



MINATO TOKYO

Bulletin

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MINATO UNESCO ASSOCIATION NEWS & CALENDAR

ISSUED BY / MINATO UNESCO ASSN. 16-3, SHIMBASHI 3-CHOME MINATO-KU TOKYO 105-0004 / KIMITADA MIWA PRES.
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No. 117: December 24, 2009

How Old Are the Japanese As a Nation? What if the 18-Year Olds Were Made to Join the Adulthood?

Kimitada Miwa, MUA President and Professor Emeritus of Sophia University

In the classroom of Journalism at Sophia University in 1950, students were told that a dog biting a human being doesn't make it newsworthy, but if a man bites a dog that is sensational enough to be printed in a newspaper. Mr. Soichi Ohya, famed journalist of the time, teaching as part-time professor of feature writing, ordered his students to write a short essay as the first homework of that academic year on the subject of what Douglas MacArthur as the SCAP of the Allied Forces occupying Japan, the defeated nation in the Pacific War, opined of the Japanese nation as being only "twelve years old."

This must have come from the mouth of MacArthur who was exasperated by the slow pitch of Japan's transformation from a totalitarian state to a democracy while the threat of communism looked like rising within the country against the backdrop of North Korea as well as seemed being exercised as no more than in their self interest alone.

More than half a century has gone by, and how old has the Japanese nation become? The mass media in recent years has remarked that Japanese boys mentally become mature only when they reach 36 years old. It may be equally true with the female counterpart.

To apply the theory advanced by Professor Hideo Ono, the founder of the Journalism Institute at the University of Tokyo, the remark that the Japanese as a nation is only twelve years old is nearly as newsworthy as a man biting a dog.

But in that Japan all of a sudden a refreshing gust blew. The government-counseling group of learned people after a deliberation reported back that the appropriate age of legal adult status is 18 years old. Juvenile criminals deadly enough to be given severe sentences if they were adults are sent to penitentiaries for the minors. The public has been increasingly considering this absurd and outrageous. Such youngsters should be punished as full as grown-ups.

Those teenage criminals are clearly bigger and stronger physically than prewar men ready for conscription for military services. But even if the legal age for marriage may be good enough for the 18-year olds, there are concerns about their becoming the easy preys of commercial swindlers, and also how they could be protected from mal-effects of smoking and drinking.

After all the Japanese as a nation are still immature?

Those Japanese belonging to the age group who have learned a lesson from the hard times of the postwar years, and who are still the guiding voices for the nation, keep on saying that we should never go into war again. But in the rest of the world, military conflicts are

(To be continued on Page 7)

The First Cross-cultural Awareness Workshop
“History and Culture of the Republic of Turkey

Date, Thursday, July 30, 2009

Place: Minato City Life-long Learning Center

In this MUA workshop, which was supported by the Minato City board of education, we invited as our speaker Ms. Mehtap Sultan Gumusay to give a presentation on her home country – the Republic of Turkey. She was familiar to some of MUA members as she had volunteered to be the instructor for our World Cooking Workshop before.



At the start of the workshop, our MC introduced a diversified profile of Ms. Gumusay. She is by profession a jewel designer of Sultan Collection and business planner. In addition she is chairperson of the Turkish Chamber of Commerce in Japan as well as a member of different Turkey-related committees. She was born in Istanbul in a royal family related to the Ottoman Empire, and studied in Japan, France and the U. K. as a student. She came to Japan in 1986 and presently lives in Yokohama with her husband and two sons. The following is a summary of her presentation.

First, we saw an enjoyable video introduction to Turkey which was produced by the government. It was followed by Ms. Gumusay’s presentation in fluent Japanese on the history, economy, Turkey-Japan relations, along with not-well-known facts about Turkey.

Historical developments of civilization and culture

Ms. Gumusay gave a detailed historical review of Turkey, dating back to the age of the New Stone Age in BC8000 when humans started to live along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. She followed it up all the way to the national foundation as the Republic of Turkey.

Major points of interest included the fact that Turkey had allied with Germany during WWII and was counted among the defeated nations. Mustafa Kemal, founder of the republic, is called “Ataturk” or Father of Turkey and highly respected by all Turkish people. He saved Turkey from becoming a prey to the Western powers which often sought either colonization or terrestrial division of targeted countries. As the first president of Turkey, he demonstrated an outstanding leadership in modernizing the country, including the separation of church and state, the adoption of Latin characters, the establishment of education systems, and women’s participation in politics. It is only 86 years since Turkey became a republic but the population has increased from 12 million to about 70 million. All in all, Turkey has been historically under the strong and mixed influences of the Hittite empire, the Greek culture, the Roman culture, the Byzantine culture, and the Ottoman Empire.

