



みなとユネスコ 会報

Bulletin

MINATO UNESCO ASSOCIATION NEWS & CALENDAR

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No. 165: December 1, 2021

What future course should we pursue once the pandemic settled under control?

NAGANO Hiroshi, President of the Minato UNESCO Association



First of all, I sincerely hope that, despite the emergence of a Delta variant of the new corona virus, all of you have maintained good health. Frankly speaking, I did not expect initially that the pandemic would last so long. Nor did I expect it to force the Tokyo Olympic/Paralympic Games to be held without spectator attendance. However, history teaches us not to be so optimistic as to expect the pandemic to settle down in a year or so. It is demonstrated by the cases of the pest which raged during the Medieval Ages or the Spanish flu which persisted 100 years ago. I should have recollected such historical facts.

On the other hand, it is a blessing that, thanks to the advancement of science & technology, mankind could develop and obtain necessary vaccine in less than one year. Regrettably, however, Japan lagged behind in both vaccine development and vaccination. This caused us to squarely face the reality that Japan's relative strength in science & technology has been dwindling internationally. We share the notion that the only asset Japan possesses is human brain. From this viewpoint, we cannot envision a bright future for Japan if the government continues to fail in valid investment in science & technology.

The corona virus has also extensively inflicted negative impact on the activities undertaken by regional UNESCO association. The Minato UNESCO Association was no exception. We were forced to cancel quite a few planned programs. To cope with the new normal, we started to introduce information technology such as ZOOM. This shift is quite challenging and we are yet to fully acquire necessary skills. Still, as a starter, we held last year an annual symposium, featuring the start of the U. N. Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Many people from Hokkaido to Kyushu participated in this event. Formerly the attendees to MUA programs were limited to those who live in the neighboring communities. Therefore, this shift marked an epoch-making revolution of MUA activities, brought about by the pandemic.

What would our society look like after the corona virus settled down? Without any doubt, it would not be in the same shape as it was before. It would be characterized not only by an expanded use of information technology but also by many other factors. For example, we will have to reconsider such issues as whether or not we should continue our daily commutation to offices, where we should live, whom we should work for, or what is the source of happiness for mankind, etc.

In addition, large-scale societal issues, including global warming caused by climate change, will become increasingly an integral part of our life. This may end up in a drastic change in our perception of values. Regional UNESCO organizations which have undertaken diversified activities toward a shared goal to realize world peace will be required to work out their own vision on desirable priorities and objectives. We at MUA will also make still more efforts, based on our shared vision, to undertake such activities as are meaningful for an evolving society.

(Translated by TANAHASHI S., the PR & Internet Committee)

The First 2021 Cross-cultural Awareness Workshop The History and World Heritages in Kingdom of Spain during The Age of Reconquista

Speaker: Ms. TOMONO Satoko, World Heritage Academy Certified Instructor

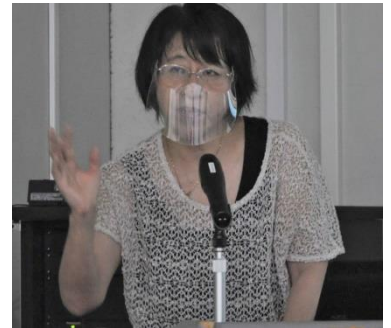
Date: July 10, 2021

Venue: Minato City Life Long Learning Center
Room 305

Co-host: Minato City Board of Education

Sponsor: World Heritage Academy

Reconquista is the movement undertaken by Catholics for the purpose of recovering their homeland. In other words, to recapture Iberian Peninsula from Muslims. Spanish Flag is called as the flag of blood and gold. Its yellow part represents the abundant land, red part the symbol of blood shed at the repel of foreign enemies, and the crest located in the center of the flag was the one used by five countries existed earlier in Iberian Peninsula. Those five countries were the Kingdom of Castile, Kingdom of Leon, Kingdom of Aragon, Kingdom of Navarre, and Emirate of Granada. Spain has 48 World Heritages, the third largest in the world; 19 out of 48 are closely related with the age of Reconquista.



