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MINATO UNESCO ASSOCIATION NEWS & CALENDAR

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Literacy as Freedom

William Auckerman, Vice-President, Minato UNESCO Association

If you're reading this, you're one of the lucky 83% of the global population that possesses an important skill: you are literate. According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, in 2008 some 796 million adults worldwide were unable to either read or write — and almost two-thirds of illiterate adults were women.

In our modern world, the ability to read is a crucial tool for acquiring the essential life skills that enable us to address the daily challenges that we face, and to better our own lives and the lives of our families. Over 50 years ago, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognized a basic education (within which literacy is a key learning tool) as a fundamental human right. Yet, as national and international efforts to ensure literacy continue to prove inadequate, this right is being denied to a large proportion of humanity.

We're fast approaching the final year of the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003–2012). In declaring this Decade, the UN General Assembly sought to call attention to the vital importance of literacy as a tool of individual and community empowerment, and to highlight the role that literacy can play in promoting peace, mutual respect and information exchange.

At the request of the United Nations General Assembly, UNESCO has been coordinating the international activities of the UN Literacy Decade, under the slogan "Literacy as Freedom". In 2005, UNESCO launched a collaborative framework aimed at coordinating policies, actions and resources to speed up the acquisition of literacy in those countries most in need. UNESCO also monitors global literacy levels, and evaluates the effectiveness of current literacy programs.

According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, in 2008 the regions with the lowest adult literacy rates were Southern Asia (62%), Sub-Saharan Africa (63%), Oceania (66%) and Northern Africa (67%). The gender disparity in literacy rates were greatest in Southern Asia (73% of men and 51% of women), Sub-Saharan Africa (72% of men and 54% of women), and Northern Africa (77% of men and 58% of women).

Efforts have been undertaken during the UN Literacy Decade to improve literacy among the poorest and most marginal social groups. But the effort is far from complete, and the goal is a moving target. In the not-so-distant past, literacy meant simply being able to read words on the printed page. Today, literacy encompasses the capacity to use information and communications (ICT) technologies: e-mail, text messaging, word-processing programs and web browsers.

Each year, UNESCO celebrates September 8 as International Literacy Day to highlight the importance of literacy not only to individuals, but to communities and to global society. The theme for the 2011 International Literacy Day is "Literacy and Peace".

I encourage each of you, as a member of the Minato UNESCO Association, to lend your support to UNESCO's literacy-improvement efforts. There is still one year left in the United Nations Literacy Decade — a year in which we can strive to improve the lives of millions of people worldwide by helping them to learn to read and write.

MUA Welcomes the Delegation of Mongolian Junior High Students

Date: July 6 (Wed) & 7 (Thu), 2011

Japanese language is being taught as one sphere of the foreign language education at Oyuniitulga School, a private school in Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia. This time around, six students accompanied by the principal and the vice-principal visited Japan from June 2nd to 11th for the purpose of cultural exchange as well as deepening mutual understanding. They stayed both in Utsunomiya City and the Tokyo metropolitan area.

Inter-Cultural Community Life Association(ICCLA) invited them for the first time. As Ms. Nagato Yoshiko, the president of ICCLA, has been the Director of Minato UNESCO Association (MUA) for 30 years, MUA willingly decided to be the receiving organization here in Tokyo, and the Youth Activities Committee members took care of them. Mr. Zorigoo and Miss Lkhmsuren, exchange students from Mongolia at the Utsunomiya University, kindly accompanied them as translators.

Mongolia is approximately four times the size of Japan with 2.78 million residents. Coming from Ulan Bator which is a very spacious city with only 1.15 million residents, it seemed that their visit to the densely-populated parts of Japan brought them endless surprises.

