



MINATO

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Bulletin

MINATO UNESCO ASSOCIATION NEWS & CALENDAR

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Inaugural Address

Hiroshi Nagano, Advisor, Minato UNESCO Association



I was so relieved when I have completed my six-year term as President of Minato UNESCO Association (MUA). My sense of relief was short-lived, however, since I was elected President of the Tokyo Metropolitan Liaison Council of UNESCO Associations (Toyuren) at its general meeting held in June, 2023. Toyuren was founded in 1961, 20 years prior to the establishment of MUA, by joint efforts of eight organizations that had been active in Tokyo.

Many of their members had been enthusiastically involved in private UNESCO activities since their student days, and I am not sure if I am the right person for the job. But I believe that my being chosen as President reflects the recognition among the neighboring UNESCO associations of the MUA's vigorous activities.

Regional UNESCO associations have different origins and operate independently, so they do not usually have close interaction with each other. Things have changed when we witnessed the Russian invasion of Ukraine. UNESCO's mission of realizing peace has become more than just a theoretical idea, and the true value of private UNESCO activities is now being put to the test. Like-minded organizations should get together, share information and think what can be done together. In order for this to happen, it is essential to have a kind of platform, and Toyuren is exactly the right group for this purpose.

In recent years, thanks to the efforts of the Organizational Expansion Committee, the number of UNESCO associations participating in Toyuren has grown to 25 and the total number of members have increased to approximately 1,000. On the extension of these activities, last year we launched a new 2,000-Member Project with 11 actions now underway. This new Project aims at inviting not only current UNESCO association members, but also those who may become members in the future. I would be very happy if you could join the 2,000-Member Project and invite those around you as well.

On September 3, Toyuren organized the "Kanto Block UNESCO Activities Workshop in Tokyo" in cooperation with the Japan Federation of UNESCO Associations, bringing together UNESCO members from across the Kanto region. The special lecture by Ms. Junko Koshino, a world-class fashion designer who has practiced cross-cultural exchange firsthand, was extremely impressive. MUA also played a role in this Workshop by making a presentation in the session: "Science, Environment, and UNESCO Schools". We have announced to the audience that we organized a series of symposiums on peace over the years, and that a joint project with Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology is now in the making.

I would be very happy if you could continue to take an interest in the Toyuren activities and join us.

(Translated by MIYASHITA Y., Standing Director, the PR & Internet Committee)

2022 Minato UNESCO Association Symposium UNESCO Memory of the World and the Zojoji Temple Scriptures

Date & Time: 18:30 – 20:30, January 18, 2023
Venue: International House of Japan

Panelists: Mr. KATO Takeo, former Director, National Archives of Japan
Mr. SHIBATA Taisen, Researcher, Jodo-shu Research Institute
Coordinator: Mr. NAGANO Hiroshi, MUA President

Co-hosted by Minato City Board of Education
Cooperation from Daihonzan Zojoji Temple
Supported by: National Federation of UNESCO Association in Japan
Tokyo Metropolitan Liaison Council of UNESCO Associations

The “Three Daizokyo” scriptures, housed in the Minato City-located Daihonzan Zojoji Temple for over 400 years, were recently applied for the UNESCO Memory of the World. Taking this opportunity, we decided to hold this symposium. First, we had greetings from Ms. OKAMURA Naoko (Chief International Affairs Officer, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), and Mr. URATA Mikio (Director, Minato City Board of Education). It was followed by the lectures by Mr. KATO Takeo and Mr. SHIBATA Taisen. Ms. OKAMURA also joined the panel discussion.



Mr. Nagano and Ms. Okamura



Mr. Shibata and Mr. Kato

Lecture by Mr. KATO Takeo, former Director, the National Archives of Japan

Based on his career at the said national institute from 2013 to 2021, Mr. Kato talked about Japan's efforts as a nation to dig out, preserve, manage and disclose its historically important archives. The followings are major points of interest from his talk:

■Definitions of basic words:

- Archives: Archives stand for public and private documents preserved as records. Majority of materials preserved in the archives house are public documents but private documents are also included. Therefore, a correct definition would be a “house for record materials.”
- Archivist: Experts engaged in archival work. There's no equivalent Japanese word.
- The National Archives of Japan: The main building was constructed in 1972 in Kitanomaru Park in Chiyoda City. The Tsukuba branch building was constructed in 1998 in the City of Tsukuba. A total of about 1.5 million documents, as detailed below, are stored.
- Public historical archives: About one million documents (including 30 important cultural properties) are stored. Public documents, produced since the Meiji Restoration up to now, which relate to important national decision-makings such as the original promulgation copy of the constitution, law, imperial ordinance, cabinet ordinance, and diplomatic treaties.
(Examples) The original of Japan's constitution; The original of the rescript of the end of the war, which Emperor Showa read.

