



## <Yutaka Miyanishi>

Country/Region: Russia (Sakhalin)

Age: 84

Occupation: Owner, Restaurant Furusato

### ○ Contribution to the promotion of Japanese cuisine in Sakhalin

- Mr. Yutaka Miyanishi has been running a Japanese restaurant in Sakhalin for about 20 years.
- He has been extending cooperation to culinary events organized by the Sakhalin Oblast Government and the city of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.
- He has been contributing to the promotion and development of Japanese cuisine, teaching how to cook Japanese cuisine to Russians by offering cooking demonstrations and culinary courses at a local university and elsewhere in numerous occasions.

Mr. Yutaka Miyanishi moved to the city of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk in Sakhalin Oblast in 1991. After serving as a vice president of a hotel, he opened a Japanese restaurant (called "Asuka" from 1997 to 2003 and "Furusato" from 2003 to present). It offers more than 100 dishes. All of them are orthodox instead of being overly unique, and served using plates, bowls, etc. that have been handpicked by Mr. Miyanishi and sent from Japan, true to his motto: "Japanese cuisine is not just food but includes dinnerware as integral part of it." The restaurant, which has a capacity of seating 120 people, is always filled with Russian customers and it is so popular that some customers travel all the way from Moscow in quest of an authentic Japanese taste.

Besides running his restaurant business, Mr. Miyanishi has been contributing to the promotion and development of Japanese cuisine in Sakhalin. For instance, he has been providing active cooperation to various food-related projects and events organized by the Sakhalin Oblast Government, such as Japanese culinary contests and Japanese cuisine demonstrations. Also, he has been appointed as professor emeritus of the Yuzhno Sakhalinsk Institute of Economics Law and Information (presently, the Sakhalin Institute of Humanity and Technology) for having given lectures on Japanese cuisine over a period of 10 years.

On top of all these, he has been pursuing philanthropic endeavors, contributing medical equipment to local hospitals, offering support to orphanages, and donating young cherry trees. A 250-meter cherry tree-lined walkway inside the Gagarin Park is familiarly called the Miyanishi alley by locals. He became the second foreigner to be named an honorary citizen of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk in 2008 and is a very famous Japanese in Sakhalin.