



MINATO

# みなとユネスコ 会報

Bulletin

MINATO UNESCO ASSOCIATION NEWS & CALENDAR

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## A monologue of a Japanese-language teacher

TAGAWA Junko, Standing Director of MUA



I am a very lucky person. I feel as if someone up in heaven were always watching over me for my wellbeing. I take it as my mission to teach Japanese in the simplest possible format to those who wish to learn the language. It's a blessing that I still continue my teaching job even after my retirement. Capitalizing on this essay-writing opportunity, I'd like to share with our readers interesting experiences I have had in my teaching lessons.

Case 1. Once, on New Year's Day, I had an online overseas teaching engagement. My student was in Belgium which has an eight-hour time difference from Tokyo. Because he was knowledgeable about what the date means for Japanese people, he sent me an email in advance to confirm about the lesson. However, he did not show up on the PC screen at 2 pm. In the past, he always appeared about two minutes before the appointed time. I became concerned about a possibility of net connection failure, as experienced before, or did he simply oversleep in the morning?

Finally, at 2:14 pm, he appeared on the ZOOM screen. He did not say anything about the delay. I momentarily suspected that he might have overslept, and wondered if even an important EU official may sometimes slip up on an appointment. At any rate, it was certainly a blessing that I could kick off the New Year by holding a Japanese lesson on January 1.

Case 2. The objective of the day's lesson was to learn expressions to use when you are sick or have injuries. Because there were a few medical doctors in the day's class, I posed a question, "What do you say initially to your patient?" I expected them to say a Japanese phrase, equivalent to "What happened?" However, one doctor responded, "Mata antaka!" equivalent to "You, again!" I could not help laughing at the expression. However, the doctor said so wittily as a joke. Incidentally, the objective of the day's lesson was to learn "generic verb + n desu."

Case 3. It was a cold day, especially so because the classroom was located close to the seaside. I always take a pleasure in having a lesson to U. S. military personnel. They are physically stout in appearance but ask questions which only children would think of. For example, they touch upon a case where the cashier, at a convenience store, would typically ask you, "Do you need a bag?" Concerning this, military folks would ask me, "How do you distinguish 'Fukuro' from 'Fukuro'?" (Fukuro in sound means not just bag but also owl) Another example; they would tease me asking, "What is the difference between 'Hokkaido' and 'Hokkairo'?"

I make it a rule to arrive early at the classroom so that I can make intensive preparations for the day's lesson, looking over my teaching plan in the notebook. Today I'll teach Japanese adjectives. I'm using a textbook designated by the U. S. government. However, from my viewpoint, it does not provide satisfactory grammatical explanations. So I have to prepare my own complementary materials which I use throughout my lesson.

(To be continued on P. 4)

**The 2023 Cross-Cultural Awareness Workshop**  
**Culture of Ukraine**  
**Speaker: TOMONO Satoko and Prof. KURABAYASHI Kimio**

Date&Time: February 19, 2023 14:00~16:00

Venue: Minato City Libra Hall

Co-sponsor: Minato City Board of Education



MUA President  
Tanabe



NFUAJ President  
Sato

Following President Tanabe's greetings, Mr. SATO Yoshiki, President of National Federation of UNESCO Associations in JAPAN (NFUAJ), the original proposer of this workshop, touched on the outline of the Federation's support for Ukraine. With 97 people in attendance, ¥77,000 was raised during the workshop. The collected fund will be sent out to Ukraine via NFUAJ.

**Part 1: World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage**  
(Speaker: TOMONO Satoko)

1. The Ancient City of Taurica Peninsula and Its Chora

This area is home to the remains of ancient Greek colonial cities. Hundreds of chora (small rectangular zones) were discovered.

2. Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings

Built by Yaroslav I in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, this is the most famous cathedral in the architectural history of Ukraine. Made up of 13 domes, it was destroyed by the invasion of Mongolians, but was renovated in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The inside wall is covered with icons (pictures of saints).

Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra: This building is a legacy of religious austerity since 11<sup>th</sup> century. Once destroyed by the Nazis, it was renovated after Ukraine gained independence.

3. The Residence of Bukovinian and Dalmatian Metropolitans

Bukovina was originally an area of beech forests, and it is along the border with Poland. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, under Austrian Habsburg rule, the Metropolitan's residence was reconstructed and designed by a Czech architect. Featuring a variety of styles, this is an architectural masterpiece of historicism, and currently making up part of a university.

4. The Struve Geodetic Arc

The Struve Arc is a chain of survey triangulations stretching from Norway to the Black Sea, Ukraine, through 265 points and over 2,820 km. This survey found the size of the earth, and that it is oval in shape, a great achievement of 19<sup>th</sup> century science and technology. (Tomono added some explanation on triangulation.)

5. L'viv- the Ensemble of the Historic Centre

The city is located near the Poland border, and lately attacked by Russia. Buildings of various architectural styles, such as Renaissance, Baroque and Eastern European style, have been ruled by Poland, Sweden, Russia, Austria, the Soviet Union, Nazi Germany and others.

6. The Historic Center of Odesa

Odesa was urgently designated as a World Heritage in Danger Site, without taking normal procedures through the World Heritage Committee. The designation was aimed at protecting the cultural assets of Odesa, by applying the article of the Hague Convention. Odesa was first built by the Ottoman Empire, and then became prosperous under the rule of the Russian Empire. There were a number of Jewish residents then. It is also famous for Battleship Potemkin.

7. The Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathian and Other Regions of Europe

After beech forests in Ukraine and Slovakia were registered as Natural Heritage, other European countries also applied for the registration, with 18 countries currently registered. Once occupying 40% of the European land, these beech forests are a great climax in the chain of ecological succession in the region.

8. The Wooden Tserkvas of the Carpathian Region in Poland and Ukraine

These are primitive wooden churches. The inside alters are cramped with a number of icons.



Ms. Tomono

## 9. Intangible Cultural Heritage

Today 676 properties are registered as Intangible Cultural Heritage. In Ukraine, ① Ornek, a traditional Crimean Tatar system of symbols and ornaments and their meanings, ② The tradition of Kosif painted ceramics, ③ Cossack's songs of the Dnipropetrovsk Region, ④ Petrykivsky and decorative painting as a phenomenon of Ukrainian ornament folk art, and ⑤ Borscht cooking. (Although borscht cooking was recognized as an asset requiring urgent protection, UNESCO has not granted it as unique to Ukraine. Let me point out, however, that borscht did originate from Ukraine. We know this because long time ago, they could not harvest beets in Russia.)

## Part II: Ukraine in Music (Prof. KURABAYASHI)

### 1. Standing on an Endless Land ♪

Today many people are shedding tears over the war-torn Ukraine, a country we didn't know much about in the past. However, when I come to think of music, which has always remained around me, I've found several references to Ukraine. Let me share them with you, to help you feel closer to this faraway country.

KATO Tokiko, a singer, released an album last May and donated all the profits to Ukraine. Her father worked as a well-known music producer, and opened a restaurant "Kiev" in Gion, Kyoto, his hometown in 1971, when a sister-city relationship between Kiev and Kyoto was established. This restaurant is still operating after 51 years. The album includes "A Million Roses", which was originally a protest song in Latvia, a country living with the Russian threat. "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" is one of the most famous anti-war songs. It was composed by Pete Seeger of the US, who was inspired by "Quiet Flows the Don", a novel depicting Cossacks being plagued by war and hardship.



Prof. Kurabayashi

### 2. Bird Song in Kiev ♪

When a Hokkaido Choir performed in Ukraine, a welcome party was held there, where they heard a Ukrainian folk song with accompaniment by Bandora. Moved by the song, the conductor translated the lyrics into Japanese.

