

**DISCURSO DA PROFA. DRA. SUELY VILELA NA VISITA
OFICIAL DE SUA ALTEZA PRÍNCIPE NARUHITO, DO JAPÃO -
FACULDADE DE DIREITO - 20/06/08**

Good Morning!

On behalf of the University of Sao Paulo, I would like to welcome Your Highness, Prince Naruhito, as the official representative of the Japanese Imperial Family for the Celebration of the Centenary of Japanese Immigration to Brazil. We are extremely honored with Your Highness presence at the School of Law, one of the most traditional and well known Schools of our Institution.

It is important to emphasize that this University has a special relationship with Japan. The Japanese community here is very impressive. In a total of eighty thousand students at the University of São Paulo around fourteen percent are Nikkei, and in a total of five and a half thousand professors, around eight percent are Nikkei.

These figures show the commitment of the University of São Paulo to the Japanese community.

The cooperation between our University and Japanese universities in the research area and graduation courses has been strengthened lately. Nowadays, there are ten exchanging programs, involving Japanese and Brazilian students and researchers and we have been making efforts to increase this fruitful relationship.

The Celebration of the Centenary of Japanese Immigration in Brazil has a special meaning for both our countries. Japanese people have definitely contributed to the development of Brazil in many areas. When the first Japanese immigrants arrived here, Brazilian people could not realize that a strong partnership was being born and would be strengthened as time went by.

During these hundred years, we have had the opportunity to share our culture and learn a lot from each other. This experience has certainly enriched both Brazilian and Japanese ways of life.

We have learnt to admire the Japanese people sense of dignity, determination and capacity of working hard. The willingness and success in rebuilding their country from war devastation is an example that will remain forever in the History of Mankind.

We are sure that those qualities have been responsible for the fast recovery of Japan and for its development and position reached in the economy of the world.

Nowadays, the Japanese leadership in advanced technology has put the country forward and may be considered an inspiration to other countries.

In other words I must say Brazil is fortunate to have the biggest Japanese colony in the world once Brazilian people have always something to learn from its examples.

The University of São Paulo has organized a scientific and cultural program to celebrate this centenary this year. Thus, Your Highness visit has become a special mark to the history of our Institution besides strengthening the relationship between our countries.

We would like you to be the messenger of our best wishes to the Imperial Family and all the Japanese nation.

We would also like to highlight how proud Your Highness presence at the University of São Paulo has made us feel.

Thank you very much for including this visit in your agenda.

It's really an honor to have Your Highness here.