Their itinerary in Tokyo was as shown below:

July 6th (Wed)

- Took Shinkansen train (double-decker) from Ustunomiya Station early in the morning, and arrived at Tokyo Station around 8:30am
- Visited Minato City Koryo Junior High School, participated in the cultural exchange event, and enjoyed the school provided lunch
- Visited National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation located in Daiba area of Minato City
- Participated in "Mongolian Evening" event hosted by MUA at Life-long Learning Center

July 7th (Thu)

- Paid a courtesy visit to His Excellency Mr. Rentsendoo JIGJID, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, at the Embassy of Mongolia in Japan in the morning
- Enjoyed the panoramic view from the 45th floor of The Tokyo Metropolitan City Hall in Shinjuku
- Visited Ueno Zoo and observed pandas, lions, etc.
- Took Shinkansen train from Ueno Station and returned to Utsunomiya in late afternoon

The biggest objective they wanted to attain was the exchange at Minato City Koryo

Junior High School. The building of this school was re-built in the year 2010, and equipped with the latest facilities. The visitors threw up their eyes at the new building and the facilities. They were moved by the warm hospitality extended by Ms. Shinjo Keiko, the principal, teaching staffs and the second graders.

Agendas at Koryo Junior High School
- Welcome address from Koryo students
- Remarks from the Principal Shinjo
- Chorus by Koryo students of authentic Japanese songs, "Hamabe No Uta" and "Yume No Sekaiwo"
- Experience of Japanese drums performance
- Performance of Japanese string instrument, Koto
- Introduction to Japanese comics
- Experience of Japanese make-a-face game

There were many paintings of Mongolian images drawn by Koryo students hung on the wall of gymnasium, and also a calligraphic characters saying "Let's strike up a friendship." It clearly showed that many Koryo students participated in the preparatory works.

Visitors showed a film introducing their country in Japanese language produced by Mr. Zorigoo. Mr. Tulga played a Mongolian traditional instrument, Matouqin. Then, they sang Japanese songs, "Furusato (Home Land)" and "Shiawasenara Tewo Tatako (Clap your hands when you are happy)," which they worked out hard before the departure from Mongolia. At the end of their program, Principal Tuya gave a remark of appreciation.

Cooking staffs of Koryo Junior High School kindly prepared Chicken-steak-bowl taking a hint from an unconscious statement we made at the preparatory meeting that chickens were most favored foodstuff in Mongolia. The visitors enjoyed the delicate flavor together with the Koryo students.

Mongolian students seemed very happy that they introduced their country and culture in a dignified tone, and they enjoyed the exchange with Koryo students as well. They talked each other that they wanted to enter such a well equipped school.

After the visit to Koryo Junior High School, they moved to Daiba area by Yurikamome, a driver less train, and visited the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation. They seemed to have been interested in Yurikamome which runs around Tokyo bay area. They rode in the first car and enjoyed watching panoramic view of Tokyo bay area.

Then, at a later evening, we at MUA hosted the "Mongolian Evening" event at Life-long Learning Center where MUA members as well as community residents were present.

Mr. Seki Tomoya, Mr. Takahashi Naota, both fourth year students of a university, and Miss Kim yoo heui, an exchange student from Korea, fulfilled the role of hosts. They pulled blunt remarks as well as impressions from the visitors through the young and

fresh sensibilities, and facilitated the exchange of opinions in a very cordial and conciliatory mood.

Mongolian students played "Morin Khuur （horse-head cello）", songs and dances of Mongolia fairly and squarely. At the end of the event, all the participants sang "Furusato" and "Shiawasenara Tewo Tatako" accompanied by the accordion played by Mr. Shimizu.

In spite of the very tight schedule where they experienced Tokyo only in two days, they tried various things very actively and looked many things with gleams in their eyes. They definitely had many fond memories here in Tokyo.

Last but not least, we would like to express our greatest appreciation for the hospitality extended to the visitors by the Principal Ms. Shinjo, Vice-principal Mr. Obata, all teaching staffs and all students in second grade of Koryo Junior High School.

(Written by the Youth Activities Committee, and translated by Y. Suda, Chairman of the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

2011 Newcomers Welcome Party

Date: Thursday, May 19, 2011
Place: Minato Life-long Learning Center

We regularly hold a newcomers welcome party at this time of the year, inviting those who joined MUA during the preceding one year. This time we had the pleasure of having the following eight new members : Ms. Kim yoo heui, Mr. S. Morimura, Mr. H. Nagano, Mr. T. Seki, Mr. M. Shiose, Ms. M. Suenaga, Mr. K. Tanabe and Ms. H. Yoshihara.