### 3. Carol of the Bell ♪

This is one of the most popular Christmas songs in the world today. This choral music was based on a Ukrainian folk song. Last Christmas, NATO sang this song in Latvia, sending a message to the world.

### 4. Red Poppy in Dnieper

Takarazuka Revue once performed a tragic love story between a Cossack and a Polish governor-general's daughter. The revue company sent out the performers to Ukraine in 1975. OHTORI Ran, the star performer, could not enter Ukraine because of her Taiwanese nationality.

### 5. Ukraine, the Ballet Powerhouse

Ms. Osofskaya taught ballet at Takarazuka from the end of Taisho to the beginning of Showa. Her husband, Emmanuel Leonievich Metter, a Ukrainian conductor, is revered as "Father of the music world in Kansai", since he mentored ASAHINA Takashi, HATTORI Ryoichi and others. The National Ballet of Ukraine performed this January in Japan. The company gives two performances a week in Kiev, with only 200 spectators allowed in. This is because the shelter can accommodate only this many people in case of an air strike. It is said that an artist stands on stage with the same mindset as a soldier stands on the front line. In Japan, "Swan Lake" was produced on stage only by Japanese performers as early as in 1946, shortly after the end of War. It was called a miracle, given the difficult circumstances. But it certainly brought light into the lives of the people and showed the power of music and art.

### 6. The Great Gate of Kiev

The Great Gate in Kiev was destroyed by Mongolians in the Kievan Rus' era. That is why the Great Gate was not there when Mussorgsky composed "Pictures at an Exhibition". The final chapter of "Pictures", "The Great Gate of Kiev", is piano suite that Mussorgsky created after getting inspired by a drawing that he saw at the memorial exhibition of Hartmann, his close friend, painter and architect. J. Maurice Ravel has upgraded this work into an amazing concerto.

7. Mazeppa ♪

Moved by Victor Hugo's Epic that portrays Mazeppa, a 17th century Ukrainian hero, Franz Liszt composed a piano piece at the age of 15. Liszt is known for his many loves, and his last lover was a woman from Kiev.

Kalush Orchestra "Stefania"

8. This song which represents Ukraine won the 2022 Eurovision Song Contest. Kalush Orchestra, a folk and rap group, delivered to the world not only music, but also the footage of bombarded places in the outskirts of Kiev.

9. National Anthem of Ukraine

This song is overflowing with the determination to seek freedom and independence.

*(Written by YAMADA Yuko, the International Science & Culture Committee, and translated by MIYASHITA Y. of the PR & Internet Committee)*

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### **(Continued from P. 1: A monologue of a Japanese-language teacher)**

A student asked me, in a timely manner, "Why do we see 'na' at the end of adjectives?" In the pattern of " 'na' adjective + noun," we always put "na." For example, "Ben-san wa genki-na hito-desu" or "Tokyo wa nigiyaka-na machi-desu." The student who asked this question is an American who has a Japanese wife. Their daughter goes to a Japanese elementary school. Although he is accustomed to typical daily conversation in Japanese, he decided to join my class to acquire further linguistic skill so that he can advance to a higher level in his conversation with his daughter. I feel that my beginners' class is too simple for him but he gives a nodding sigh to my grammatical explanations whenever he felt that his knowledge pieces were finally placed into a jigsaw puzzle.

There is another student who has a Japanese spouse, and who has learned Japanese at a U.S. university. The day's lesson was how to pronounce "fun" or minute, as used in clocks. He told me that he was taught to pronounce the minute as "fun" when it's placed immediately after five. Here I gave an additional explanation, saying " 'fun' applied not just to five but also to two, seven and nine. Also, when the minute follows the other numerals, it will be pronounced 'pun,' not 'fun'." At this explanation, he grumbled, saying "I was not taught that way at the university." I learned later that this student is respected as a professional sniper.