■Old documents and archives: About 50 documents:

- Documents possessed by the shogunate families, temples & shrines, court nobles and samurais in the pre-Edo period.

(Examples) Azuma-kagami, Chinese Zensho-heiwa stories

- Documents either donated or deposited by individuals:

(Examples) SATO Eisaku's diary; Heisei (Era) documents

■Roles of the national archives

1.Storage of public archives

Visitors will correctly understand the societal rules & regulations (including the constitution, laws, ordinances, etc.) which influenced people's way of living and livelihood as well as the process of legislation.

2. Storage of historical materials

Visitors will understand the history and culture of their country and regions and thereby start to have pride and confidence as nationals and citizens. They will also acquire skills to think about the future. The UNESCO Memory of the World addresses the same objective.

■National efforts to enrich the national archives

1.Efforts to facilitate the objective of the National Archives Management Act (enforced in 2011)

We often hear about "archives," in connection with scandals. This act facilitates the basic legal flow from the preparation, management, preservation, and disclosure of official documents.

2. Active collection of historical materials

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration, efforts have been underway to actively dig out and collect historically important materials, which have been dispersed nationwide, and turn them into digital format for the extensive use by citizens. Such materials include those historical documents which have been preserved, for example, in the temples & shrines, or in the attics of old houses of village headmen.

■Current status of the archives (1)

There are a total of 87 archival facilities nationwide as of July 2022. Details are as follows:
Prefectural: 42; Ordinance-designated cities: 10; Municipalities: 35

■Current status of the archives (2)

Compared with the counterparts in Europe and the U. S., Japan's facilities and management of archives have lagged behind. There is an urgent need to strengthen their systems in both hardware and software.

Comparison between Japan and France:

Japan: The national archives of Japan (main building) was built in 1971. Staff: 200

France: The archival facility was built in 1790, the following year of the French Revolution.

Staff: 529.

■Challenges to be met for strengthening the archives (1)

1.Promotion of active archival collection

Digitalization would enable on-line operation. If you enter "National Archives of Japan Digital Archives" on your home PC, for example, you can view about 20 important cultural properties.

2.Promotion of applications for the UNESCO World Heritage cultural assets registration

Japan is assisting in active unity to promote such efforts. Ideally, registration should be followed by a renewed perception of the value of historically important materials and by strengthened preservation systems. This is the No. 1 challenge for Japan.

■Challenges to be met for strengthening the archives (2)

Development of human resource who will be engaged in record management:

It's necessary to increase the number of archivists. They are the key experts who protect culture with their steady and sober work. This is the No. 2 challenge. Their social status as experts should be established, with enriched study courses and public certification system.

Lecture by SHIBATA Taisen, researcher at the Jodo-shu Research Institute

Subject: Three kinds of Daizokyo scriptures possessed by Daihonzan Zojoji Temple

Mr. Shibata talked about the history and abstract of the scriptures, which are the principal texts of the Buddhist canon, as well as the aspirations of Tokugawa Ieyasu, who donated them, to promote Buddhist culture and world peace. The followings are summaries of major points:

■Daiden and Kyozo

Daiden is the main hall of Zojoji Temple. It was built during the latter half of the 1300's. It flourished under the Tokugawa shogunate in Edo period. After the Meiji Restoration, it was marred by fires, earthquakes and air-raids. The architecture has paralleled the history of Tokyo and Minato City. Kyozo was built during the 1800's. During the Edo period and thereafter, the said Daizokyo scriptures have been preserved in this facility.



