



Japan

AIR CANADA



CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN JAPAN  
CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE DU CANADA AU JAPON

Connecting Canada  
and Japan

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# THE CANADIAN

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## Everest of Change: No Mountain Too High

John Amatt was the leader of Canada's first successful expedition to Mount Everest, and has been called the world's best adventure speaker. During his first visit to Japan, Amatt spoke to members of the CCCJ, sharing his motivational presentation, *No Mountain Too High: Challenging Change with the Adventure Attitude*. The presentation included trials he and his team endured during their celebrated expedition and the importance of a good attitude when faced with change and tribulation.

"Adventure isn't hanging on a rope on the side of a mountain. Adventure is an attitude that we must apply to day-to-day obstacles in life, facing new challenges, seizing new opportunities, testing our resources against the unknown and, discovering our own unique potential."

An educator by training, Amatt uses the lessons he learned from his own adventures in the world's most remote places, to articulate down-to-earth strategies for meeting challenges in a changing world.

Amatt's mission in going to Everest was to place one of his team on top of the world's highest mountain. In his own words, "It didn't matter who reached the summit, because we believed that when one person stood on the highest point, the whole team had achieved the goal. I was totally fulfilled the day we reached the top and I would never go back to Everest, because my expectation as leader had been fully met."

The lessons Amatt considers most valuable



Summit of Mount Everest on John Amatt's celebrated expedition

Photo: John Amatt

from the Everest climb, are somewhat different than one might expect from an adventure speaker, in that he was not the climber within his team to reach the top of Everest on his expedition. "Learning takes place afterwards, when you step back and reflect on how you handled what happened to you, not in standing on the summit," said Amatt. Instead, he was a leader of a dedicated team that suffered four tragic deaths in two unpredictable accidents before placing six climbers on the peak.

"When you see one person attaining any great goal in life, it reflects on all the members of their team who make the achievement possible." The met-

aphor of mountain climbing as an attitude of adventure and teamwork in everyday life, proposed: trust, compatibility, experience and skill, as valued components that must comprise any team trying to reach a goal in life or business.

John Amatt has spoken to over 1800 audiences in 46 countries and plans to reach 50 countries during his time as an adventure speaker. A resident of Canmore, Alberta, Amatt is the Founder of the world-renowned Banff Mountain Film Festival and Founder and President of One Step Beyond WorldWide To contact John Amatt, visit [www.jobnamatt.com](http://www.jobnamatt.com).

## Canada Releases Social Security Application Guides

On March 1, 2008, the Canada-Japan Social Security Agreement came into effect, completing a process that started as an initiative of the CCCJ Tax Committee over a decade ago.

The genesis of the initiative developed from a concern of Canadians working in Japan who planned to be long-term residents. In order to qualify to receive benefits under the Japanese pension system, a person would have to contribute to the Japanese pension system for a minimum of 20 years. For Canadians working in Japan, the length of time required to qualify, and the possibility of losing the right to benefits upon premature departure from Japan, regardless of the amount that was paid into the scheme were significant concerns. Hal Archer, chair of the CCCJ social policy committee, teamed up with fellow member Les Lohmann, a Canadian actuary, and others, to address the problem. "When we first started this process, I had to pay Japanese pension, national and municipal taxes and I was not happy with the conditions that applied in order to collect pension benefits," said Archer.

Lohmann stated, "The goal was to make it possible for Canadians in Japan to get their benefits from Japan, based on total service, or to legally opt out of joining the Japanese system when it served neither the individual nor their employer's interest." The situation of Japanese in Canada mirrors these concerns.

The issue was also a concern for Canada's largest investor in Japan, Manulife. With assistance from Manulife's Japan and Canadian head offices, data was gathered, and a position paper was prepared and presented to Japanese and Canadian officials. An agreement was signed in Tokyo on February 15, 2006, by Japanese and Canadian officials.

Now, Canadian workers can use their periods of social security coverage in Canada to qualify for Japanese social security benefits. The Agreement allows

people to use their periods of coverage under the Japanese pension scheme to qualify for Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Old Age Security (OAS) benefits. Canadians who are sent to work temporarily in Japan, can now continue contributions to the CPP, maintaining their CPP protection without interruption. Canadian workers will not be required as they were previously, to contribute to the Japanese pension scheme.

The Canadian government's Human Resources Development Canada, has issued a guide for completing an application for Canadian Old Age, Retirement and Survivors Benefits under the Agreement between Canada and Japan on Social Security.

Several guides are available in either English/Japanese or French/Japanese. To access the guides, visit [www.cccj.or.jp](http://www.cccj.or.jp)

CCCJ Corporate Sustaining Members



Thank you for reading this sample issue. If you would like to read the full issue, or find out more about the Chamber of Commerce in Japan, please contact our office.

The Canadian is the Chamber's bi-monthly newspaper for members and is also distributed to a targeted and influential audience of businesses, public and private-sector business organizations, and key decision makers with an interest in the Canada and Japan relationship.

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