As is often the case, the class becomes very vibrant when someone asks a question which will cause a derailment. I know from accumulated experiences that the class would somehow proceed successfully if I let it go naturally rather than correct it intentionally. There were times when I was not confident of my own way but I concluded that it's best to accommodate the learners' pace.

I hope that the aforementioned cases illustrate the way I teach Japanese in my lessons. Recently, I notice an increasing number of net ads, saying "Why don't you work as a teacher of Japanese?" It calls for lots of energy to learn a foreign language. Students have to learn new words and expressions which they have never heard of. Even if the teacher makes best efforts for an easy-to-understand explanations, the student won't be able to acquire it unless he/she maintains commitment and motivation to learn.

The primary mission for a teacher of Japanese, I believe, is to maintain students' motivation to learn. From this viewpoint, a few derailed moments during the lesson, which invite pleasant chats, are very important and indispensable. Strange to say, words or phrases which derive from such derailed conversation remain unforgettable for students.

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



## The 78<sup>th</sup> Japan UNESCO Movement National Convention in Kisarazu

### *Message from Organic city of Kisarazu*

Date: Saturday, November 26, 2022, 12:20~

Venue: Kazusa Academia Hall (Kisarazu)

Under the auspices of the Federation of Japan UNESCO Associations and the Chiba Prefecture UNESCO Liaison Council, members of UNESCO Associations and Clubs from all over Japan gathered for the Convention in-person for the first time in three years.

From the Minato UNESCO Association, Tsuneo Kinjo, Ritsuko Sato, Yoko Hirayama, and Yoshiyuki Kobayashi participated. A total of 420 people, including about 280 UNESCO members and 140 general participants, attended the Convention.

Firstly, Takeshi Ukaji, an actor, gave a memorial lecture on "Living towards tomorrow". He spoke about his personal experiences related to human rights and discrimination. In the panel discussion, participants talked about "Aiming for a peaceful and sustainable future where no one would be left behind." They also talked about the 80-year history of the Kisarazu, under the theme of "Organic city of Kisarazu," involving local agriculture, fisheries, and other opportunities which are derived from its convenient location near Tokyo. In addition, the discussion regarded "child-rearing in rich natural environment" as the starting point for creating a sustainable future.

At last, Keisuke Ikeda, President of the Tokyo Metropolitan UNESCO Liaison Council, accompanied by more than 30 members, took to the stage and announced that "Tokyo UNESCO Liaison Council Kanto Brook Conference" will be held at Aoyama Gakuin University on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2023. There was also an announcement that the National convention will be held on Saturday, September 9, 2023 in Fujiyoshida City, Yamanashi Prefecture. Then the convention was closed with hope of meeting again in 2023 at the above conferences.

Afterwards, a social gathering for those who had registered was also held for the first time after COVID-19. It was a nice opportunity to warm up old friendship.



*(Written by KOBAYASHI T., Vice President, and translated by KODAMA K., the PR & Internet Committee)*

## The Sixth MUA Japanese Speech Contest

Date & Time: 13:30-16:00, Sunday, December 11, 2022

Venue: Minato City Gender-free Center “Libra” Hall

A total of eleven speakers competed in the contest this year, joined by many attendees. We had the honor of having Mr. TAKEI Masaaki, Minato City Mayor, and Mr. URATA Mikio, Minato City Superintendent of Education. The event proceeded as follows:



MUA President Tanabe



MC Ms. Tagawa & Mayor Takei

1. Opening declaration:  
Ms. TAGAWA Junko, MC
2. Welcome address:  
Mr. TANABE Kiichirou, President of MUA
3. Special address:  
Mr. TAKEI Masaaki, Minato City Mayor
4. Explanation of the schedule
5. Introduction of the judges

### Part I: Speeches

The following eleven contestants gave speeches on their respective themes.