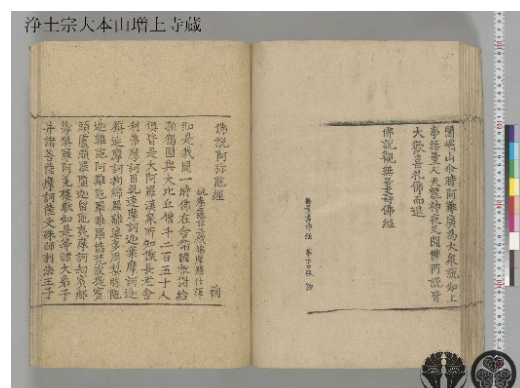
Daiden



Kyozo

■The three Daizokyo scriptures possessed by Zojoji Temple

- ①Sung version: Shikei-version Daizokyo scripture (total 5342 jo's) newly printed during the Nan-so period (12th century) (photo shown below-left)
- ②Yuan version: Funeiji-version Daizokyo scripture (total 5228 jo's) newly printed during the Nan-so period (13th century)
- ③Korai version: Korai-version Daizokyo scripture (total 1357 tablets) newly printed during Korea's Korai period (13th century) (photo shown below-right)



■Tokugawa Ieyasu

Why are there three Daizo scriptures in Zojoji Tempe? Why did Ieyasu donate all three Daizokyo scriptures? Ieyasu thought one was not enough. With Zojoji as a center, he wished for peace,

(To be continued on P. 12)

Relief Bazaar for the refugees

Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023

Venue: Minato City Life-long Learning Center

Following the 1st Relief Bazaar in 2022, we held a 2nd Relief bazaar on May 2023. It was planned for two days, but due to bad weather, we held it only a day of the 18th. We would like to thank all the new UMA members and other members who joined us, for their time-consuming cooperation in the laborious preparation and removal of the booth.

We had a lot of donated bazaar items to sell. With salespersons good will, we were able to sell more than we expected. But maybe because of the high temperature of 30c degree, we could not sell much of the cloths. Over all, it was fun to sell things for fundraising. We successfully were able to raise almost the same amount as last year.



However, we wish we had more people to stop by. We would like to find way to gather more people for bazaar next year.

We are planning to make a donation to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) from Minato-ku Festival on October 7and 8th and Festiballoon on October 19 and 20th, in addition to the Refugee Bazaar on May 18. There are many refugees having very hard time from wars, conflicts, and natural disasters around the world. We sincerely hope that our donation would reach those people and help them in some way.

I'd like to reiterate our hearty thanks to the MUA secretariat and members, the related Balloon staff and security persons. Their cooperation helped to realize the relief bazaar.

(Written by ISOBE T., Vice President, and translated by KODAMA T)

(Continued from P. 7: Culture and Economy of South India)

(Q & A after the lecture)

In terms of daily life issues, the quality of tap water is very poor, and I had to brush my teeth with mineral water. I took a special care not to let tap water get into my mouth while taking shower.

The federal system is adopted. The country is responsible for India's military, foreign policy, and economic policy. On the other hand, the state is responsible for infrastructure such as roads and subways that are important to the lives of state residents and responsible for local policies such as infection prevention measures during the coronavirus pandemic

As for the question whether the gap between rich and poor will continue, the number of people moving from the poor to the middle class is expected to increase as India's economy develops. In order for India to develop, there lies a problem to solve that the development of road infrastructure is slow. It is necessary to eliminate political corruption hidden behind in the state government.

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

The First 2023 Cross-cultural Awareness Workshop Culture and Economy of South India

Lecturer: Ms. SUGITA Akiko

Date: May 28, 2023 14:00~16:00

Venue: Minato City LIBRA Hall

Following President Tanabe's greeting, the moderator introduced Ms. Sugita (pictured on the right: Previous Consul General of Bengaluru, India). There were approximately 100 audience.



1. India Overview

Its area is nine times larger than that of Japan, which is why it is called the Indian subcontinent. (7th place in the world). The population is 1,426,780,000. This year, it surpassed China to become the country with the largest population in the world. Although it is not well known, India sits in the 5th place in the world in terms of nominal GDP. It surpassed its former colonial power, Great Britain. Official terminology is Hindi, and English is a quasi-official language. There are many cases where communication is not established in English. 80% of people are Hindu. Only 0.7% are Buddhist.

Why did Buddhism become obsolete compared to Hinduism? While Buddhism developed based on the merchant class, Hinduism was believed by agricultural people. However, with the decline of the Roman Empire, the merchant class declined, and also, the Islamic powers that later ruled India did not tolerate idol worship like Buddhism, while Hinduism was protected. South Indian astrology said to have been written by Agastya, the founder of Tamil literature, is famous. It is said that the fate of all mankind is written on palm leaves. There is a place in Bengaluru city where Agastya leaves are read, and I myself found my own leaf there.