1. *Pre-Reconquista*

Iberian Peninsula before Reconquista was a part of Roman Empire. When the migration of Germanic peoples began, Vandal was the first migrated into Iberian Peninsula and still remains as Andalusia even now. Then, Visigoth migrated crossing Pyrenes in 508 and moved the capital to Toledo. Visigoth converted to Catholic in the end of 6th century.

Muhammad started Islam in 622. Umayyad Caliphate, a clan of Caliph the successor of Muhammad, expanded its land as Hereditary dynasty and advanced into Iberian Peninsula. Catholics escaped to the north and Visigothic Kingdom was overthrown in 711.

2. *Battles with Umayyad Caliphate and Caliphate of Cordova*

While being oppressed by Umayyad Caliphate, Kingdom of Asturias was founded around the capitol Oviedo and won the Battle of Covadonga in 722 which marked the start of Reconquista. After the extinction of Umayyad Caliphate in 750, Abd al-Rahman I who escaped from Arabian Peninsula established Caliphate of Cordova around the capitol of Cordova in 756 and faced off against Frank Kingdom. Frank Kingdom placed the Margrave of Spain to block the invasion of Islamic militants rushing over Pyrenes. The Margrave of Spain as well as Kingdom of Asturias became the driving force of Reconquista.

Allied forces made up by Kingdom of Leon separated from Kingdom of Asturias, Kingdom of Castile separated from Kingdom of Leon, and Kingdom of Navarre separated from Margrave of Spain defeated Islamic militants at the Battle of Simancas in 939 but was immediately struck back by them. Caliphate of Cordova reached the peak of influence under the reign of Abd al-Rahman III and the capitol Cordova prospered a lot. Al-Mansur of Caliphate of Cordova repeatedly made expeditions and plunders into bases of Catholic countries, thereby Kingdoms of Leon, Navarre and Castile were ruined. Santiago de Compostela also was destroyed around the same time.

World Heritages associated with this age

Religious structures in the Kingdom of Asturias and Oviedo which are built in Pre-Romanesque style; Palmeral of Elche where a lot of palms were produced thanks to the superior irrigation technology; Caliph City in Medina Alarza which was the imperial villa of Abd al-Rahman III

3. Taifa Kingdoms and Confrontation with Almoravid Dynasty

After the ruin of Caliphate of Cordova in 1031, the Kingdom was divided into Islamic Taifa Kingdoms. Kingdom of Navarre, Christian part of the Kingdom, was divided into Kingdom of Navarre, Kingdom of Castile and Kingdom of Aragon. Kingdom of Castile which merged Kingdom of Leon into it recaptured Toledo in 1085 where Jews, Muslims and Christians coexisted and prospered as the capitol of Kingdom of Castile. Phillip II moved the capitol to Madrid later in 1561.

Almoravid Dynasty of Morocco, Muslim part of the Kingdom, in the meantime, landed on Iberian Peninsula and dominated Andalusia. Kingdom of Aragon conquered Zaragoza in 1118 and expand its power and confronted with Kingdom of Castile. Almoravid Dynasty was destroyed by Almohad Caliphate in 1147.

World Heritages associated with this age

Santiago de Compostela which originally was built as the tomb of St. James and was rebuilt in Romanesque Style in 1128; Pilgrimage Route of Santiago de Compostela; Roads of Camino Frances and the northern part of Spain which runs from Oviedo to Pamplona and Burgos; Historic City of Toledo where the Gothic Cathedral that carries El Greco's paintings exists; Old town of Alvila and a group of churches outside of defensive wall

4. Confrontation with Almohad Caliphate

Andalusia prospered under the reign by Almohad Caliphate. Ancient Greek civilization was conveyed from the Subcenter Seville to Europe through Islam, and the study on Aristotle conducted by Judge Ibn Rushd affected the Scholastic philosophy quite a lot.