Turkey in terms of economy

Demographically speaking, those who are at age 28 or younger account for over 50

percent of the entire 70 million population. This means that Turkey has ample work force and a great potential to realize consumers who would have purchasing power on a mid- to long-term range. It is also an attractive market for EU countries to build manufacturing plants because Turkish work force is dexterous and cost-competitive.

In both export and import, trading partners for Turkey are mainly European countries. Industrial products account for a large share of its trade. TV sets and refrigerators, made in Turkey, occupy 40 percent and 30 percent shares, respectively, of the European market. The automobile industry is also gradually expanding its relative share, with a large growth expected in the production of foreign models. The produced cars are not just for domestic users but also exported. Toyota, Honda and Suzuki of Japan also operate their manufacturing plants in Turkey.

Railroads and highway networks, originating from Europe, intersects in Turkey and so do Asian counterparts. Turkey really offers a bridging function between the two continents.

The BTC pipeline connects Azerbaijan's capital Baku, Georgia's capital Tbilisi and a Turkish city, and is the world's second largest facility. It provides petroleum from the Caspian Sea to a port town located on the eastern part of the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. In parallel with the BTC pipeline runs another facility called BTM, a natural gas pipeline, which connects Baku, Tbilisi and a Turkish city. The natural gas is refined in Turkey and then exported to Europe. Presently 25 percent of European consumption is supplied via Turkey. At the completion of another pipeline under construction, the ratio will increase up to 40 percent.

Although the Turkish economy had suffered a high inflation for 30 years since about 1970, it finally overcame the difficulty. While the consumer price showed 70 % inflation in 2001, it came down to 29% in 2002, 18% in 2003, and 9.3 in 2004. The economy has been stable except the impact from the worldwide financial crisis which emerged last year.

According to the Central Bank data of 2008, stocks of 318 companies are listed on the Istanbul Stock Exchange, accounting for about 20 percent of the largest 1,500 firms. About 70 percent of the shareholders are foreign investors. The stock index in 2001 was 13,000 whereas it expanded to 55,000 in 2007. It is said that there are investors who enjoyed 400 percent capital gain during the six-year period.

In Istanbul there are over 30 large-scale shopping malls. Each accommodates more than 100 stores and dwarfs Japanese counterparts.

Turkey has an organization called TICA which specializes in international cooperation and development projects, just like Japan's JICA does. It has a worldwide network of 22 overseas offices. For example, TICA is offering assistance to Afghanistan with the support of Turkish military forces.

Year 2010 marks the 120th anniversary of Turkey-Japan friendship. The original interaction between the two countries dates back to September 1890 when a warship of the Ottoman Empire was shipwrecked by typhoon and sank after an explosion off the coast of Kushimoto, Wakayama Prefecture. Before the accident the ship had come into Yokohama, carrying a diplomatic goodwill mission. They paid a protocol visit to the Meiji Emperor and, after three weeks, started on a return voyage.

The maritime accident took a heavy death toll of 581 passengers, including the mission leader, leaving only 69 survivors. The local people in Kushimoto made all possible efforts, day and night, to save and care the survivors while also pulling up the bodies of the victims. The survivors received intensive medical care in Kobe and were later returned to Istanbul escorted by two warships. A monument for the victims was built in Kushimoto and it has been well taken care of by the local people. This story is included in textbooks used in Turkish elementary schools and caused Turkish children to have a favorable impression about Japan.



There is a related episode which took place about a century later in 1985 when the world saw the war between Iran and Iraq. The Iraqi dictator Hussein declared that his regime would shoot down any airplane which might fly over Iran after 40 hours. It meant that foreigners who were still in Iran would have to evacuate from the country within the 40-hour limit. Unfortunately there was no direct flight from Iran to Japan. Lives of 125 Japanese nationals who were stationed in Iran became vulnerable to war devastation.

That's when the Turkish government returned the favor of Kushimoto. They offered an emergency rescue flight for the Japanese people at stake and saved their lives. In June 2008, when President Gul of Turkey visited Japan, he took a chartered flight to Kushimoto with a delegation of 150 Turks. His purpose was to offer flowers to the historical monument. In 2010, a variety of events will be held to further promote friendship between the two countries.

