

## The Delicate Sensitivity of Japanese People to be Cherished

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The rainy season will begin soon this year and I wonder why do you write "rainy season" and read it "Tsuyu"? I searched the reason as follows. It is a plum rain when the plums are ripe, it is mold rain that brings mold, but considering the taste, it was plum rainy season. "Tsuyu" is called that because tree is constantly dewed by the continuous rain. "Tsuiyu, Tsuyu" is called that because the moisture from a long rain causes food and clothes to collapse, etc., but the origin was not clear yet. After all, I think the origin of Japanese language is complicated and difficult. In addition to that, long rain from late March to April is "rapeseed (Natane) rainy season". Long rain in May is "Running rainy season". Long-term rain after the rainy season is "Return rainy season". In addition, the lunar May rain, in other words, the Baiu rainy season is also called May rain (Samidare). By these naming, the ingenuity of living that lives in harmony with nature, and the sensitivity of the Japanese people can be reminded.

In this domestic infection caused by the new coronavirus damage, each Japanese can keep social order and have a delicate caring and national character that likes cleanliness, which can be minimized from the viewpoint of the world's infection rate and it attracted attention from all over the world. However, we may have no choice but to respond to the changes in new social systems going forward.

"New normal (new lifestyle)" brings changes in social environment, I am wondering what will happen in the future, such as the wonderful national character, compassion for people, and family love that the Japanese have accumulated over a long history. The tide has changed now, rebuilding the educational system, various experiences, and analog face-to-face interaction with many people are indispensable to further enhance the sensitivity as a person and AI (artificial intelligence) conversion, Teleworking cannot be avoided. While balancing and observing the correct direction, I think the endeavor to prevent the loss of the traditional Japanese culture, such as the sensitivity of

(To be continued on P. 4)

## 2019 MUA Zazen Workshop

Date: Thursday, February 27, 2020

Venue: Seishoji Temple, Minato City



Participants first changed the clothes and gathered in the main hall where Reverend Mukan gave some general explanations on how to press hands in prayer and how to take a breath and, then, gave an instruction to sit Zazen in a relaxed posture without any strain.

He gave such explanations and instructions not only in Japanese but also in English for the benefit of non-Japanese participants.

Then, we all moved to the Zen meditation hall walking barefooted on the ice-cold corridor on a very cold day in February and freezing sensation crawled up from the bottom of the body which was unforgettable experience.

As soon as the instructions on the manner for sitting and crossing legs were given, participants started the meditation in their own places under the solemn atmosphere. The end of meditation was announced in tens of minutes and all of us walked up to a warm room on the second floor where Reverend Mukan preached a sermon.



With the wide spread of Corona Virus, we feel uncomfortable these days. Thus, we need to spend a quiet time and reflect upon ourselves. Seishoji Temple offers Sutra Copying gathering and various lecture meetings. We strongly recommend that you participate in some of them.

Taking this opportunity, we at MUA would like to express the sincerest appreciation for Reverend Mukan and all the staffs from Seishoji Temple for their great cooperation extended to us.

*(Written by Y. Miyashita, Vice President, the International Science & Culture Committee, and translated by Y. Suda, the PR & Internet Committee Associate)*

## 2020 MUA Annual General Meeting

This year we were forced to hold our AGM in a different way, due to the spread of the coronavirus and to the suspended operation of the Minato City Life-long Learning Center facilities. We decided to use postal service to send related documents to our members and receive their votes by return. This enabled us to constitute a virtual meeting on April 20 and thereby pass resolutions on the following ten agenda. The number of aye or nay votes for each agenda is respectively shown.

<u>Agenda</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Votes</u>
No. 1	2019 Business Report, Introduction of New Members	44 Approvals
No. 2	2019 Report on Directors & Standing Dir's Meetings	44 Approvals
No. 3	2019 Report on Fiscal Settlements	43 Approvals
No. 4	2019 Report on Business Expenses	43 Approvals
No. 5	2019 Auditors' Report	43 Approvals
No. 6	2019 Cooperation with the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan and the Tokyo Council of UNESCO Associations, and 2020 Plan for MUA delegates to these organizations	44 Approvals
No. 7	2020 Business Plan	44 Approvals
No. 8	2020 Budgetary Plan	43 Approvals
No. 9	2020 Plan of MUA Directors & Standing Directors	43 Approvals, 1 Disapproval
No.10	2020 Leaders of each MUA Committee	44 Approvals

The MUA secretariat received 47 vote documents (regarded as the number of virtual attendees) out of the total membership of 110. 46 approved the resolution by mail method and one disapproved it. AGM agenda resolutions are subject to majority votes by attendee members as per the MUA rule.

(There is no stipulation about quorum) As shown above, all agenda were approved as proposed. One motion was made but disapproved without any endorsement.



Handout Agenda Document

## MUA Committee Leaders for 2020

Committee Name	Vice President	Standing Dir's	Chairperson	Vice Chairperson
Membership		Akiyama M. Kobayashi T.	Kobayashi T.	Akiyama M.
PR & Internet		Tanahashi S.	Maeda M.	Kobayashi M.
International Science & Culture	Okumura K. Miyashita Y.	Watabe T. Sato R.	Sato R.	Kaneta N.
Kumin Festival		Isobe T.	Isobe T.	Kitaoka O.
World Cooking	Okumura K.	Matsuzaki K.	Furuichi Y.	Yanagimoto M.
Hands-on Cultural Workshop	Hirakata K.	Kasahara M.	Kasahara M.	
Foreign Language Study	Miyashita Y.		Shinoda K.	Furuichi Y.
Youth Activities	Hirakata K.		Matsumoto K.	
Japanese Speech Contest	Hirakata K.		Tagawa J.	Watanabe K.
Zazen Workshop	Kikuchi K.	Watabe T.	Watabe T.	

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### **(Continued from P. 1) The Delicate Sensitivity of Japanese People to be Cherished**

the seasons or emotional sensitivity that we have inherited from our ancestors is a wonderful, distinctive Japanese figure from the world.

For the eyes, Aobayama, Hototogisu, First bonito.

by YAMAGUCHI Sodo, a poet in the Edo period

*(Translated by MAEDA Mikihiro, the PR & Internet Committee)*

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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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