As the result of the division of Christian countries, the relationship between Islamic power and Christian power was kept even in Spain. With the emergence of Pope Innocent III in Rome, confrontation with Islamic power became much clearer as seen in the dispatch of the fourth Crusaders. Then, allied forces of Christian powers were created in Iberian Peninsula which won the Battle of Las Navas de Tolosa in 1212 that marked the opening of the age of Reconquista.

Kingdom of Castile which merged Kingdom of Leon occupied Cordova in 1236, surrendered Seville in 1248 and reached the Strait of Gibraltar in 1251. Aragon conquered Valencia in 1238. On the part of Islamic power, Almohad Caliphate was destroyed in 1276. Nasr Dynasty expanded its controlling power in Granada.

World Heritages associated with this age:

⑫サラマンカの旧市街



街の象徴
「知識を欲するものはサラマンカへ行け」
いずれも世界遺産オンラインガイドより

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⑬ブルゴスの大聖堂



起工は1221年→1293年完成
200年中断→15C半ば再開→1567年完成
世界遺産オンラインガイドより

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Photo captions:

(Left) Old City of Salamanca; Symbol of the city “Those who want to acquire knowledge need to go to Salamanca”

(Right) Burgos Cathedral; Construction began in 1221 and completed in 1567.

After a hiatus of nearly 200 years, work resumed on the Burgos Cathedral towards the middle of the 15th century and continued for more than 100 years.

Historic Walled Town of Cuenca which is the first Gothic style building in Spain; Old City of Salamanca where Columbus studied and is widely known by a saying that goes “those who want to acquire knowledge need to go to Salamanca”; Burgos Cathedral which is the most superior Gothic building in Spain; Historical District of Cordova represented by Mezquita; Cathedral of Seville where the tomb of Columbus exists, and Alcazar which was built in Mudéjar style

5. Castile, Aragon and Granada after Reconquista

After the reign of Fernando III who undertook Reconquista, Kingdom of Castile led by Kings brother Fernando overturned Antequera the central city of Emirate of Granada in 1410 in spite of decrease in population due to civil war or black plague pandemic.

Kingdom of Aragon after Jaime I who undertook Reconquista expanded its royal power to Mediterranean Sea, and, then, Alfonso V conquered Kingdom of Naples of Italy in 1443.

On the other hand, Emirate of Granada a Nasr Dynasty survived through skillful diplomacy as well as trade.

World Heritages associated with this age

Royal Monastery of Santa Maria de Guadalupe where black wooden holy mother dug out at a river side by an oracle is stored; Cultural Landscape of the Serra de Tramuntana where you can see water irrigation system built by Arab; Mudéjar style architecture in Aragon

6. Completion of Reconquista

Princess Isabel of Castile and Prince Fernando of Aragon were married in 1469. Each of them later took the throne and Kingdom of Spain was borne. Muhammad XIII of Granada surrendered in 1492. With the bloodless fall of Alhambra, Reconquista was completed and Spain entered the Age of Discovery. The growing threat by Ottoman Empire which surrendered Byzantine Empire in 1453 and expanded its power from its capitol Constantinople lied behind the surrender of Granada as well as the sweeping of Islamic power out of Iberian Peninsula.

6. レコンキスタの完了

1469年カスティーリャ王女イザベルとアラゴン王子フェルナンドが結婚
1474年イザベル1世即位、夫と共同統治
1479年フェルナンド2世がアラゴン王として即位
→スペイン王国成立

「王家の歴史」より

5つの王国

ナハール王国
アラゴン王国
カスティーリャ王国
ポルトガル王国
グラナダ王国

カトリック両王

フェルナンド2世とイザベル1世の結婚式の肖像画 ©Public
sekainorekisi.comより

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(Photo captions):

(Left) Portrait of Fernando I and Isabel I at their marriage

(Right) Five kingdoms; Kingdom of Castile, Kingdom of Leon, Kingdom of Aragon, Kingdom of

Navarre, and Emirate of Granada

World Heritages associated with this age

The Alhambra, the best masterpiece of Islamic architecture which took 170 years for completion. Once I saw it, I was very much interested in the world heritages.