1. Mr. Ganesh Mithran (India)  
“Indian education system”
2. Ms. Hla Yamin OO (Myanmar)  
“Independence”
3. Mr. Li Junxi (China)  
“Read millions of books, travel thousands of miles”
4. Ms. Gyuri Kim (South Korea)  
“My favorite Japan, everyone’s favorite Japan”
5. Ms. Dhea Ceicarya Ferennita Langitan (Indonesia)  
“Success”
6. Mr. Du Jianao (China)  
“Exportation of Japanese Culture”
7. Mr. Bhatt Suresh (Nepal)  
“Me and Japan”
8. Mr. Imronkhuja Abdurakhmonov (Uzbekistan)  
“Thinking from my hometown sea”
9. Ms. Zhao Lijun (China)  
“Gratitude”
10. Mr. Dineshkumar Prabakaran (India)  
“Japan, quiet country”
11. Mr. Oblokulov Ravshan Sobirjon Ugli (Uzbekistan)  
“Country of admiration”

### Part II: Exchange among contestants and audiences

Director: Professor KOBAYASHI Akira, Tamagawa University

Facilitators: The UNESCO Club members of Tamagawa University

Under Professor KOBAYASHI’s guidance, audiences divided into small groups encircled the contestants and enjoyed the questions and answers on such topics as hardships experienced in Japan, thought on Japan, future relationships with Japan, etc.



### Part III: Announcement of the winners and awards ceremony

Chief judge Ms. TSUBOYA Ikuko, CEO of the Tokyo International School, introduced the winners as follows.

Grand Prize:  
MUA President Award:  
Minato City Mayor's Award:  
Minato City Superintendent of Education Award:  
Judges' Award:  
Outstanding Performance Award:  
Outstanding Performance Award:  
Outstanding Performance Award:  
Outstanding Performance Award:  
Outstanding Performance Award:  
Outstanding Performance Award:  
Special Audience Award:

Mr. Bhatt Suresh  
Mr. Oblokulov Ravshan Sobirjon Ugli  
Mr. Dineshkumar Prabakaran  
Ms. Zhao Lijun  
Mr. Li Junxi  
Mr. Imronkhuj Abdurakhmonov  
Ms. Gyuri Kim  
Mr. Du Jianao  
Ms. Hla Yamin OO  
Ms. Dhea Ceicarya Ferennita Langitan  
Mr. Ganesh Mithran  
Mr. Bhatt Suresh

Each of the aforementioned prize winners received a letter of commendation, a trophy or a commemorative shield. Special Audience Award winner was presented a letter of commendation and Wajima-lacquered chopsticks.

### After the contest

This year, with the attendance of Mr. TAKEI Masaaki, Minato City Mayor, and Mr. URATA Mikio, Minato City Superintendent of Education, we were able to hold an unprecedented grand contest. Contestants included Japanese language school students and various other people who heard about the Minato UNESCO speech contest.

All of the contestants were at a level where they impressed with how well they mastered Japanese, and the content of their speeches also moved people's hearts. Thank you very much to all the contestants, spectators, and all the staff who supported us behind the scenes. I appreciate you sincerely.



*(Written by TAGAWA J, Standing Director and Chairperson of Japanese Speech Contest Committee, and translated by SUDA Y., the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee Associate)*



**MUA welcomed the visit of the UNESCO committee members from  
the Mita municipal senior high school  
—An opportunity to think about UNESCO, war and peace—**

Date: December 14, 2022

Venue: Minato City Life-long Learning Center

The visit to MUA by the UNESCO committee members of the Mita municipal senior high school resumed after a 3-year suspension due to the pandemic. This was the ninth visit. We welcomed a total of 21 students, chaperoned by OHNO Toyoji-sensei. At first, MUA secretariat introduced an outline of MUA's activities, touching upon specific examples.

President Tanabe talked about his dramatic personal experiences during the last war. Due to his father's business relocation to Manchuria, he once boarded one of the three vessels which started to sail across the Sea of Japan where they were vulnerable to possible attacks by torpedoes. Only his vessel could make it to the coast of mainland China. It turned out that, in fact, this relocation saved his life because he had temporarily lived with his grandparents in Hiroshima, in the central area where the A-bomb was dropped.