2. History of South India

The Dravidians migrated to northwestern India around 3500 BC, and, then, the Aryans around 1500 BC. The Dravidian people moved southward under the influence of the Aryan people. After the era of prosperity of the Three Kingdoms, the Chalukya dynasty flourished in the 6th century. From the 13th century to the mid-19th century, the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire were established in northern India, and many Indo-Islamic style buildings were built under the Mughal Empire.

One of the most famous is the Taj Mahal (a world heritage site) built under the Mughal Empire. In 1858, the British Raj was established and the Mughal Empire fell. In 1947, India became independent from Britain. The spirit of non-violence and disobedience of Mahatma Gandhi, who led the independence movement, has continued to this day, having great influence over the human rights movement around the world.

3. Food culture

A Hindu wedding is a big event. Hundreds to thousands of guests are invited over several days. Christian weddings are the same as in the West and seem to be held on just one day. People enjoy rich curry and piping hot naan or chapatis in North India. South India is the country of perpetual summer, and so people there enjoy light soup-like curry and Indica rice. People eat with the right hand. They roll up curry and rice in their hand and place it on their tongue. Also, masala dosa (rice flour and bean flour mixed with water and fried in the shape of a crepe) is a typical South Indian dish for breakfast. It's delicious and cheap and is quite recommendable. Processed foods sold in cafeterias and stores are often marked whether they are for vegetarian or non-vegetarian.

4. Religion

Hinduism is believed, but it is also a "social custom" that is deeply rooted in society. Based on Hinduism the class and caste system consists of Brahmins (the subjects of rituals), Kshatriyas (royals and warriors), Vaishyas (Agriculture, Industry and Commerce), and Shudras (three types of servants). There are untouchables under these classes who are treated as unclean and are

discriminated. They are not allowed to drink water from the same well. Ambedkar, the Minister of Justice from the untouchables, was the person who drafted the current constitution. Although class discrimination is prohibited in the constitution, there still exist honor killings against marriages with untouchables. Of Japan's Seven Lucky Gods, Daikokuten, Bishamonten, and Benzaiten have their roots in Hinduism. It has many things in common with Shinto, and there is no founder or scripture and is polytheism.

5. Economy



GDP is 5th in the world, but it is expected to overtake Japan and become the third largest economy as early as in 2027. It is predicted that India will overtake the USA by 2050 and come in second place. Economic growth rate is predicted to be 5.9% in 2023. On the other hand, GDP per capita is low. It is said that 60% of the land is farmland, but the income is quite low with surplus labor.

In India the primary industry (agriculture) migrated into tertiary industry (service industry) before secondary industry (industrial/manufacturing) had well developed. When the year

2000 computer problem broke out, many Indians who speak English and have a strong background in mathematics and computer technology played an active role as the point of contact at help desks around the world, which is said to have triggered the development of Indian IT industry thereafter.

There is a My Number Card called "Aadar Card", which is distributed to each of 1.4 billion people. It is linked to food distribution to the poor, pensions, etc. Digitalization of administration services is quite advanced, and 87% of the population owns a mobile phone. Especially e-commerce is well developed under the coronavirus pandemic, food and daily necessities can easily be ordered online and delivered. There are many start-up companies. (In India, where 15 million people are born every year, new industries are being created as young people seek jobs every year. It is necessary to grow the economy and create jobs).

The middle class expanded and consumption increased. India is a large market growing rapidly, which is quite attractive to Japan where the domestic market is shrinking due to population decline. However, as Japanese companies are very slow in decision making, they are losing out in competition to top-down Western European companies. It is said that Japanese companies which appoint Indian people as president and transfer the authority of decision making to him while appointing Japanese as a vice-president who is responsible for coordinating with main offices in Japan are mostly successful.

6. Diplomacy

Its foreign policy has traditionally been non-alignment and neutrality. Under the concept of FOIP ("Free and Open Indo-Pacific") the country is promoting a Quad with Japan, the US, and Australia. It traditionally had friendly relations with Russia, while with China there is a sense of caution due to issues such as military clashes at the border in 2020 and market dominance by Chinese products.

