

Japan Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan Presents:



# Paro:

## The Therapeutic Robot

Lecture and presentation  
by

**Dr. Takanori Shibata**

Creator of Paro

January 31 4:30pm

and

February 1 12:30-1:30pm

In the JI CC Auditorium

*Both lectures are open to the public; however the lecture on **February 1** will look deeper into the scientific side of Paro's development and use. The **January 31** lecture will offer a more general overview of Paro.*

The beneficial effects of animal therapy have been well documented. From psychological benefits, such as relaxation, to improving communication between patients and caregivers, animal-assisted therapy has helped countless individuals.

Unfortunately there are many concerns with animal therapy. Worries about allergies, cleanliness and the unpredictable nature of live animals have forced caregivers to look for other options. This is where Paro comes in.

Paro is a therapeutic robot designed by Dr. Takanori Shibata for use in care giving institutions and the home. Paro is modeled after a baby harp seal. Researchers discovered that people were quicker to accept a robot modeled after an uncommon animal.

Paro has been used for therapy in pediatric wards, nursing homes, as well by individuals unable to care for a live pet. The benefits are well documented- decreased stress in patients, improved responsiveness in uncommunicative patients and lowering of the mental strain on caregivers.

The JICC is proud to present two lectures and demonstrations by Paro's creator, Dr. Takanori Shibata. Dr. Shibata will speak about the development of Paro, which began in 1993, and how Paro has been utilized throughout the world.

Please see <http://paro.jp/english> for more information.

This event is free and open to the public. Reservations are required.

RSVP to [jiccrsvpwinter08@embjapan.org](mailto:jiccrsvpwinter08@embjapan.org)

**\*Please indicate which day you would like to attend\***

Seating is limited and granted on a first come, first served basis

Japan Information and Culture Center, Embassy of Japan • 3 Lafayette Center • 1155  
21<sup>st</sup> St NW • Washington DC 20036 • 202-238-6949 • [www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc](http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc)