



MINATO

みなとユネスコ 会報

Bulletin

MINATO UNESCO ASSOCIATION NEWS & CALENDAR

ISSUED BY / MINATO UNESCO ASSN. 16-3, SHIMBASHI 3-CHOME MINATO-KU TOKYO 105-0004 / HIROSHI NAGANO PRES.
発行所 / 港ユネスコ協会 〒105-0004 東京都港区新橋3-16-3 Tel : 03-3434-2300 Fax : 03-3434-2233 発行人 / 田部操一郎
Mail : m-info@minatunesco.jp https://minato-unesco.jp

No.176: September 1, 2024

Wishing for further growth of the Minato UNESCO Association

TANABE Kiichiro, MUA President



The preamble of the UNESCO Constitution includes the well-known phrase – “Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defense of peace must be constructed.” Regrettably, during the two years since I took office as the President of MUA, the world has seen the outbreaks of atrocious wars in different regions, including Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the battle between Israel and Hamas, and the civil war in Myanmar. I trust that all of our readers share the unprecedented urgency and need to establish peace.

It is a sheer luck that we at MUA has successfully held a wide variety of significant and enjoyable programs in peaceful Japan. Major events included opera singer’s mini-concerts; Japanese speech contests joined by foreigners; world cooking workshops; symposiums focusing on our response to A-bomb’s; cruise boat-based study of the Tokyo Bay in collaboration with Tokyo University of Marine Science; hands-on workshops of traditional Japanese culture such as tea ceremony, calligraphy, flower arrangement, and bon-sai; lectures on different topics, including the importance of communication. Fortunately, we have recorded a great turnout of visitors to these events. I sincerely hope that they understood and endorsed MUA’s objectives and introduce our activities to others.

Through my participation in the said activities, I could understand that MUA members have worked out time from their busy schedule, and that they have voluntarily cooperated among themselves for the preparations and executions of such events. I’d like to extend my heartfelt thanks for their volunteer and cooperative spirits that have sustained MUA’s activities for a long time.

One of the future programs in my mind is the expansion of MUA’s interaction with quite a few foreign embassies and foreigners, accommodated here in Minato City. Fortunately, MUA has many members who have once lived in foreign countries. I hope that, by capitalizing on their cross-cultural expertise, MUA can advance its interaction with the said embassies and resident foreigners.

Thanks to the recruiting efforts by MUA’s existing members, the number of young new-comers, especially students, has visibly increased during the past two years. I’m very happy about it. I hope that those young members will start to be enthusiastically engaged in our activities and find meaningful objectives in their life course. To help them seek such a course, it is very important for us to provide a timely and specific guidance before their interest dwindle. Fortunately, initial actions have been taken to pursue this direction. I hope that these internal efforts will bear fruit so that the young members’ participation will empower MUA and help it attain further growth in the near future.

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

Let's see the world! Minato UNESCO Salon
Singing, Ukulele and Chatting by Ayaka and Ribbon Lei Demonstration by Mari

Guests: Ayaka Tobaru, Mari Tobaru
Date & time: Sunday, March 24, 2024, 1:30 p.m.~
Venue: Room 301, Minato Lifelong Learning Center

MUA Salon presented by Hawaii-born high school student and her mother was hosted by TAGAWA Junko, Stading Director of MUA. The welcome song was "Hula Tease" Ayaka sang with her ukulele, and the hula dancer captivated the audience. It was a cute song, and everyone at the venue was surrounded by welcoming mood that made them feel like they were in Hawaii.

Brief Resume of the guests:

★Ayaka Tobaru (right photo) was born in Oahu, Hawaii (her father is Japanese American, and her mother is Japanese). From an early age she was surrounded by music and instruments. She studied ukulele under Jody Kamisato, and piano under Chiyo Flynn. She moved to Hiroshima when she was in the third grade of elementary school. She is currently an International Baccalaureate ("IB") student at a private high school. She is active as a composer and musician.



★ Mari Tobaru, mother of Ayaka, worked as a programmer after graduating from university. When she was 30 years old, she went to New Zealand for a three-week homestay and then studied abroad at Ohio State University. She lived in Hawaii from 2003 to 2015. She obtained the Ribbon Ray Instructor qualification from Ribbon Ray founder Carol Mito.

Memories of life in Hawaii (by Ayaka and Mari):

We lived a life rich in nature, enjoying a walk on the beach, the sunset, plumeria blooming on the roadside or in the garden, avocados, mangoes, bananas, and so forth. The 1st birthday is celebrated grandly in Hawaii. I remember always interacting with adults since my childhood through parties among relatives, neighbors, acquaintances or seasonal events, Halloween and Christmas.

Introduction to Ribbon Ray (by Mari):

There is a limit to the historical "fresh flower lei" necklaces and hair ornaments. Therefore, in order to protect the natural environment, more and more people are enjoying "ribbon leis" for celebrating graduation ceremonies, birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Aloha Fridays and Work Retirement Day. Even after coming back to Japan, I enjoy the joy of making friends and teaching.

Ayaka sang a song titled "Hanalei Moon" with ukulele which is a love story under the scenery of a moonlit beach in the northern part of Kauai, which still retains the vestiges of the good old days.

Kindergarten and elementary school in Hawaii (by Ayaka):

I communicated with my mother in Japanese until I was three years old. I became bilingual at the kindergarten as I learned English there. I attended a "Japanese and English school" where I could learn Japanese songs and prepare for the Japanese Kanji test. Then, I enrolled at the University of Hawaii Elementary School, a two-grade mixed class. Even in second grade, I did not study addition. I studied volume and area first. I wore private clothes to school. Private schools had uniforms and private clothes, but everyone enjoyed wearing their own clothes.

Ayaka played a song "Let's Dance" by ukulele in Flamenco guitar style. Ayaka explained that the ukulele could be enjoyed not only in Hawaiian performances.



School life in Hawaii (by Ayaka):

Utilizing the elementary school summer vacation (3 months), I attended a trial class at a public

elementary school in Japan, when I experienced a sports day. In Hawaii, parents are invited to participate at elementary school, focusing on Valentine's Day, Halloween and Christmas events. Students bring cupcakes to everyone in the class on their own birthdays. These are free and fun memories that cannot be experienced in Japan. Students chant the words dedicated to God for protection at the start of a day. We also enjoyed the "ukulele class". Thus, we cherished the culture of Hawaii and America. The time allocated to play dodgeball, soccer, and baseball was very enjoyable.

Japanese public elementary school (by Ayaka):

I had difficulty with physical education as I was not good at doing gymnastics on the mat, horizontal bar, or jump rope at all. I felt the same way about art and crafts. While I was allowed to freely use various colors when drawing animals, I had hard time with the Japanese way of education to make it look like the real thing.

Ayaka played "Aloha Oe" by piano. Known for being composed by the last queen of the Kingdom of Hawaii. It was a familiar song in Japan as well, and was interpreted as "My love to you" or "Goodbye." She then played a medley of "Somewhere over the rainbow" and "Yesterday" by ukulele.

About Japanese high school International Baccalaureate ("IB") programs (by Ayaka):

After completing the 2-year program, the path for taking the "IB Examination" will be opened. It is an international program that allows you to submit your IB qualification based on your scores to your desired overseas university and advance to it. For example, you devote in philosophy, 16 months of volunteer work, academic papers for each subject, graduation thesis, etc. in two years. As for subjects, I took elective in English and Japanese, mathematics, as well as biology, economics, and environmental systems. There are also a variety of other fields such as science, art, film (cameras, video), etc. Furthermore, volunteer (off-campus) activities called "CAS" are essential besides the pursuit of knowledge.

C (Creativity): Cultivate creativity; eg. make leis, draw pictures...

A (Activity): Exercise, dance, karate, kendo...

S (Service): Social contribution, comfort concert...

Over the past two years, I have been hosting concerts (creating stages and opportunities for young musicians), tea ceremony (introduction to Japanese culture), Kyogen stage (English guide), cooking class (for elementary school students), charity concerts during fires in Maui. I think that what I learned and the report I complete on my activities will be a big plus for entering a university next year. It is achieved by cooperating with each other.

This activity is only possible because of the reliable connections between seniors and juniors. Writing a thesis under difficult circumstances is a fun.

Ayaka played "Morning" by piano, and "Pua Olena" by ukulele which were both composed by her.



We had 18 participants, including three from elementary school, middle school, and high school. They all enjoyed the talk on the experience over the culture and language of two countries during

childhood, what was good about it, what was difficult about it, how to proceed with studying, comparison of ways of thinking, and the benefits of the international qualification called “IB”. They also enjoyed Hawaiian music. In the final question and answer session, Ayako kindly explained that “Hula dancing is a classic for children” and “Ukulele comes in many varieties, including soprano, concert, and tenor.”

At the end, MUA Chairman TANABE Kiichiro closed the salon encouraging Ayako to maintain the relaxed and free lifestyle that has been cultivated in Hawaii and aim to enter a world-renowned university.

(Kobayashi T., Vice President, and translated by SUDA Y., the Public Relations and Internet Committee Associate)

Conferment of honor on Mr. Ishii



Mr. ISHII Yoshiaki, Vice President of MUA, received The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosette, on November 3, 2013, for his long-term contribution to the fire-fighting service. He went to the Imperial Palace and was given an audience by the Emperor, who then expressed words of appreciation. Let us offer our hearty congratulations to Mr. Ishii.

(Written & translated by MIYASHITA Y., Standing Director)

Greeting from Mr. Kawamura, MUA’s new Secretary-General



Hello, I am Kawamura. I joined the Minato UNESCO Association (MUA) on April 18th. I come from Yokohama. As my parents are originally from Kochi Prefecture, I feel as if I inherited a bit of “Tosa- spirit”. Prior to this position, I worked as a salaried-man in different places across the country. Being retired now and flexible with free time, I am studying world history as a way of expanding my horizon.

Frankly, I have not had much involvement in UNESCO activities in the past. I currently have a great interest in getting involved in extensive activities undertaken by MUA members based on the UNESCO mission. As I am new to MUA and in the process of learning, I ask for your generosity if I cause any inconveniences in my response to MUA members’ requests. I sure wish to become a reliable Secretary-General as soon as possible so that I can successfully support MUA members in their day-to-day activities.

(Written by Kawamura T., Secretary-General, and translated by Kodama K., the Public Relations and Internet Committee)

World Cooking Workshop: Italian Food

Date: Sunday, March 31, 2024

Venue: Minato Gender Equality Center Libra

Instructor: SHIMURA Reiko, Kagawa Nutrition University

Participants: 20 plus 6 staffers

We held an Italian Food Cooking Class at the end of March, when the blossoming of cherry trees finally made the news headlines. The Italian food class was so popular that there were five times as many applications for the lesson. Back in the old days in Japan, there was only one female chef because of the physical hardship required for the profession. In the face of such difficulties, Ms. SHIMURA Reiko, the class instructor, went over alone to Viareggio, a port town located in Tuscany, Italy, for cooking training. In Italy, many female chefs were already playing an active role. Working alongside Ms. SHIMURA during the class as an assistant was Ms. SUZUKI, who used to help her on the NHK TV program “Today’s Cooking”.

The day fell upon Easter Sunday, one of the most important Christian festivals, and Italian people celebrate this day by eating lamb and sweets. Although restaurant staffers have a hectic day, they can take a day off and go on a picnic with family and friends next day. Since Italy was a city-state for a long time, and also because the country’s terrain stretches far from north to south, the country produces a variety of local specialties and food.

In ancient Rome, people were engaged in farming, and they grew hard wheat in the northern region. It is believed that they mixed water with hard wheat and kneaded it, thus creating the ancestor of today’s pasta. In the southern part of Italy, dry pasta is dominant, while fresh pasta is the mainstream in the northern region.

Today’s Recipe

1. Hors d'oeuvre

① Crostini Toscano (canapes using liver)

- Italian bread is usually packed with a lot of wheat and its texture is so hard that people often soak it in the water and feed it to the ducks the following day. While foccacia is well known in Japan, bread is served in Italy.
- Rinse and drain mesclun greens, wrap them up in a cloth, and they will stay fresh for three days in a refrigerator.

② Marinated paprika

- Ms. Shimura used uncooked virgin oil which was made using a grinding millstone. (She placed an order with her friend.)

2. Amatriciana fujilli with mushrooms

- In Toscana, short pasta is the most popular.
- Adding three kinds of mushrooms enhances the flavor.

3. Free range chicken stewed in white wine a la Toscana

4. Torta di mele (apple cake)

- Torta means a round cake. In general, Italian sweets are tied to religious rites.



(Written by YAMADA Yuko, the World Cooking Committee, and translated by MIYASHITA Yukari, Standing Director)

Vice President Imamura's visit to the Mindanao Children's Library

In April of this year, Minato UNESCO Association (MUA) Vice President Takako Imamura paid a courtesy visit to the Mindanao Children's Library in the Philippines, to which MUA donates household items every year. In addition to annual donations, Ms. Imamura, who has been involved in child sponsorship for the NGO for more than 10 years, and who has continued to support elementary school girls until they graduate from university, will report on her stay in Mindanao at the Minato UNESCO Secretariat on May Auspicious Day. It was held at

The Mindanao Children's Library is a relief center for evacuated children established in 2002 by Mr. Tomo Matsui, the first editor-in-chief of Fukutake Shoten's children's book department. Due to Mr. Matsui's profession, he started out by donating children's books. To date he has taken care of nearly 100 children who do not have any relative, provided them with education, meals, and beds, and is working on farming to help them live a self-sufficient life. He aims to improve the technology so that children can eat rice to their full stomach. Based on this philosophy, rice paddies are spread out around the facility, and it seems that there is a good harvest of rice every year.

Ms. Imamura slept in a simple accommodation within the facility and shared her meals with the children. Each meal consisted of very simple materials, consisting of a heaping pile of rice, a small grilled fish, and a mouthful of leafy vegetables. However, thanks to the smiles of the children and the abundant sunlight, the daily life was immeasurably fulfilling. That's what she said. The girl whom she has continuously supported has graduated from university, grown into a fine adult woman, and now works as a staff member at the same organization. (Photo below far right)



On the second day, a barbecue was held to welcome Ms. Imamura and her fellow visitors. A large grilled fish and many vegetables (the cucumber was especially fresh and tasty) were served on the riverside. (See the photo) There was a speech to thank MUA-related people for their annual donations of household goods, followed by singing and dancing. Each of the children was bright, cheerful and happy.



Ms. Imamura was impressed by the smiling faces of the children. They do not feel lonely there despite that they have had painful pasts. Ms. Imamura's presentation was accompanied with great emotion. By paying a hands-on visit to the sites where MUA's donations have been used, she was able to get a clear idea of the supplies that are critically needed. She said, "If I can procure and donate children's shoes and blue sheets, for example, Minato UNESCO's donations to the sites will be still more valid."

After Ms. Imamura finished her talk, the nine MUA members who were present exchanged opinions about future volunteer work ideas for the Mindanao Children's Library. Ms. Imamura's talk provided an excellent opportunity for us study the effective and meaningful ways of donation.

(Written & translated by ISHIAI K., the PR & Internet Committee and the Membership Committee)

The Annual MUA General Meeting held in April 2024

Date: Friday, April 19, 2024

Venue: Minato City Life-long Learning Center

The annual general meeting of MUA was held on Friday, April 19 from 5pm in Room 305 of the "Balloon" center. A total of 22 members attended. We had the pleasure of having Mayor TAKEI Masaaki of Minato City as an honorable guest. Following the opening address by President Tanabe, Mayor Takei gave the following remark:



“Minato City has had a long history of interaction with foreign countries. Today many foreigners live in our city, including foreign embassy staff, those who study at international schools, and a total of 50 Ukrainian families who were accepted as refugees and live in designated houses provided by the Tokyo metropolitan government. A major campaign advocated by our administration is the promotion of “Inclusive Society” where all people can live without experiencing any discrimination. For example, we are introducing a smartphone-based interpretation service, applicable to 13 different foreign languages, while also stepping up efforts to transmit helpful information to resident foreigners. I hope that MUA will continue to help Minato City to become a further internationalized community.”

The following agenda were discussed and unanimously approved:

- #1 Report on activities completed during Fiscal 2023, Introduction of new members
- #2 Report on internal meetings during Fiscal 2023
- #3 Settlement of accounts for Fiscal 2023
- #4 Auditor's report on Fiscal 2023 settlement of accounts
- #5 Report on contributions to NFUAJ and others
Plan of contributions to NFUAJ and others
- #6 Plan of activities during Fiscal 2024
- #7 Plan of Fiscal 2024 budget
- #8 Plan of MUA officers & directors during 2024

After the closing of the general meeting, Acting Director ISHII Yoshiaki gave words of thanks to all members for their support during the last year and requested their continued cooperation.

(Written by KOBAYASHI T., Vice President, and translated by TANAHASHI S., the PR & Internet Committee)

The "New People's Meeting Esprit Nouveau" sponsored by the Membership Development

The "New People's Meeting Esprit Nouveau," sponsored by the Membership Committee, was held five times from January 27th to March 23rd, with the participation of a total of 12 people. Normally, events held by Minato UNESCO Association are preceded by the preparation of professional ad flyers and outreach announcements on the website.

In contrast, this event aims to provide a homely welcome to new comers. Therefore, Membership Committee members prepare simple hand-made flyers which denote details about the gathering. The venue is MUA secretariat's office, participation is free, and you can join at any time. Simply put, this event is a casual afternoon tea party. We pay careful attention not to make it like an information session or a training program. In between our chats, we disseminate basic information such as UNESCO's philosophy and the concept of volunteering.

Then we all talk about our personal thoughts and go into discussion about what we could do as volunteers. It's a very meaningful time, and I'm deeply grateful for it every time. I would be happy if we could work out a future UNESCO image by incorporating each person's feelings and ability to take action. In the future, we would like to invite existing members as well, in addition to new members, so that they'll stop by for a casual chat. I would like to extend my sincere invitation to those who are interested in joining us.



(Written & translated by ISHIAI K., the Membership 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:

Tel: 03-3434-2300, Tel & Fax: 03-3434-2233,

E-mail: m-info@minatounesco.jp

URL: <https://minato-unesco.jp/en/>