①9 グラナダのアルハンブラ宮殿、ヘネラリーフェ離宮、アルバイシン地区



1232年ナスル族のイブン・アル・アフマルがグラナダ王国を興す

1238年アルハンブラ宮殿建築開始
約170年をかけたイスラム建築の最高傑作

アルハンブラ=赤い城

世界遺産オンラインガイドより

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Photo captions:

Alhambra, Generalife and Albyzin, Granada

(Left) Alhambra, the red castle

(Right)

- Ibn Nasr of Nazari founded Emirate of Granada in 1232
- Construction of Alhambra began in 1238
- The best masterpiece of Islamic architecture that took 170 years for completion

(Written by YAMADA Yuko, the International Science & Culture Committee, and translated by SUDA Yasushi, the PR & Internet Committee Associate)

Hands-on Workshop of “Yukata Kitsuke”

Instructor: Ms. TAKAHASHI Yuko, Principal of Ginza School
the Hakubi Kyoto Kimono Gakuin

Date: Sunday, June 27, 2021

Venue: Minato City Life-long Learning Center,

Workshop contents:

1. Briefing on Yukata’s history
2. Instructor’s demonstration
3. Yukata Kitsuke (dressing) exercise (2 times)
4. Exercise in bowing (seated & standing) and walking gracefully
5. Exercise in folding Yukata

Comments from the attendees:

- I want to wear Yukata, despite the pandemic.
- It was not easy but I enjoyed the workshop.
- I’m thankful for MUA’s efforts to hold this event.
- I appreciated the instructor’s elaborate teaching.
- I seldom wear Yukata at age 85. Still, this workshop motivated me to wear it.
- I could evolve from self-taught Kitsuke into authentic procedures.
- I will improve my skill to enable self-dressing, drawing on acquired knacks.

Comment from MUA staff:

Last year we were forced to cancel this series due to the pandemic. After careful consideration, we decided to hold this event this year. We took all possible precautions against the pandemic risk. We were happy to welcome an 85-year-old lady as well as five foreigners among the attendees. Everything proceeded smoothly. This workshop featured new exercises in how to bow, when seated or standing, and how to walk gracefully as the attendees were dressed in Yukata. All attendees highly appreciated the hospitable attitude Principal Takahashi and her assistants expressed throughout the event.



(Written by HIRAKATA Kazuyo, Vice President, the Hands-on Cultural Workshop Committee, and translated by TANAHSI Seiichi, the PR & Internet Committee)

Minato UNESCO Salon Story about Iron: Universe, Civilization & Iron, and Environment

Instructor: Dr. SUNAHARA Kohei
Senior Manager, Head of Research Plant
Experimental Blast Furnace Project Division
R&D Laboratories Process Research Laboratories
Nippon Steel Corporation

Date: Friday, May 21, 2021

Venue: Minato City Life-long Learning Center

MUA started a new series of salon to foster a worldwide viewpoint, where we invite speakers who work at the forefront of different fields. As the first speaker, we invited Dr. Sunahara and asked him to talk about iron which is the core of the steel industry.



Dr. Sunahara

Major topics in Dr. Sunahara's presentation included the following:

1. Why is the earth a planet of iron?
 - The earth was born 4.5 billion years ago, with iron accounting for 30% of its constituents.
 - Four thousand years ago, the Hittite people started to use iron tools, kicking off the history of civilization and iron.
 - During the 100-year-long Anglo-French War which started in the 14th century, devastation of forestry took place because of the need to burn tons of wooden coal to produce iron weapons and warships. This marked a harbinger of global environmental challenge.
2. Interrelation among iron, forests and fire: This topic enlightened us on the process of how mankind made accumulated efforts to enhance the availability of iron up to a civilization level.
3. Contemporary interrelation between steel production and efforts to secure a clean environment. Government and corporate initiatives to protect natural environment.



