



ON Dipl. Eng. ŠTEFAN PECHO, PhD. AND HIS ACTIVITIES RELATED TO JAPAN

Mr. Štefan Pecho studied at the University of Economics in Bratislava and at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (Japanese Territorial and Language Specialization). He gained PhD. in Philological Sciences at the Cabinet of Oriental Studies of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (thesis: Problems of Intercultural Communication with the Japanese).

After graduation, Mr. Pecho worked as a diplomat at the Department of International Economic Institutions of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague and as a Chief Foreign Trade Officer at Martimex - Foreign Trade Company in Martin.

In 1986, Mr. Pecho founded the first Japanese studies in the history of the Slovak Republic at the Comenius University in Bratislava. In 1993, he contributed to the management of obtaining of the first official Japanese Government Aid to the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic intended for support of the Japanese language education in Slovakia. He had been engaged in Japanese study at the Comenius University for years till 2012 as the Head of the Department of East-Asian Studies. In 2014, Mr. Pecho opened the Japan Centre with the aim to expand Japanese language study and Japanese culture among Slovak people. In February, 2015, Mr. Pecho was unanimously elected for the Honorary President of the Slovak-Japanese Friendship Association. On September 30, 2015, Mr. Pecho was awarded the Japanese Ambassador's Award for years of contribution to Japanese language study and mutual understanding between Japan and the Slovak Republic.

ON THE LECTURE:

In the first part of the lecture, Mr. Pecho will provide an on non-academic view on phenomenon of the inter-cultural, cross-cultural, multi-cultural and intra-cultural communication, explain the seven levels of the cross-cultural communication and talk on the way to inter-cultural competence gained through the intercultural identity and intelligence. Mr. Pecho will specify the intercultural conflict as a natural component of human life. In the second part, the audience will learn on problems in business communication with Japanese, on Japanese mentality, on the Japanese communication habits in relation to the Occident and many interesting information on the Japanese communication and cultural habits.