

KamiKaze Con  
P.O. BOX 75101  
Houston, TX 77234

<http://www.kamikazecon.com>

Consulate-General of Japan at Houston  
1000 Louisiana St., Suite 2300  
Houston, TX 77002

<http://www.houston.us.emb-japan.go.jp/>



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KAMIKAZE CON AND THE CONSULATE-GENERAL OF JAPAN AT HOUSTON PRESENT A WEEKEND WITH YOSHIYUKI TOMINO, CREATOR OF GUNDAM

January 20, 2004 (Houston, TX) – Kamikaze Con and the Consulate-General of Japan at Houston are proud to present a two-day event in February at the University of Houston featuring guest of honor Yoshiyuki Tomino, famed creator of the original Gundam series. "A Weekend with Yoshiyuki Tomino" will open its doors at 2pm on the campus of University of Houston on Friday, February 27, 2004 and will be free to all of those wishing to attend.

In addition to Mr. Tomino, the two-day event will feature many Voice Actors from ADV films. Those attending the convention will be able to attend informative panels on the voice acting world as well as have the opportunity to meet many actors from many of the popular titles out today. Along with the voice actor panels, fans will find a variety of other events happening throughout the weekend including Greggo's game shows, drawing panels, an anime screening room and a cosplay event. The convention will culminate with a lecture given by Mr. Tomino.

Yoshiyuki Tomino, a veteran of the anime industry, is credited as the principal creator of the Gundam franchise. In 1979, his first Gundam series revolutionized the big robot genre in Japanese animation and his influence can be seen in many of today's hottest anime. Since his original contribution, Mr. Tomino has come back to the series to direct and help guide many of the "Universal Century" Gundam series. His latest contribution, Turn A Gundam, takes the Gundam franchise into a whole new direction and has led to the success of the current Gundam incarnation, Gundam Seed.

#### About KamiKaze Con

The staff behind KamiKaze Con are dedicated to bringing the excitement of an anime convention to the Houston area. With their first convention sized event scheduled for March of 2005, the staff plans to create a recurring annual event in the Houston area bringing together fans from all over greater Texas. With a balanced focus on both the Japanese and North American side of the industry, fans will be able to find a variety of events to make the experience worthwhile.

#### About the Consulate-General of Japan at Houston

The role of the Consulate-General of Japan at Houston is to serve the Japanese community living in Texas and Oklahoma in addition to educating Americans about Japan and its culture. The Consulate strives to provide opportunities to promote a greater understanding of Japan by bringing Japanese artists and lecturers to the area. The growing popularity of Anime has developed into a worldwide phenomenon that crosses cultural boundaries, making anime one of the most accessible forms of contemporary Japanese culture.

#### Contact:

Allen Divers  
Press & Industry Liaison  
[allend@kamikazecon.com](mailto:allend@kamikazecon.com)  
TEL: 337-842-7021

Lauren Sethney  
Consulate-General of Japan  
[lauren.sethney@cgjhou.org](mailto:lauren.sethney@cgjhou.org)  
TEL: 713-652-2977 x102

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