□ Not well known facts about Turkey

Since the Republic of Turkey was founded, women have been steadily empowered in the society. Especially in cities, there are women who have received high-level education and assume important positions in politics and business activities.

The place where the Arc of Noah landed after the enormous flood had subsided, as stated in the Old Testament, is Mt. Ararat located in Anatolia located in the eastern region of Turkey.

Turkey exports water in exchange for petroleum.

Turkey is the place of origin for popular food, including cherries, figs, apricots, almond, hazelnuts, cheese, yogurt, and wheat. In fact, cherries were presented to Yamagata Prefecture from the Ottoman Empire. Also, tulips originated in Turkey. During the 1500's, tulip bulbs were brought to Vienna and caused market enthusiasm in the U. K. and the Netherlands.

Santa Claus also originated in Turkey. It derives from the fact that, from the third to fourth centuries, there lived a Christian father of philanthropic mind who gave presents to children in poverty. However, during the 1950's, the Coca Cola company in the U. S. created and established the current image of Santa Claus who is now believed to come from Scandinavia.

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The 2009 Welcome Reception for MUA Newcomers

Date: June 12, 2009 (Fri) at 18:30

Place: Minato City Life-long Learning Center

The Membership Committee organized this year's "Welcome Reception for Newcomers." Ten newcomers and 35 current members participated. The first part, orientation, hosted by Vice President Mr. Nakagawa, was kicked-off with the greeting of Chairperson Mr. Miwa. He warmly welcomed the newcomers and explained the history of MUA, its activities with the values attached, and the plan for this year's international symposium. Then, the host introduced each and every newcomer with individual's opportunity of admission. After the host's introduction, Vice President Ms. Takai presented the outline of UNESCO and its activities as well as the activities of MUA since its foundation. Committee Chairpersons and Standing Directors of seven committees introduced their activities and ardently solicited newcomers to join their committees. Their enthusiasm must have been well transmitted to them.



Then, the second part, get-together, started. Ms. Akiyama and Ms. Miyoshi, Chairwoman and Vice-Chairwoman, respectively, of the Membership Committee, served as co-hosts, and Mr. Shimizu, Vice President of MUA, played his accordion which served as an enchanting BGM. Snack and deserts warmly prepared by the members as well as refreshments were served. Upon a toast proposed by Vice President Mr. Matsumoto, the convivial party started in a very congenial atmosphere.

While newcomers introduced themselves, Mr. Shimizu played a music that went very well with each individual. That must have made it much easier for them to speak in a cozy atmosphere. At the end of the party, all the people present sang in chorus several songs accompanied by the accordion played by Mr. Shimizu.



During the reception, Ms. Takai remarked that she was able to continue her activities in MUA thanks to the connections with many people made through various activities organized under the MUA. Thus, newcomers are expected to join any one of the committees and bring new ideas proactively.

As Vice-Chairwoman of the Membership Committee, I would like to thank all the members for a successful completion of the gathering.

(Written by S. Naruse, Vice-Chairwoman of the Membership Committee, and translated by Y. Suda, Vice Chairman of the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

The World Cooking Workshop Home Dishes from South India

Date: July 4, 2009

Place: Minato City Gender-free Center

As many people will agree, Indian food is getting to be increasingly popular in Japan. Of all the variety of Indian dishes, we learned this time home cooking of southern India. The instructor in beautiful blue saree was Ms. Radhika Hari from Tamil, India. She was from the highest Hindu caste of Brahmins whose major role is to serve God. Although eating taboo is less rigid nowadays, they are basically vegetarians not eating meat, fish and eggs.



So, under the guidance of Ms. Hari we made two kinds of curry using a lot of vegetables. We also learned to make chutney which is a sort of dip, sweet kheer for dessert, Basmati rice and a familiar item to most of us, chai. For Indian food, spice is the essence. For every dish a variety of spices were used, many of them I had never seen before.

Now, the question is how to make all those? For most of the items mentioned above, we first roasted several different spices and then put them in a blender. The roasted and blended spices were then added to stir-fried vegetables which were then simmered into a stew. Masala that is often used in Northern India does not seem to be used in South India. Instead, coconut is often used. The spice called sambar powder is also different in the South from that in the North. Ms. Hari kindly brought southern sambar for the occasion. What impressed me was that instead of throwing away vegetable skins, she finely chopped them and used for cooking. She also removed all the remaining spices from the blender so that every bit of spices would not be wasted. The spirit we should all learn!

