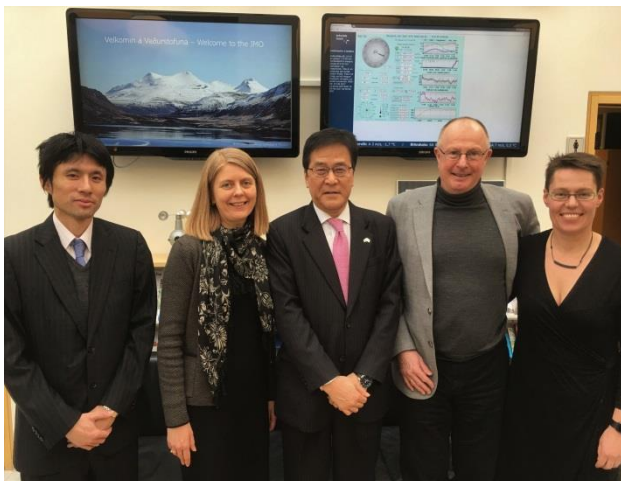
Ambassador Kitagawa paid a courtesy call on Mr. Þorsteinn Víglundsson, Minister of Social Affairs and Equality who assumed the office on 11th of January and exchanged views to promote bilateral cooperation such as gender and aging society.



**February 22nd, 2017**

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Ambassador Kitagawa visited the Icelandic Meteorological Office (IMO) and discussed issues including the possibility to cooperate between IMO and the Japanese Meteorological Agency.





**February 21st, 2017**

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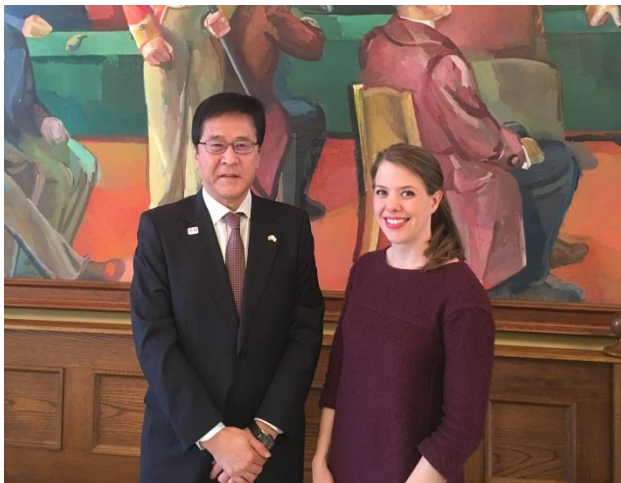
Ambassador Kitagawa paid a courtesy call on Ms. Þorgerður Gunnarsdóttir, Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture who assumed the office on 11th of January and and exchanged views to promote bilateral relations such as fisheries and agriculture.



**February 21st, 2017**

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Ambassador Kitagawa paid a courtesy call on Ms. Jóna Elínardóttir, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Alþingi who assumed the office on January 26th and exchanged views to promote bilateral relations such as business and cultural exchanges.



**February 15th, 2017**

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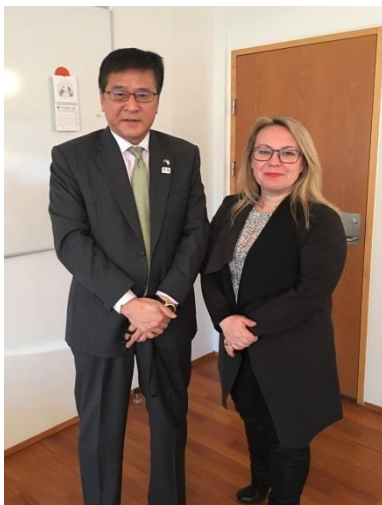
Ambassador Kitagawa paid a courtesy call on Ms. Björt Ólafsdóttir, Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources who assumed the office on 11th of January and exchanged views to promote bilateral relations such as the business and the meteorological issue.



**February 13th, 2017**

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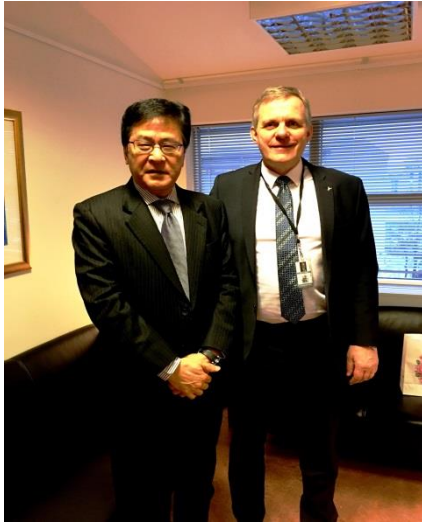
Ambassador Kitagawa paid a courtesy call on Ms. Sigríður Andersen, Minister of Justice who assumed the office on 11th of January and exchanged views on further promotion of bilateral relations such as the cultural exchange and the business.



