

Reading about Japan at I-House Library

Ambassador Radu Şerban reads from his book *Closer to the Sky (Sora e Ayumu)*

Friday, February 19, 2016, 7:00 pm, The Library, International House of Japan

Reader: **Radu Şerban** (Ambassador of Romania in Japan)

Language: **English** (without Japanese interpretation)

Admission: **1,500 yen** (IHJ Members & Library Members: free)

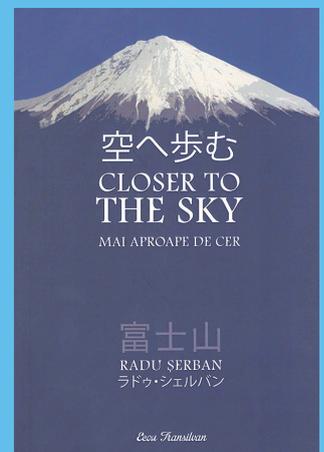
Venue: The Library, International House of Japan

In this reading session Mr. Radu Şerban, Romanian Ambassador to Japan, will offer a congenial lecture, revealing a sensitive human being affected by the physical greatness of a mountain and by the spiritual greatness of a priest.

Mr. Şerban will read from his book *Closer to the Sky*, which is about his climbing Mt. Fuji in July, 2014. The book is not only a reportage of mountaineering, but also offers a glimpse of his philosophy of life, beliefs, and experiences. Stepping on the rocks, his mind jumps 9,000 km between Japan and Romania to find similarities and differences.

Closer to the Sky also introduces Romanian Monsignor Vladimir Ghika, who visited Japan in 1933 and 1936. Received by the Sovereign in 1933, Ghika was a missionary, philosopher, priest, scholar, historian, and was beatified in 2013. The distances are shrinking in the book, bringing closer the Romanian spirit to the Japanese spirit.

After the reading session all participants are invited to a small reception, with the opportunity to meet Ambassador Şerban informally.



Radu Şerban (1951-), the author, is an economist by profession; Ambassador of Romania to Japan since 2012. Mr. Şerban has published four volumes of haiku in Romanian and one in English, and also eight books on European economic integration, reflecting his nine years of experience in Brussels as Minister Counsellor. He was a member of the Romanian team negotiating Romania's accession to the European Union. He has also published books about his great-uncle, the first Romanian Orthodox Bishop in the US, Polycarp Moruşca (1883-1958).

This program will be held thanks to a contribution from an I-House member.

CONTACT & RESERVATIONS

The Library, International House of Japan
(Mon. - Sat. 9 am - 6 pm)

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<http://www.i-house.or.jp/eng/programs/library/>