The cooked food was beautifully arranged on a banana leaf to serve each person attending. Banana leaves are said to have a preservative effect and are often used today for such auspicious occasions as wedding.

One attendee said, "It was interesting to observe that no scum was skimmed off and no vegetable skins were wasted." Another participant commented, "All the dishes were spicy, but somehow the combination of different tastes was quite good as a whole. Ms. Hari was busy answering many more questions about spices and dishes of South India.

Ms. Hari, who, by the way, speaks excellent Japanese, was more than cooperative from the time of preparing this Workshop. I would like to thank her for that, as well as for giving us an opportunity of learning one aspect of the culture of India.

World Cooking Workshop will continue to present different cultures through different cooking.

(Written by E. Yamasawa, Vice Chairperson, the Foreign Languages Study Committee, and translated by T. Suzuki, a member of the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

The 12th MUA Salon: A Workshop of Japanese Incense Scenting

Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2009
Place: MUA Secretariat Office

This workshop was held on the evening of July 7th, which is called the Day of *Tanabata* in Japan. We asked Ms. Masako Kasahara, an MUA member, to teach us the basics of the traditional manners of Japanese incense scenting called *Kohdoh*. A total of 11 attendees very much enjoyed learning our own culture in a most enriching 3-hour workshop.



First, Ms. Kasahara explained about the objectives of *Kohdoh*, which include purification of the air and the five senses of human body. It was followed by hands-on learning of basic utensils used in *Kohdoh* practices. It was the first experience for most of the attendees to touch such tools and learn their names. Then Ms. Kasahara let us try scenting the fragrance generated from two different kinds of incense wood chips. I was glad to know that the impression I had about one of them turned out to be exactly the same as Ms. Kasahara's follow-up revealing.

To commemorate the Day of Tanabata in our own way, *Omusubi* rice balls and dried cookies were served, along with a cup of *Matcha* tea. We could appreciate the spirit of Japanese *Omotenashi* or hospitality in Ms. Kasahara's arrangements. She was assisted by Ms. Ohtaka who is taking *Kohdoh* lessons from the same master. I regret that, due to time restraint, we could not look closely at all of the displayed *Kohdoh* utensils.

As shown in the photo, Ms. Kasahara looked very chic, wearing a blue *Yukata*, with an *Ayame*-knot obi belt, and wearing *Geta* or wood sandals for footwear. All of us appreciated having a moment of peaceful mind thanks to Kasahara-san.

(Written by F. Iguchi, Vice Chairperson of the Membership Committee, and translated by S. Tanahashi, Standing Director, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

(Continued from Page 1): **How Old Are the Japanese As a Nation**

day-to-day affairs. Can these peace-loving elderly Japanese convincingly explain to a little tot who watch on TV the bloody scenes from the Middle East and elsewhere, and who asks a question: "Why can't you put an end to all these evil wars?" To begin with, an elderly person will soon realize that his own explanation doesn't convince himself. The recitation of "Peace, Peace, Let's go pacifist!" alone won't bring about peace in reality.

Could the 18-year olds who would be endowed with new privileges perform the duties called for as new adults?

(November 30, 2009)

The 22nd Workshop on Traditional Japanese Culture:
“Quest for Noh and its Modernity”
presented by Dr. Naohiko Umewaka, Noh Performer

Date: Saturday, May 29, 2009

Place: Azabu Kumin Center

The theme this time was a “dream.” Mr. Hiroshi Matsumoto, Vice President of MUA, started off the meeting by addressing the audience.

The first part was the commentary on “Noh and its Modernity” and live performance of a traditional Noh play. The commentary was given in the form of a Q&A between Mr. Matsumoto and Dr. Umewaka. Mr. Matsumoto asked about the theme commonly underlies the traditional Noh to be played first and the contemporary drama played next. Dr. Umewaka responded that it was a “dream.”

The Noh play “Kantan” is a story in the Tang Dynasty of China, and is known as a dream finishes in such a very short time as cooking rice.

The story in short is that a young man named Rosei sets out on a journey looking for a success; he talked about his wish to a hermit he met at Kantan house; then, the hermit let him use a pillow which, according to the hermit, would make whatever wishes come true. The master of the house was in the midst of cooking rice. As soon as Rosei fell into sleep, he became rich, had his family, became a purple, and died of illness at over eighty years of age. When he awoke, the master of the house was still cooking rice, and thus, he knew the brevity of life.

