



< Seiichi Kashiwabara >

Country / Region: Toronto, Canada

Age : 65 years old

Current Position : Owner chef of “Zen Japanese Restaurant”
Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador

○Expanding Japanese cuisine community in Canada, handing it down to later generations

- 2000: Opened “Zen Japanese Restaurant” in Toronto.
- 2008: Appointed Board of Directors member of Japanese Restaurant Association of Canada (JRAC).
- 2019: Opened Japanese noodle restaurant “Zen Sanuki Udon”.
- 2021: Launched program to help overseas-oriented young Japanese staff become independent restaurant operators.
- 2022: Appointed Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador.

Seiichi Kashiwabara emigrated to Ottawa in 1984 and, after working as chef at a sushi restaurant there, built his career in Toronto from 1991. He opened “Zen Japanese Restaurant” in 2000. He has since been continuing the Japanese restaurant business over a period of more than 20 years. He is a pioneering figure in the community of authentic Japanese cuisine chefs in Toronto.

As a member of the Board of Directors at the Japanese Restaurant Association of Canada (JRAC), he has contributed for many years to spreading Japanese cuisine and food culture. After studying means of cooking “Sanuki Udon” noodles using flour from Japan and natural “dashi” soup stock, he launched “Zen Sanuki Udon” restaurant in 2019.

He has energetically enhanced his support program further since being appointed Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador in 2022, giving his full assistance to Japanese chefs wishing to work abroad.

Moreover, he is dedicated to spreading Japanese food culture and the use of Japanese ingredients while emphasizing the expansion of the Japanese food community and its succession to later generations by providing management expertise and extending financial assistance to directly run stores.