

## Detail of the 4<sup>th</sup> Japan-Baltic Seminar

**Theme:** "The Baltic States and Japan through media"

### **Sub-themes:**

#### (1) The role of media that changes the world: Independence of the Baltic States and Arab Spring: Democracy and media"

○Past to present: History shows that the media has played an important role in the movements for democracy, such as in the proclamation of independence of the Baltic States in 1990 and, more recently, in the Arab Spring. In this session, the participants from the three states will speak of the role that the media played in the process of democratisation and transition to a market economy over the last 20 years, based on his/her own experience.

○Present to future: The participants from the three states will discuss what journalism should be in the future, having in mind, not only the role of the "traditional" forms of media such as newspaper and TV, but also that of new forms of media such as Facebook, Twitter and Skype in the movement of youth in the Arab Spring. The discussion will focus especially on the relationship between democracy and the media, and the viewpoint unique to the Baltic States.

#### (2) The Baltic States and Japan

○Under the present circumstances where both "traditional" and new forms of media have been developed, how has the Great East Japan Earthquake been reported in the Baltic States? The participants will also discuss what they found regarding the media reports about the Earthquake.

○How is Japan understood and reported in the Baltic states as a preceding democracy and market economy. In particular, how are Japanese politics, economy and culture, as well as security environment in East Asia reported? The participants will discuss how the media can develop the possibility of cooperation between Japan and the Baltic States.