Dr. Umewaka played Rosei being a purple to tunes played by a flute and a drum. He transformed the atmosphere of regular auditorium into classical times in a fraction of a second, and captivated the audience with the powerful form of traditional art.

The second part was a contemporary drama “Italian Restaurant” (written and managed by Dr. Umewaka). It was a story about a man in a suite with a facemask who wanders back and forth between the real and virtual worlds, which eventually led him to be unable to distinguish between the two. The man was played by Dr. Umewaka.

The scene is an Italian restaurant and a bed is set downstage. The man in a face mask gets up from the bed and goes to the restaurant. What happens there is real at times but virtual at other times.

The way the stage was used exhibited the amusingness of Noh play, where just by walking around the stage the man puts himself in a different place. The script consists of Noh chants and contemporary wording.

There are a samurai and a modern young woman as guests of the restaurant. (This young woman could be playing a role of a boundary between the real world and the virtual world.) The audience is gradually wound up in a strange world as well.

Dr. Umewaka states in the handbill as below:

“The man as a Noh player has inclined all his powers to the completion of the beauty of form. It may sound too good to hear. The style someday begins to tread on his daily life.



I saw in the play an anguish to inherit the form of a Japanese traditional art as well as to develop a new artistic quality from there. I wonder if it was my overinterpretation that I identified the man in the play with Dr. Umewaka himself?

At last, but not the least, I take the liberty of showing below a message delivered to Mrs. Umewaka from the wife of Luxemburg Ambassador to Japan who enjoyed the play as well. Dr. Umewaka kindly transmitted it to the secretariat office of MUA. "Thank you. I loved watching your husband. He is an amazing actor. And I got the gist of it. Thank you for inviting me. The play was more difficult. But I enjoyed it. Radhika"

(Written by T. Isobe, Chairperson of the Science and Culture Committee, and translated by Y. Suda, Vice Chairman of the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

Our sincere thanks go to the following donors:

- Participants in the Noh workshop "Italian Restaurant," held on May 29, 2009 who contributed a total of ¥28,970 for the UNESCO Terakoya Movement.
- IEAC which donated ¥109,688 for the UNESCO Terakoya Movement on June 3, 2009.
- Ms. Yoshiko Sato who presented a telephone set to MUA Secretariat Office on July 1, 2009.
- The Minato-ku Tennis Association which donated ¥90,000 for MUA's Peace Fund on July 16, 2009.
- Participants in the Cross-cultural Awareness Workshop on Turkey, held on July 30, 2009, who contributed a total of ¥3,000 for the UNESCO Terakoya Movement.
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(Reported by K. Mizuno, Secretary General)

Students from Iwate and Tokyo visited MUA

A total of 15 students from Yahaba-Kita Junior High School in Iwate Prefecture paid a visit to MUA Secretariat Office in Shimbashi on April 9, 2009, as a part of their study trip to Tokyo. To our delight, all of them showed much interest in the UNESCO Terakoya Movement.

Separately, six students and their teacher from Mita High School in Tokyo visited MUA Secretariat Office on July 28, 2009 to learn UNESCO activities in detail. Later they presented what they had learned about UNESCO during their school festival in the fall.

(Reported by T. Mizuno, Secretary General)

Workshop for Wearing Yukata

presented by the Youth Activities Committee

Date: June 27(Sat.), 2009

Place: Minato City Life-long Learning Center

This is a seasonal event focused on Yukata, a single-layered cotton kimono in Japan, which is usually worn after taking a bath, or during the summer season. This program was speedily planned and realized with Kazuyo Hirakata having taken a leading part. A total of 15 people were present at the workshop on the day; they were Ms. Sanae Haraguchi, an MUA member as the teacher, 4 dressing assistants, 6 non-MUA members and 4 MUA members.



The participants learned from the teacher the knack to making a wonderful shape by turning the obi (belt) tied in front and bring the knot to the center of the back so that they can wear Yukata easily by themselves. Thanks to the appropriate instructions by Ms. Haraguchi, everyone became able to wear Yukata in a short time after practicing several times.

Every participant made her own favorite shape such as Bunko musubi (knot), Ayame musubi and Kai-no-kuchi musubi, and had her photograph taken, one by one. They all said "We want to go to fireworks events or Bon-odori dance festivals wearing Yukata, dressed by ourselves, and enjoy casual fashionableness during the coming summer".

In closing the event, participants made self-instructions and were treated delicious powdered green tea (matcha), prepared by Ms. Masako Kasahara who is also an MUA member, served with Japanese cakes. The workshop ended with the expression of perfect satisfaction from all participants.