Toward the end of the war, an increasing number of Russian soldiers invaded the streets of Manchuria where his family lived. The soldiers demanded that one per three Japanese men be selected as a laborer to work in Siberia. When the Japanese decided it by lottery, his father fortunately evaded the selection. After Japan lost the war, his family returned to Japan but they had to face a harsh reality – meager life without electricity or gas. From the war-torn devastation, Japan started to make a patient step-by-step recovery during the post-war years and finally became a major economic power in the world.

Then President Tanabe introduced his personal perception of Japan today and tomorrow. Although Japan is seemingly a peaceful country, it is actually exposed to various international risks. For example, media reports on hegemonic disruptions, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine, China's intimidation toward Taiwan, and North Korea's acceleration in military buildup and hostile actions. He wrapped up his talk by reminding the students of the critical importance for them come up with their own thoughts on how to build the future of Japan.



At the end, Ms. Furuichi, Standing Director and a member of MUA's Youth Committee, gave a comment, saying, "It was fortunate for me to join you students in listening to Mr. Tanabe's experiences during the last war. I renewed my recognition of how important it is to share different notions across generation." She also recommended the students to join various MUA events planned in the future.

*(Written by SHIMPUKU S., Secretary General, and translated by TANAHASHI S., the PR & Internet Committee)*





## Exploration of Tokyo by Cruise Boat and Bus

Learn about forests, rivers and sea of Tokyo

Date: January 21, 2023

Time: 9:30 am ~ 5:00 pm

Minato UNESCO Association, co-sponsored by the Minato City Board of Education and Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (TUMSAT) Hydrosphere Environmental Education Laboratory, carried out the event "Learn about the forests, rivers and sea of Tokyo." This time, which was the 4th time, about 60 people, including elementary, junior high and high school students, working adults, and students of Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, participated from among many applicants. In the morning, we cruised the canals of Tokyo Bay and the Sumida River, and in the afternoon, we toured Hayama Intake Weir and Lake Sayama by bus, pondering about the forests, rivers, and sea of Tokyo and their connections.



The boat departed from Hinode Pier at 9:30 a.m., although it was a little windy, and sailed around Tsukiji from Oi Wharf, Daiba, Shinonome Canal, Toyosu Canal, and Sumida River before returning to Hinode Pier. On board, students from TUMSAT made presentations, and participants were divided into groups and had group discussions with the students who participated as moderators.

We also carried out bird watching on board and plankton sampling in Tokyo Bay. "Why was the Rainbow Bridge so expensive?" "Why was Daiba created?" "Why was Toyosu chosen as the relocation site for Tsukiji Market?" "Why were there so many schools in Tsukiji?" Questions about the sea and its

history were posed, and a lively discussion was held about the relationship between the sea and people.



In the afternoon, we took a bus from Furukawa Bridge in Minato City to Hamura Intake Weir. After watching the Intake Weir from the bus, we took a walk around Lake Sayama. The Hamura Intake Weir was completed in 1653, same time as the Tamagawa Aqueduct, against the backdrop of population growth during the Edo period, supporting the lives of people in Tokyo.

Along the way, quizzes related to the Tamagawa Aqueduct, such as "Where did they first try to build the water intake?", "Why did it fail?", "Construction costs", and "The height difference in the 100-meter distance of the Tamagawa Aqueduct" were displayed. Then, there was an explanation of topography, life, and history related to the forests, rivers, and sea of Tokyo. At last, Professor

SASAKI gave a detailed explanation of what we can do to reduce the burden on the sea, as people's lives have a great impact on the sea.

A day of traveling from end to end of the Musashino Plateau, following the flow of water. For the event participants, it was an opportunity to feel closer to the sea and nature, and to look at the City of Tokyo from a new perspective. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Professor SASAKI and everyone involved in TUMSAT for their cooperation.