Dr. Sunahara elaborated on the long history of the universe, the solar system, and the birth of the earth and the sea (from 13.8 billion years ago up to 4.4 ~ 4.6 billion years ago). Then he touched on the history of human civilization, referring to the major elements – iron, forests and fire. During the Bronze Age (6,000 years ago), mankind had to cut down over 2,000 pine trees, to be converted into about 100 ton of wood coal, each time they needed to produce one ton of copper. It was followed by the discovery of iron by the Hittite, as mentioned above, during the copper smelting process. To produce one ton of iron, only ten ton or less of wooden coal was needed.

It was during the 6th century when iron production travelled to Japan. Dr. Sunahara highlighted the advantage Japan had in iron production, including ubiquitous availability of iron ores and iron sand as well as rich and sustainable forestry. Japanese cutlery is renowned for excellent cutting quality. For example, Japan offers an extensive variety of carving knives which are well tuned for cutting meat, fish or vegetables.

During the Industrial Revolution period, from the 17th century to the 19th century, coal was discovered and treasured as “Black Diamond.” The use of fossil fuel reduced the devastation of forests and helped recover greenery. Japan was blessed with much rain and rich forestry which enabled the production of high-quality yet low-quantity iron products such as Japanese swords, utilizing the traditional “Tatara” foot bellows technique. Today, however, the mass production of steel in Japan cannot be sustained without the import of coal and iron ores. **(To be continued on P. 10)**

A visit to MUA by Meiji Gakuin University students

Date: July 2, 2021

Venue: MUA Secretariat Office

We had the pleasure of having a visit by two students from the Meiji Gakuin University located in Minato City. They major in the science of education and child development in the Faculty of Psychology. Their seminar class mentor is Professor SHBUYA Megumi, who regularly participates as a judge in MUA's annual Japanese-Language Speech Contest. The students visited us for a scholastic interview on the following two subjects as an extension of their class assignment at the university.

1. What is the desirable status of life-long learning and citizens' initiatives which will enable community people, with different backgrounds, to have mutual respect and lead a socially vibrant day-to-day life?
2. What is the actual scene of the community's life-long learning activities and the way people are involved?

Initially President Nagano of MUA briefed the students about the start of grass-roots UNESCO movements in post-war Japan and its historical significance. He followed it up with an emphasis on the importance of thinking about peace and taking proactive action in contemporary Japan. After this, President Nagano and the students engaged in free discussions on the diversified activities undertaken by MUA.



In the preamble of the UNESCO Constitution, we see the following statement, immediately after the well-known sentence which starts with “Since wars begin”:

Ignorance of each other's ways and lives has been a common cause, throughout the history of mankind, of that suspicion and mistrust between the people of the world through which their differences have all too often broken into war.

The above statement emphasizes the importance of cross-cultural understanding. President Nagano explained that MUA's activities have been implemented based on this philosophy. This made a good platform to promote lively interaction with the guest students. We were pleased to know that the students would present in a forthcoming class their findings about UNESCO and MUA activities.

(Written by SHIMPUKU Shoji, MUA Secretary General, and translated by TANAHSHI S., the PR & Internet Committee)

Minato UNESCO Salon: SDGs-based Coexistence with Nature
- Let's extend our viewpoint from Minato City's forests & sea to the world-

**Speaker: Professor SASAKI Tsuyoshi, Tokyo University of
Marine Science and Technology (TUMST)**

Date: Thursday, July 1, 2021

Venue: Minato City Life-long Learning Center



Professor Sasaki

We added SDGs as a subtitle to this serial salon series. As the subject of this salon, we selected the ocean which connects the whole world. At first, President Nagano introduced Professor Sasaki, who teaches marine environment and fishing in TUMST's Department of Maritime Policy and Culture. Professor Sasaki has been instrumental in organizing an MUA's Tokyo Bay cruise program which mainly addresses elementary school pupils and junior high school students, and which is supported by TUMST students. The said cruise program, based in Shibaura, has been increasingly popular.