7. Japan-India relations

India is an important partner for Japan. India enjoys rapid economic development and is Asia's third largest economy. It also has a strong voice in the international community (among members of G20, BRICS, etc.). Huge population and the increase in the middle-income class is also important for the market. Stable government management continues, and there have been no coups since independence. It has a worldwide Indian network. Although it is necessary to strengthen mutual relations in the field of Japanese technology (e.g. introduction of the Shinkansen system) and Indian human resources (not only the IT industry but also nursing care, agriculture, and hospice), it is overwhelmingly weak compared to the exchanges between Japan and China. It is increasingly important to promote people-to-people exchanges with India and deepen mutual understanding.

(To be continued on P. 5)

Let's see the world! Minato UNESCO Salon for SDGs
How to speak with more fun . . . Hints for better communications!
Lecturer: YAMAMOTO Mitsuyuki

Date & Time: Friday, 7 July, 2023 6:00PM ~
Venue: Minato City Life-long Learning Center,
Room 305

While the daily conversation has become less frequent under the Corona disaster. On the other hand, many of you may have increased conversations among the family members. The key in any situation is “better communication.” In order to enjoy your life both publicly and privately and to live your life happily while being appreciated by others, we asked Mr. YAMAMOTO, Mitsuyuki who has a wealth of teaching experience on “better communication skills=know-hows”. During the lecture, we did actual chatting in pairs, and the experience was a lot of fun.

Profile of Mr. YAMAMOTO Mitsuyuki:



President and CEO of a company of the major food manufacturer group. Gained overseas experience in importing and selling food ingredients and exporting products. Became Director of Sales Planning Department in a joint venture company with the U.K. He has also experienced such as new business development, sales manager, human resource development and others. He has acquired numerous certifications related to human resource development in Japan and abroad, including the GCDF Career Consultant (National Certification).

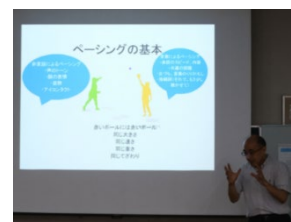
Today's lecture was opened with seating arrangement in which the lecturer was surrounded by a semicircle, allowing all participants to interact with each other. The session started with self-introduction to the person sitting next, which immediately set the mood for a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

1. Imagine the 100-Year Life Expectancy from Sazae san, the Famous Comic Book in Japan
Can you guess how old Namihei, grandfather, is? He assumed to be 54 years old. About 70 years ago, the retirement age was 55 years old, and the average life expectancy was 60. Although working life is getting longer, our life after retirement getting longer and longer. The relationships with other people can be made better or worse with just one small communication, so always be aware of remembering names and giving praise in the conversation. Better communication is getting much more important in our daily life.
2. For Better Communication
It is said that after a man reaches the age of 45, his face becomes grumpy under even normal situations. Let's make a conscious effort to smile. Smiles and greetings are the first step for the communication. Then, listen attentively. A good listener is better than a good talker. Communication is a catch-ball, so always be aware of remembering names and giving praise.
3. Five Levels of Listening
 - 1) Ignoring
 - 2) Pretending that you are listening
 - 3) Listening selectively
 - 4) Listening attentively
 - 5) Listening with empathy

We did a pair-work, playing a part of above each level with a practical dialogue, so we could understand and agree with each other's viewpoints. In communication, how to form a mental bridge (RAPPORT) is important. Listening is literally listening with the whole body=ears, eyes, and heart.

4. The Basics of Pacing

It is to listen and speak at the same volume and pace as the other person. Eye contact, modulation, etc begin with consideration for the other person.



5. For Building Better Relationship with Others

Prepare topics such as name, residence, family, work, travel, hobbies and interests. Firstly, you should disclose yourself removing barriers in yourself by sending out information from yourself (Self Disclosure). But don't hijack the topic.

6. Mehrabian's Law

It says that three aspects are important, There are: (WORD)=what you say, (VOICE)=how you speak, and body language. Your body language will have more impact on the other person.

7. MIHOKO's Recommendation

(**MI**tomeru = acknowledge) (**HO**meru = praise) = (**KO**teisuru = Affirmation)

We should be careful not to act the opposite of this MIHOKO's Recommendations.