*(Written by YOKOIA., Chairperson of Youth Committee, and translated by SUDA Y., the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee Associate)*

## **In Memoriam: Mr. TOMOGANE Mamoru**

On January 14 this year, we lost a long-time friend – Mr. Tomogane who had served MUA for many years, initially as Secretary General and later as Acting Director and Director. I trust that all of MUA members have been impressed with his embracing personality as well as his goodwill and enthusiasm with which he had conducted various MUA activities. At the 2023 New Year's gathering, Mr. Kikuchi, Advisor, proposed a memorium toast for Mr. Tomogane.

In retrospect, I joined MUA in 1995 at the suggestion of Mr. Tomogane who was a senior colleague at the same business corporation, and who was a graduate from a university of similar nature with mine. He had a motto that goes, "Nothing will start unless someone volunteers to take an initial step." His forward-looking life style was characterized by this motto.

He used to say about his name, as pronounced in Kanji character, that he is a man who protects his friends' money. Indeed, once he assumed the position as MUA's secretary general, responsible for financial management, he lost no time in increasing the membership, especially corporate members, capitalizing on his extensive network. He also played an active role in running MUA's English conversation classes which generated proceeds, and thereby enriched substantially MUA's financial status. He was a man who walked his talk.

Mr. Tomogane also contributed immensely to my editorial work to publish MUA's quarterly newsletters. Because he was fond of photography, he always took nice photos of various MUA events and passed them on to me. I'll always cherish those fond memories. May Tomogane-san rest in peace.

*(Written & translated by TANAHASHI S., the PR & Internet Committee)*

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To the memory of Mr. Tomogane: From MUA newsletter No. 146 dated March 1, 2017

### **The 20<sup>th</sup> MUA Salon In Retrospect of Elementary School Days up to My Participation in MUA Activities**

Date: November 8, 2016

Place: Minato City Life-long Learning Center

The speaker of this salon was Mr. Mamoru Tomogane, MUA Director. He talked enthusiastically about the days when he spent his childhood in the remote corner of Tamba in Kyoto Prefecture. He followed it up with detailed accounts of his later years up to the present. During his talk, he showed us old photos, letters which he exchanged with respectable teachers along with other archival materials. The core message of his fervent two-hour presentation was the "Blessedness of Human Linkage."

Mr. Tomogane described with hearty appreciation how he succeeded in entering the Osaka University of Foreign Languages (today's Foreign Language Faculty of Osaka University), during the post-war period when the entrance to universities was very difficult. He ascribed the success to various support he received from his respectable teachers.

After graduation, he joined NEC Corporation. He introduced a memorable episode he experienced during his business trip to the Arabic market. The important lesson he obtained from the experience was that people can nurture friendship and mutual trust if they interact with sincerity, regardless of their nationality, ethnicity or religion. Mr. Tomogane also introduced his hobbies, including painting, appreciation of Buddha images, and photography. He told us how much pleasure he had taken from these hobbies for long years.

After his retirement from NEC, he joined MUA and started to help with its secretariat. Thanks to the recommendation from Dr. Miwa, who was MUA president at that time, he later assumed the position of Secretary General and served for six years in that capacity. During the tenure, he vigorously and extensively reached out to his family, relatives, teachers, class-mates, company colleagues, and persistently solicited their membership into MUA as a way of expanding MUA's financial resources. His life policy to treasure human linkage paid off in such efforts. It enabled him to win a large number of supporting and corporate members. He showed us financial reports in those days and elaborated on his successful efforts.

Each and every episode he share with us demonstrated his conviction that if we interact with others in a sincere and unselfish manner, we will receive helping hands from them. We wrapped up the salon by singing along the "Furusato" song.



Mr. Tomogane, standing, gave a most interesting talk on his resourceful career.