Major topics in Professor Sasaki's talk:

- Linkage of forests and the ocean, from the historical and geographic viewpoints.
- Examples of implemented activities: Workshops on maritime environment education/Observation of creatures on the Shibaura waterfront/Current level of water pollution/What we can do to improve the environment in forests, rivers and the ocean.

Professor Sasaki started his speech by self-introduction:

- Up to 2006: worked for a high school of fishery in Iwate Prefecture and engaged in environmental education and supervision of oyster and scallop farming. Learned the importance of field work and renewed awareness of the famous remark by Louis Agassiz – “Study nature, not books.”
- 2006 – 2010: joined TUMST. Engaged in a curriculum to train educators to acquire skills for implementing field-study at junior and senior high school levels.
- 2010 – present: engaged in the field work for Konan Junior High School (water quality study and improvement) and for Takanawadai Senior High School and a local Commerce High School (field study).



During his speech, Professor Sasaki touched upon the concept of “Ethnic Boundaries” proposed by a cultural anthropologist named Fredrik Barth. He also showed us a video which recorded a boat cruise in the Tokyo waterfront where students on board observed the natural environment of the forest and river. This made a good field study to observe the nature in Minato City. In 202, East Japan Railway Company came up with a waterfront concept and completed a “Takeshita Waters” facility next to the Hama Rikyu estate. It offers an effective platform to rejuvenate the Tokyo Bay. Tokyo is based on the Musashinodai Plateau, with a topographic feature of extensive ups & downs. With

accumulated human efforts over centuries, Tokyo has evolved into a unique dynamic 3-dementional “Water City.”

(To be continued on P. 10)

(Continued from P. 7) Story about Iron

Major supply of iron ores comes from Brazil and Australia. Approximately 0.5 ton of coal is consumed to produce one ton of steel.

During the 1960's, the excessive use of coal and petroleum, both fossil fuel, has caused the enormous exhaustion of carbon dioxide, resulting in the global warming. In Japan, the iron & steel industry accounts for about half of carbon dioxide exhaustion. Therefore, it is an impending challenge for all Japan to work out ways to reduce carbon dioxide exhaustion. As an alternative energy, hydrogen has emerged as a promising source and is attracting an increased attention from the car industry, including Toyota in Japan, for example.

Today the technological trend featuring "Carbon Free" is often labelled as the Fourth Revolution, following the Agricultural Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, and the Information Revolution. In the Japanese iron & steel industry, a national project called "COURSE 50" started in 2008, addressing a world's highest energy efficiency during the manufacturing process. This project also pursues the reduction of carbon dioxide exhaustion, to establish a viable way to combat global warming.

(Written by KOBAYASHI T., Standing Director, the Membership Committee, and translated by TANAHASHI S., the PR & Internet Committee)

(Continued from P. 9) SDGs-based Coexistence with Nature

Professor Sasaki recommended us to pursue the following seven objectives in our daily life, as a way to help revive the clean environment which once characterized the Edo Period:

1. Don't allow any leftover at dinner table.
2. Wipe off stains from tableware before washing.
3. Use a water-filtering bag to prevent the outflow of garbage.
4. Don't let oil flow down.
5. Use detergent which is odor-free and easy to dissolve in the sea.
6. Use the remaining water in the bathtub for washing.
7. Use soap or plant-based shampoo to wash your hair.

In 2021, the U. N. Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development was kicked off. In this connection, Professor Sasaki established a URL titled "U. N. Ocean Lab" at <http://www2.kaiyodai.ac.jp/~t-sasaki/Takeshiba/>. The German government hosts the said U. N. initiative, connecting many laboratories worldwide, where Professor Sasaki' lab is included to work as an Asian representative during the coming decade.

(Written by KOBAYASHI T., Standing Director, the Membership Committee, and translated by TANAHASHI S., the PR & Internet Committee)

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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