During Part I, Mr. Nakagawa, Vice President, worked as MC and President Takai and another VP Tanahashi gave introductory comments on the history and nature of MUA. It was followed by brief presentations on eight MUA committees by either Chairpersons or Standing Directors responsible for respective activities.

Part II was kicked off by Mr. Matsumoto, Vice President, proposing a toast of "Kampai." All attendees enjoyed networking with new and old friends, including self-introductions by each new member. We were pleased to know interesting skills, hobbies and experiences new comers talked about. Time flies fast when you are having a good time talking and eating. The meeting was closed by a finale speech by Mr. Tomogane, Standing Director.

(Written by M. Tomogane, Standing Director, the Membership Committee, and abridged & translated by S. Tanahashi, Vice President, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

Second Postwar and Second Defeat

Dr. Kimitada Miwa, President Emeritus of MUA

Since March 11, five months have elapsed, but things are getting increasingly darker and the ray of hope appears to be fading. Some people call this the second defeat in war or the second postwar. The earthquake and dreadful *tsunami* may be compared with the ashes from air raids, I don't deny that, but I hesitate to say so. The public feelings are different. After the first defeat in war or in the last postwar there was hope. There was a sense of atonement. However postwar history is evaluated, crimes were tried at the Tokyo Tribunal of War Criminals and verdicts were delivered. Once again we had a positive frame of mind and our efforts for establishing democracy and freedom as well as reconstructing the country's economy were rewarded little by little every day.

For a little while, even to China there was no sense of guilt. Learning how much Japan's ODA is contributing to the postwar reconstruction of China, people wondered why Chinese can't even say thank you to us.

However, today China's military buildup is often reported as a threat and we wonder if Japan's pacifist thinking is going to be eroded. China is already a great economic power of the world overtaking Japan and is likely to become the greatest during the next generation surpassing the U.S.A. Its population is estimated to be 1 .7 billion although the official figure is 1.4 billion. Since the world population is 7 billion, this means that one out of every five people of the world is Chinese. What have we expected of this country? At least I have forced myself to have one great expectation about this country under the current regime. It was a reversal of the fear when it didn't work out that way.

Once there was a name "Chinese Empire." The last dynasty, Ch'ing of the Manchus, was overtaken by Kuomintang administration in the 1911 Chinese revolution. I have no intention to discuss here the ensuing political history thereafter. But I always associate the word "Chinese Empire" with the governance principle employed by emperors. It was called "the rule of Imperial benevolence." It was contrasted with the "rule of Law" which was the principle for control and exploitation employed by modern Western powers when they dominated regions outside Europe. Japan also took part in the principle. The Imperial benevolence rule was based on Confucianism and its culture.

Having reorganized their big nation in an effort to bring happiness to their people, Chinese Communist leaders are now turning their interest toward overseas. Back in the days of dynasty, the Imperial order of the Middle Kingdom commanding barbarians on its peripheries reigned. Chinese emperors were collecting tributes not only from its neighboring states but even from the Arab world. If expected gifts were not paid voluntarily, they would set up a big fleet and send it as far as to the Red Sea to collect the tributes. Today, economic aids are given for securing important resources. I cannot but pray that this will lead at the end to "the rule of Imperial benevolence".

The earthquake, devastating tsunami, nuclear reactor accident have all contributed to dark and hopeless minds of people. There was brightness of minds when we experienced the defeat in last war. That brightness is missing this time. The reason for the absence of bright mind is attributed to the existence of China acting like the old imperial Japan. In addition, territorial issues with Russia and ROK have long been left unsolved. But from those who speak about the darkness of people's minds, we have not heard any mention of China factors. (Aug. 15, 2011)

(Translated by T. Suzuki, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

World Cooking Workshop

Homemade Dishes in Okinawa

Date: Sat. July 30, 2011
Place: Minato Gender-free Center

This time we asked Mr. Kiichi Yamahata, an Okinawa main islander who owns an Okinawan restaurant, to be our instructor on home-made dishes in Okinawa. Our purpose was to make ourselves more familiar with another local food in Japan. Mr. Yamahata was accompanied by Mr. Okamura, a Sanshin player, Mr. Nagai, who presented visuals, and Mr. Matakichi who offered Awamori tasting.