*(Written by M. Shiose, MUA member, and translated by S. Tanahashi, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)*



## MUA's 2023 New Year Gathering

Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Venue: NEC Shiba Club, Minato City



We have been forced to suspend our New Year's gathering since 2020, due to the pandemic. At this year's gathering, we had a total of 25 attendees, including President Tanabe, Vice Presidents, Standing Directors, Mr. Nakazawa Masao who is an instructor for MUA's English conversation class, as well as three new members. It was a very vibrant and happy two-hour gathering where attendees could capitalize on a "free drink" system.

Vice President Kobayashi kicked off the meeting by his opening address, which was followed by President Tanabe's greetings and toast proposal (left photo). Next, Mr. Kobayashi introduced Mr. Nakazawa the English class instructor, Mr. Shimpuku, Secretary General, and Ms. Otsuka, secretariat staff. Following this, each attendee made a self-introduction, including latest engaged activities and a New Year' wish.

We had a non-Japanese attendee for the first time. He is Mr. Pariyau Nabin, a Nepalese, who had participated in MUA's Japanese-language speech contest two years ago. All of us were impressed with his fluent Japanese when he made a self-introduction and expressed his New Year's wish.

The gathering was wrapped up by Standing Director Ishii's closing remark. As usual, a commemorative group photo was taken at the end.



*(Written by ISHII Y., Standing Director, and translated by TANAHASHI S., the PR & Internet Committee)*



## The 1<sup>st</sup> Welcome Meeting for New Members

Date: Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Venue: Minato UNESCO Association

The Membership Committee has decided to hold a "The 1<sup>st</sup> Welcome Meeting for new members" to extend further welcoming atmosphere for new members and for those who are considering joining MUA.

We would like to welcome new members to MUA office at an early stage by having them at the secretariat office with several members of each committee. We assumed it would be a good opportunity for them to know about MUA, and talk about what they would like to do as part of MUA, through Q&A with exiting members.

On February 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, we held the meeting with the three people who recently joined MUA. We welcomed them with *Macha* tea prepared by Masako Kasahara. We welcomed Mr. Yun So, Kumika Inoue and Ngai and enjoyed conversation with them.



*(Written by SHIMPUKU S., Secretary General, and translated by KODAMA K, the PR & Internet Committee)*

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(Continued from P. 14: AI: UNESCO mobilizes education ministers)

several pressing challenges and shared policy approaches

During the discussion, some common concerns emerged including how to adapt education systems to the disruptions generative AI is quickly causing, how to integrate generative AI into curricula, teaching methods and examinations, and how to mitigate the inherent flaws of these technologies, including the capacity for making glaring errors and producing biased information.

The ministerial debate revealed that governments worldwide are in the process of formulating appropriate policy responses in this rapidly evolving landscape – further developing or refining national strategies on AI, on data protection, and other regulatory frameworks.

### Only 10% of schools and universities have formal guidance on AI

A new UNESCO global survey of over 450 schools and universities found that fewer than 10% have developed institutional policies and/or formal guidance concerning the use of generative AI applications. The results illustrate that an immediate response (Excerpted from the original)

## AI: UNESCO mobilizes education ministers from around the world for a co-ordinated response to ChatGPT

In response to the rapid emergence of new and powerful generative AI tools, on Thursday, UNESCO held the first global meeting of Ministers of Education to explore the immediate as well as far-reaching opportunities, challenges and risks that AI applications pose to education systems. Over 40 Ministers came together to share policy approaches and plans on how best to integrate these tools into education. During the online discussion on 25 May 2023, UNESCO presented a roadmap on generative AI and education, including open multistakeholder dialogue.



Ground Picture/Shutterstock.com

26 May 2023 (Last update: 29 May 2023)

Generative AI opens new horizons and challenges for education. But we urgently need to take action to ensure that new AI technologies are integrated into education on our terms. It is our duty to prioritize safety, inclusion, diversity, transparency and quality — as stated in the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence adopted unanimously by our Member States. Stefania Giannini UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education Ministers highlighted

(To be continued on P. 13)

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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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