Summary : The Six Principles for Better Communication

- A. To have a sincere interest
- B. To remember to smile
- C. To bring names into the conversation
- D. To take the listener side
- E. To discover where listeners have interests
- F. To praise from the bottom of your heart

We all know the above. But are we able to do it? Let's cherish communication and live richly in the age of 100 years of life!

The participants enjoyed listening the lecture, and gained tips for better communication to build pleasant relationships The salon was fun and meaningful!

"Let's See the World! Minato UNESCO Salon for SDCs" The 6th in the Series. Mr. TANABE Kiichiro, President of Minato UNESCO Association, introduced Mr. YAMAMOTO Mitsuyuki, lecturer. Then, Mr. ISHII Yoshiaki, Standing Director, served as moderator and also sent out a donation information for the 2023 Turkey-Syria Earthquake.

(Written by KOBAYASHI Takayuki, Vice President, the Membership Committee, and translated by NAKAZAWA M, the PR & Internet Committee)

World Cooking Workshop: Home Cooking of Western India

Date: Sunday, July 30, 2023

Venue: Minato Gender Equality Center Libra

Participants: 20 (including 7 members of the Cooking Committee)

Ms. Poorva Ponkshe is from Bune, Maharashtra, Western India, and came to Japan for the first time in 1993 upon her marriage. Ms. Poorva, who is fluent in Japanese, began the class by giving us a brief introduction of her country: India has the world's largest population of 1.4 billion (28.5% of the population is aged -14, 65.8% is aged 15-64, 5.8% is aged 65 or older, and the nation's average age is 28; This contrasts Japan's 12.3%, 60%, 27.7%, and 48 years, respectively). The country is large (about 9 times the size of Japan), and each local region has its own language and food. Some 1,800 different dialects are spoken nationwide. The official languages are English and Hindi, and 17 languages are written on the rupee bill. In terms of cuisine, Japanese curry is quite different from Indian food. Most Indians are vegetarian and get their protein mainly from beans. There are a variety of types of rice in India, but since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, the Indian government has banned the export of all rice except Basmati rice.

Ms. Poorva prepared a grand menu for the day, which contained such a diverse kind of spices that we were deeply impressed by her expertise:

- (1) Puri: crispy fried bread, made by kneading whole flour atta with water and salt and deep frying it.
- (2) West Indian stir-fried steamed potatoes: Saute steamed potatoes with cumin seeds, mustard seeds, turmeric, green chilies, coriander powder, and chili powder. Add salt and sugar, if you like.
- (3) Dala curry: Boil dala with turmeric powder until soft. Put it in a pan, sauté with ghee mustard seeds, turmeric, chili powder, fresh ginger, onion, and tomatoes. Mix cumin powder, coriander powder, masala and dala. Add a little salt and brown sugar. Garnish with coriander.
- (4) Sprouted salad a la India: Soak green Indian mottled beans in water the day before to let it sprout, mix it with red onion, tomatoes, cucumber, salt, and a squeeze of sugar lime.
- (5) Indian Tomato Eggplant Curry: Mix tomatoes, coconut powder, and roasted peanut powder in a blender. Stew the puree with mustard seed, turmeric powder, ginger, garlic, onion, eggplant, coriander powder, and cumin powder.
- (6) Softly spiced Indian butter rice: Saute basmati rice with bay leaves, cloves, and cardamom in ghee (unsalted butter) and cook it in a rice cooker.
- (7) Home-made Tandoori Chicken: Chicken is prepared with lemon juice, grated garlic, tandoori chicken spice, Greek yogurt, and minced ginger. Let it sit overnight, and stir-fry in ghee.
- (8) Masala Chai (Indian style milk tea): Put in a pot water, sugar, grated tea leaves, ginger, cardamom powder, and milk. Warm them.
- (9) Semiya Payasam (Indian snack made from semiya noodles): Instead of semiya noodles, this time basmati rice was used. Fry rice in ghee, cook in milk with fried cashew nuts, and add cardamom powder and saffron sugar.
- (10) Papadas: Fry in oil commercially dried papadas.