In Part I, we were invited to a video trip to Okinawa, characterized by beautiful ocean view and blue sky. It was followed by the performance of Sanshin played by Mr. Okamura who also sang his original piece titled "Suirenka" in typical Okinawan dialect. All of us were fascinated by the music.

Okinawa is often profiled as an "Island of Performing Arts." It is an island with accumulated rich culture. Because Okinawa was formerly a small island country, it chose a diplomatic policy to deal with foreign countries without arming itself. Instead, it focused on enriching its performing arts in an effort to impress other countries. It is said that, even during the postwar period when materials were extremely in shortage, Okinawans worked out ways to play music by making an impromptu "Kankara" Sanshin by assembling empty cans and parachute cords. Okinawa has also developed a high quality in its own food culture. People often say that Okinawans do not waste any part of a pig, except its oinking voice. Internal organs as well as ears, feet and blood are all used for a wide variety of dishes.

Part II started after we received the aforementioned introduction to Okinawan culture. We learned how to cook the following six typical Okinawan homemade dishes:

Laftee: A kind of pork stew where meat is chopped into tiny cubes and boiled well.
Goya-champuru: A very familiar name to all Japanese as s typical Okinawan dish. The name is a local dialect, meaning stir-fried food. Materials required for this dish are Goya, Okinawa-produced tofu, and canned pork.
Sahtah-Anda-Agi: An Okinawan style doughnut. The name consists of three components – Sahtah means sugar, Anda means oil, and Agi means frying. Combined together, it means a sugar-coated fried cookie. It requires much muscle to blend the basic material for this cookie. It's recommendable that all family members join the preparation.
Green papaya salad: A crispy, refreshing salad.
Fried Goya contents: Okinawans do not waste the contents taken out of Goya after fixing the Goya-Champuru. It's a recipe out of Okinawan "Eco-spirit" to make use of everything.
Ahsa soup: Ahsa means sea weed. The soup gives a soothing smell of the Okinawan ocean. It' s very easy to fix this soup when you want any soup very quick.

From the above six Okinawan dishes, I felt the blend of East Asian, Southeast Asian and also some American cuisine. Mr. Matakichi was kind enough to serve Awamori to all attendees around each table. Since it is made from rice, it matches any dishes. Mr. Nagai made a video record of this cooking workshop in DVD and showed it to us at the end. We are all thankful to Chef Yamahata as well as the three gentlemen who introduced the rich Okinawan food culture to us.

(Written by M. Iwasaki, the World Cooking Committee, and translated by S. Tanahashi, Vice President, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

The 15th MUA Salon
"My motto has always been to be curious"

Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2011
Place: MUA secretariat office

Our speaker for this salon was Mr. Hiroshi Nagano who joined MUA last year. He is a professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies and a fellow at the Center for Research and Development Strategy, of the Japan Science and Technology Agency. Despite the weather forecast of a typhoon approaching the Kanto area, we had a turnout of 16 attendees for this meeting.

First our MC made a brief introduction of Mr. Nagano's career and we were totally overwhelmed with his splendid track record. He started his presentation, saying, "I like to ride various transportation vehicles and see new landscapes." He was raised in Kita-Senju, Tokyo, as a boy. Because he was interested in German operas, he studied German in his high school days.

Mr. Nagano majored in mechanical engineering at the Keio University while he continued to brush up his linguistic command of German. He had an opportunity to study one semester at RWTH Aachen University in West Germany. In those days Japanese students, who wanted to study in Europe, used to take the most economical transportation route - first a boat ride from Yokohama to Nakhodka, and then a transfer to the Siberian railroad to Europe. From the window of the train, he could observe various scenes of outcomes from changes in international relations. For example, he saw the presence of Russian military troops on guard along the Nakhodka to Khabarovsk route, reflecting the border conflict between China and the Soviet Union.

Before Mr. Nagano graduated from the engineering department, he wrote his dissertation in German. As he wanted to expand his academic horizon, he enrolled into the political science section of the department of law. In total he was seven years in the university, including the said overseas enrollment, in the two different departments of the university. After completing his university education, Mr. Nagano applied for two civilian servant positions, one in diplomacy and the other in economic issues.