We'd like to extend our thanks to Ms. Haraguchi for providing kind instructions as well as to those who participated in the workshop despite the steamy weather.

(Written by Y. Yamada, an MUA member who worked as a dressing assistant, and translated by A. Shimizu, a PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee associate)

Completion of the Renewal of MUA Website (<http://minato-unesco.jp/>)

The project on the renewal of MUA website was launched in July last year. The project team, consisting of the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee and MUA Secretariat Office members, have worked closely with an outsourced digital media firm called “Kikanshi” to create a new website design and contents.

The final website with a totally new concept was completed in June 2009. Minor improvements are yet to be added to make the website even more informative & interesting. Please pay a visit to <http://minato-unesco.jp/> and let us know your impressions or comments.



(Written by K. Shimada, Standing Director, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee, and translated by T. Mizuno, Secretary General)

(Continued from Page 4): **History and Culture of the Republic of Turkey**

The second Bosphorus Bridge, spanning over the Bosphorus Strait, was constructed by Kajima Corporation of Japan. Likewise, an underground tunnel which runs under the strait is being built by Taisei Corporation of Japan.

Turkey's export items in agriculture include pasta, olive and its oil, tobacco, hazelnuts, tomato-based products and perfume materials.

During the Q&A session, many questions were raised on a variety of subjects. We now understand that Turkey has nine UNESCO-registered World Heritages. As I was listening to Ms. Gumusay's presentation, I felt as if Turkey as a whole were a World Heritage in itself, in view of the multi-racial and multi-cultural fabrics of the society, along with the natural diversity in its topography and climate. We'd like to extend our hearty thanks to the family of Ms. Gumusay's who were also present at the workshop.

(Written by M. Takai, Vice President, the Cross-cultural Awareness Committee, and abridged & translated by S. Tanahashi, Standing Director, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

FROM UNESCO PRESS RELEASE

Director General presents UNESCO climate change initiative at Copenhagen Conference
Copenhagen, 17 December

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, yesterday presented UNESCO's climate change initiative at a press briefing held during the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

“Thanks to its interdisciplinary capacities, UNESCO can render a unique contribution to mitigation and adaptation to climate change through distinct action in education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. All these efforts are closely coordinated with the response of the entire UN system to the new global challenge. In particular, and most prominently as a first pillar of its initiative, UNESCO continues to contribute to climate science and the building of the indispensable knowledge base through its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), in close collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and its International Hydrological Programme (IHP)”. This work contributes to the better understanding and forecasting of climate phenomena.

The second pillar of the UNESCO initiative pertains to climate change education, which is being promoted in the context of the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development. UNESCO was assigned the lead role for the Decade by the UN General Assembly. Action in this area comprises assistance to Member States with regard to curricula revision, teacher training and education strategies at all levels, including TVET [Technical and Vocational Education and Training].”

The third pillar consists of cultural and biological diversity, as well as cultural heritage. As Ms Bokova stated at the briefing, “UNESCO will assist Member States to harness the iconic values of World Heritage sites and Biosphere Reserves to showcase adaptation and conservation measures”. UNESCO is also expected to link its activities to the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD) mechanism expected to be one important outcome of the Copenhagen Conference.

Lastly, UNESCO will deal with various ethical and social dimensions of climate change, including through the launch of a consultative process aimed at judging the advisability of preparing a declaration of ethical principles in relation to climate change, as decided by the Organization's General Conference last October. Furthermore, UNESCO will examine the social dimensions of climate change, including migration issues.

The Director-General, who arrived in Copenhagen on 15 December and will stay until the afternoon of 17 December 2009, has attended the high-level plenary meetings of COP 15 and participated fully in two formal activities of the Executive Heads of the UN system, chaired by the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon. One event was a closed briefing, by the Secretary-General and for the leaders of the UN system, on the status and prospects for the negotiations at the Copenhagen Conference. Ban Ki-moon introduced the Director-General to her new colleagues on that occasion.

- Author(s):UNESCOPRESS Source:Press Release No. 2009 – 152 18-12-2009

Minato UNESCO Association is a citizens' voluntary membership organization that promotes Japanese traditional culture, holds cross-cultural workshops and presents multicultural events and international symposia for world peace. For any questions or comments about our articles, please contact our secretariat office at:

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URL:<http://www.unesco.or.jp/minato/index.html>