(To be continued on P. 11)

Hands-on Workshop of “Yukata Kitsuke”

Instructor: Ms. TAKAHASHI Yuko, Principal of Ginza School,
The Hakubi Kyoto Kimono Gakuin
Yukata cleaning cooperated by Nagakura Cleaning (Kohoku-ku, Yokohama)

Date: Sunday, June 24th, 2023
Venue: Minato City Life -long Learning Center
Room203

Workshop contents:

1. Briefing on Kimono, as Japanese traditional outfit
2. Briefing on Yukata
3. Instructor 's demonstration of how to wear the Yukata
4. Yukata Kitsuke (dressing) exercise (2 times)
5. Exercise in bowing (seated & standing) and walking in Yukata
6. Exercise in folding Yukata



We had 16 people, and 9 are from other countries, i.e., Australia, France, Malaysia. Some are from embassies and EU representative offices. Takahashi-sensei and her assistant taught us tips on how to tie an obi(belt) in an easy-to-understand manner. Furthermore, Sensei showed us how to walk elegantly in Yukata, and taught us how to walk without stepping on the hem, how to bow, and how to fold a Yukata at the end. Not only the participants, but all the staff also had wonderful time to learn about Yukata at the workshop.

A male participant from France gave a comment, "I didn't expect wearing a kimono to be so complicated." A lady from Australia told us “I've bought a yukata cloth and am going to sew Yukata by myself. I will wear it as I learned today, to go to the summer festival hosted by the embassy” with a big smile. We are very happy to see all the participants are enjoying the workshop.

(Written by TAGAWA J, Standing Director, translated by KODAMA T, the PR & Internet Committee)

(Continued from P. 10: Home Cooking of Western India

We all rolled up our sleeves to prepare a large number of dishes in a timely manner under the suitable guidance of Ms. Poorva, and the hall was filled with the delicious aroma of spices.



Through this Workshop, we learned not only how to cook new tasty Indian dishes. We also knew a little bit about the population issues and food problems caused by war as well. Thank you, Ms. Proova.

(Written by MATSUZAKI Kayoko, Standing Director. Translated by MIYASHITA Yukari, Standing Director.)

(Continued from P. 4 : UNESCO Memory of the World and the Zojoji Temple Scriptures)

security and tranquil order of Edo, Japan and the world. From the Meiji Restoration and thereafter, Zojoji Temple has never let off these scriptures and preserved them strictly, with shogunate's three-leaves crest stamped on them. During the Edo period, these scriptures were never opened public, under the careful management by Zojoji Temple. They coincide with the history of Zojoji Temple.

■What is written in Daizokyo scriptures?

During the Sung Dynasty in China, printing technology was established. That's when the first Sung-version Daizokyo scripture was produced. Various papers, including Mahayana or Hinayana Buddhism-related scriptures, had been produced in India. The objective of Daizokyo scriptures was to bundle the whole set of such vast paper resources, in an effort to hand them down to posterity. The Daizokyo scripture is a series of Buddhist scriptures which store a wide variety of information, including nature, culture, performing arts, drugs, medical science, etc. of ancient India. Simply put, it is a compilation of the Oriental philosophy, wisdom and culture.

■Why were so many Daizo scriptures produced?

Various Daizokyo scriptures were produced in China during different periods from Sung dynasty to Quing dynasty. Production of Daizokyo scriptures represented the high level of cultural activities in the country, and the distribution of such scriptures symbolized cultural maturity. It's a big burden to preserve even a single Daizokyo scripture so you can imagine how demanding it is for Zojoji Temple to possess and protect three Daizokyo scriptures

■Daizokyo scriptures are a foundation for modern Buddhist studies

The Taisho Shinshu Daizo scripture was produced with the three Daizokyo scriptures as the standard text. It is a must textbook for experts in Buddhist studies, and is regarded as the foundation for Buddhist studies worldwide,

■Digitalization

In 2024, Jodo-shu will observe the 850th anniversary since Honen Shonin, its founder, started the sect. To prepare for the milestone commemoration, digitalization of the three Daizokyo scriptures has been underway since 2017. In the future, you will be able to view all Korai, Sung and Yuan versions, once you log in "Taisho Shinshu Daizokyo scripture text database." We plan to extend the availability of this service worldwide to facilitate future Buddhist/Buddhism studies and to thereby let the world know more about Oriental ideas, traditions and philosophy.

(MUA staff comments)

We had a total of 51 attendees. Active exchange of opinions was held during the panel discussion session following the lectures. Also, some participants engaged proactively in amicable conversation after the session. All attendees looked satisfied with the enlightening program.

(Written by Sato R., Chairperson, the International Science & Culture 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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