In 1973 he decided to enter the Science and Technology Agency of the Prime Minister's Office. His initial impression of the workplace was the lack of working hour management and overall inefficiency. After working three years, he took advantage of a government-sponsored overseas study program and studied two years at Munich University in Wet Germany. While enrolled in the university, he worked out time to visit the Munich Opera House. This experience motivated him to accept the current position of Chairman of the Japan Opera Foundation.

In 1983, he was assigned to work at the Japanese Embassy in West Germany. In those days there was not a single German citizen who anticipated the unification of the

two German countries, he said. Then he reflected upon a series of major historical events, including the leadership of Gorbachev in the Soviet Union's Communist Party. After his return to Japan, the world saw the Chelnobyl atomic reactor disaster in April 1986, followed by the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Mr. Nagano has been closely related to UNESCO in his career. In 2002 he assumed the position of Director-General for International Affairs as well as Secretary General of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO. He emphasized the importance of establishing a successful coordination among UNESCO headquarters, the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, and the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan. He has been a regular attendee to UNESCO Kanto Block Conventions, held in Tochigi Prefecture, Tokyo and elsewhere, which have been annually organized by the NFUAJ.

As we listened to Mr. Nagano's presentation, we were truly impressed with his strong will, insatiable curiosity and fine personality. His command of foreign languages must have been his strength. It's regrettable that younger MUA members missed the opportunity of receiving a most stimulating presentation. Our hearty thanks go to Mr. Nagano as well as to all attendees.

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

(Continued from P.10): From UNESCO Press Release

The General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention takes place every two years in Paris and coincides with the sessions of UNESCO's General Conference, the Organization's highest ruling body.

The World Heritage Committee meets once a year. It is the independent body in charge of implementing the World Heritage Convention and of maintaining UNESCO's World Heritage List, which currently numbers 936 properties of outstanding universal value in 153 countries.

The opening ceremony of the 40th anniversary celebrations will take place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 30 January 2012 with the participation of legendary jazz musician and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock. Events are being organized around the world throughout the year to mark the occasion. A special event to close the year is being organised by the Government of Japan in Kyoto, from 6 to 8 November, 2012.

From UNESCO Press Release

UNESCO kicks off 40th anniversary celebration of World Heritage Convention (07.11.2011)

The Director-General of UNESCO Irina Bokova today launched the 40th anniversary celebrations for the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO's Member States on 16 November 1972.

In her address, the Director-General called for a year of renewal for World Heritage. "Heritage stands at the crossroads of climate change, social transformations and processes of reconciliation between peoples. Heritage carries high stakes – for the identity and belonging of peoples, for the sustainable economic and social development of communities."

Irina Bokova stressed that the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 would provide UNESCO a new opportunity to advocate linking culture and development. She argued that "heritage does not represent luxury; it is a capital investment in the future. It is the sound foundation without which nothing lasting can be built. Disregarding heritage, severing our root, will inevitably clip our wings."

Speaking at the opening of the General Assembly of the Convention's 187 States Parties, the Director-General stressed the need to involve communities in heritage preservation. She recommended reflection, as well as celebration, to involve all stakeholders in the anniversary whose theme is: World Heritage and Sustainable Development the Role of Local Communities. (To be continued on P. 9)

Change of MUA Secretary General

Effective June 30, 2011, Mr. Takashi Mizuno, Secretary General, was succeeded by Mr. Takaaki Yoshinaga. We'd like to extend our hearty thanks to Mr. Mizuno for his dedicated services during his tenure for two years and ten months. We expect Mr. Yoshinaga to help with larger-than-usual workload in connection with MUA's 30th anniversary commemorative activities.

Coming MUA Events at a Glance

Date	Time	Program	Place
Jan. 24, 2012 (Tue)	1400-1530	Visit to Indian Embassy	Kudanshita
Jan. 26 (Thu)	1830-2030	Cross-cultural Lecture on Brazil	Balloon
Jan. 11-April 4	1830-2030	English Class (Elementary)	Azabu Kumin Ctr.
Jan. 10-Mar.27	1830-2030	English Class (Intermediary)	Libra center

Thanks to Donations

A total of ¥6,341 was donated by the attendees to the "Cross-cultural Interaction with the Mongolian Junior High School Students" program held on July 6, 2011.

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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