**February 1st, 2017**

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Ambassador Kitagawa paid a courtesy call on Mr. Jón Gunnarsson, Minister of Transport and Local Government who assumed the office on 11th of January and exchanged views on economic issues such as the transportation and the infrastructure.



**January 25th, 2017**

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Ambassador Kitagawa paid a courtesy call on Mr. Benedikt Jóhannesson, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs who assumed the office on 11th of January and exchanged views on the bilateral economic relations as well as the economic situations of two countries.





January 23rd–24th, 2017

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Ambassador Kitagawa visited Akureyri, the second biggest city in Iceland from 23rd to 24th of January. He paid a courtesy call on the mayor of the city, Mr. Björgvinsson and the rector of the University of Akureyri, Dr. Guðmundsson. Also, he visited the Stefansson Arctic Institute, Hof cultural center, the Nonnahús Museum and more. At the meetings, the Ambassador exchanged views with them to promote regional, educational and academic exchanges between Japan and Iceland.



January 13th, 2017

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Ambassador Kitagawa visited Hellisheiði Geothermal Plant, which is a main plant of the Reykjavik Energy company, on the 13rd of January. Reykjavik Energy is a public utility company providing electricity with Japanese turbine generators, geothermal water for heating, and cold water for consumption and firefighting. The service area extends to 20 municipalities, covering 67% of the Icelandic population. Production capacity of the plant is 303 MW electricity and 133 MW thermal energy. At the site, Mr. Bjarnason, CEO of Reykjavik Energy welcomed the Ambassador and guided him for touring the facilities. The Ambassador exchanged views with Mr. Bjarnason to promote further cooperation of the private sector between Japan and Iceland.

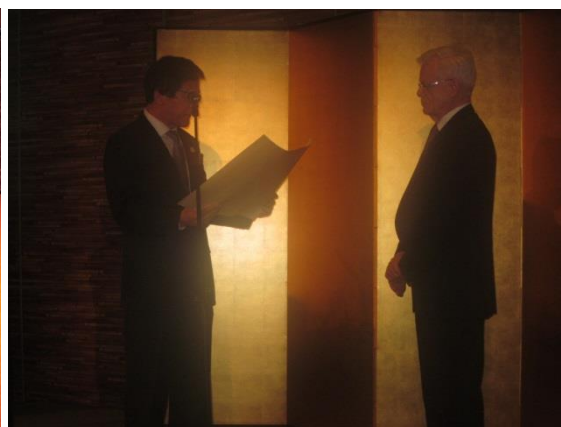
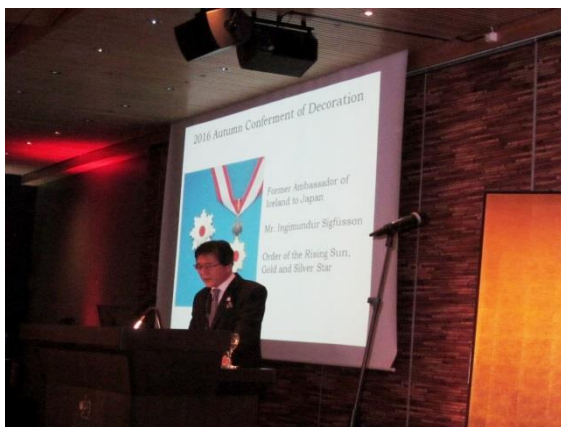




**December 8th, 2016**

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The Embassy held the National Day Reception at Grand Hotel Reykjavik. The reception was successful with about 170 invited guests, including former President Vigdís Finnbogadóttir and the Member of Parliament, Mr. Mr. Vilhjálmur Bjarnason. Also, the conferment of the decoration to former Ambassador of Iceland to Japan, Mr. Ingimundur Sigfússon was held during the reception.





**November 21st, 2016**

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On the 21st of November, 2016, Ambassador Kitagawa presented his Credentials to the President of Iceland, H.E. Mr. Guðni Th. Jóhannesson. At the presentation ceremony, Ambassador Kitagawa expressed his determination to make his best efforts to develop the friendly and cordial relationship between Japan and Iceland. In response, President Jóhannesson stated his wish to expand and deepen areas of cooperation with Japan, which has many things in common with Iceland, such as being islands, the volcanoes, the hot springs, and the fisheries.

