



MINATO

# みなとユネスコ 会報

Bulletin

MINATO UNESCO ASSOCIATION NEWS & CALENDAR

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## Invitation to “Noh Play” (Intangible Cultural Asset)

Dozing off in Noh Theater is not that bad.

KOBAYASHI Takayuki, Vice President

In 2008, “Noh Play” was recognized as UNESCO’s World Cultural Heritage, along with “Ningyo Joruri (Bunraku Puppet Theater)” and “Kabuki”. Of these three stage performances, Noh is considered the origin of Japanese classical theater traced back to Muromachi period (1333-1573), while the other two started in Edo period (1603 ~ 1867). Of these three stages, delivering the lines in a loud voice is particularly called “Yohkyoku (or Utai)”, which was a very popular upper-class pastime in the past. The space where Noh is played is called “Nohgakudo” or “Noh Theater”, where superb performance may take you to the medieval world, far away from the noise and screaming of the modern society.



You may even fall asleep while enjoying Noh play. I would like to invite you to this attractive stage drama from the following perspectives.

- (1) Lead role of the story: there are five genres: God, Man, Woman, Maniac, and Demon. “God” is a traditional god who promises bountiful harvest and peace; “Man” mostly takes an idea from “the Tale of the Heike”. A warrior, after death, is tortured in Asura (devil deity) Realm, and comes back to the present world seeking salvation; “Woman” is a dead woman who is now a ghost, suffering mostly from love; “Maniac” is a man obsessed with something and has lost composure; “Demon” appears in the form of Tengu, elf, and Shenron. They present a vibrant stage to the accompaniment of drums.
- (2) You may find a number of Noh theaters located across Japan, and about 200 songs are being played today. Let’s visit Noh theaters. Nohgaku enjoyed popularity in Edo period when cities were built around the feudal lords’ castle. This is why Noh theaters are widely found across Japan. Looking at Tokyo metropolitan area and its suburbs alone, you may find Tessenkai in Aoyama, Minatoku, National Noh Theater in Sendagaya, Kanze Nohgakudo in Ginza, Umewaka in Nakano, Hohshou in Suidobashi, and Kita in Meguro. Public or private Noh theaters are found in Kawasaki, Koshigaya and Kamakura. There are small theaters such as Yarai in Kagura-zaka, Cerulean in Shibuya and others in Suginami and Yoyogi.

By appreciating Noh theater, you may have a sense of closeness with the literary classics including the Tale of Genji, Ise Story and the Tale of Heike. They are no longer just something you have to memorize for the entrance examination. Noh theater is a kind of time-capsule carrying the medieval stories. This is an invitation to Noh Theater which may lead you to the places of interest, adorable seasonal flowers, and the harvest moon. Dozing off in Noh theater isn’t bad at all.

*(Written by KOBAYASHI Takayuki, Vice President, and translated by MIYASHITA Y., Standing Director, the PR & Internet Committee)*

## Let's enjoy *Haniwa*

Speaker: Mr. KAWANO Masanori, Curator of Archaeology  
Curatorial Research Department  
Tokyo National Museum

Date: Saturday, October 26, 2024  
Venue: Libra Hall (Minato Park Shibaura)

The special “*Haniwa*” exhibition was held at the Tokyo National Museum from October 16 to December 8, 2024. We invited Mr. Kawano, who planned and facilitated this exhibition, to speak about *Haniwa*, including its origin, the charm of its shapes, etc.

During the *Yayoi* period, special vessels and pots were placed as funeral ritual items on *Funkyubo* cemetery. *Haniwa* was created, drawing on these items, during the *Kofun* period. Initial items were *Ento* (cylindrical) *Haniwa* and *Tsubogata* (Pot-shaped) *Haniwa*. In the following years, the variety in their shapes gradually expanded but during the *Asuka* period, which is the final part of the *Kofun* period, *Haniwa* faded away.



### 1. What is *Kofun*?

*Kofun* means ancient cemeteries which were constructed by mounding mud. During the *Yayoi* period, they were called *Funkyubo* whereas they were called *Kobo* during the *Nara* period. As the construction of *Kofun* required enormous labor work, funeral by cremation started to increase under the influence of Buddhism after the *Asuka* period.

- ① *Yanai Chausu Yama Kofun* (Yanai City, Yamaguchi Prefecture).



(Photo by Kawano)

### • Variety in *Kofun*

Major *Kofun* shapes include *Zenpoken-fun*, *Zenpokoho-fun*, *En-fun*, *Ho-fun*, *Hotategaigata-kofun*, *Soen-fun*, *Joenkaho-fun* and *Hakkaku-fun*.

From the early to final part of *Kofun* period (the 3rd to 6th century), *Zenpoken-fun* was hailed as high status whereas *En-fun* and *Ho-fun* were rated low. Toward the final part (the 7th century), *Zenpoken-fun* faded away while *En-fun*, *Ho-fun*, *Joenkaho-fun* and *Hakkaku-fun* were rated as high status.

- *Yamato* Kingship was the center of *Kofun*

According to *Nihonshoki* (completed in 720) and *Kojiki* (completed in 712), the royal palace was located in Nara. Thus, the *Kinai* area, including Nara and Osaka prefectures, was the center of large-scale *Kofun* and its culture.

Under the political governance by the *Yamato* Kingship, different regions were loosely integrated. It is said that the *Daio*, the Great King, stood at the top of such a system. During the process of interaction between the *Daio* and regional kings, *Zenpoken-fun* spread to local regions.

As we can tell from the said history, initially, those who could build *Kofun* were only a limited number of leaders in power. In subsequent years, however, more people across societal tiers started to build *Kofun*, as exemplified by *Gunshu-funbo*. This trend expanded demand for *Haniwa*.

## 2. What is *Haniwa* ?

*Haniwa* in its Kanji characters means clay and encircling.

- Classification of *Haniwa*

*Ento* (cylindrical) *Haniwa*: It existed from the origin to the end of *Haniwa*. It is estimated that many of this type of *Haniwa* were placed, side by side, to encircle the sanctuary area. It served to partition and protect the inside of *Kofun*.

*Keisho* (figure) *Haniwa*: It started to be created slightly later than *Ento Haniwa*.

Animal figures, such as cock, horse, dog, boar, deer, etc.

House figures, such as royal palace, ritual palace, warehouse, etc.

Tools & materials, such as royal parasol or armor and shield, etc.

Human figures, such as warriors, farmers, shrine maidens, etc.

② Hodota-Hachiman *Kofun* (Takasaki, Gunma Pref.) Photo by Kawano

③ Imashirozuka *Kofun* (Takatsuki, Osaka-fu) Photo by Kawano

②



③



- Origin of *Haniwa*

*Haniwa* originated and developed as ritual pottery during the *Yayoi* period. During the *Kofun* period, the shapes of *Haniwa* changed into cylindrical, morning-glory and other forms. In subsequent years, from the mid-3rd century to the 6<sup>th</sup> century, the variety in shape further expanded, including house, tools, birds, human and animal figures.



- Change in the place where *Haniwa* was placed

Initially, *Haniwa* was placed on top of the location over the cemetery where the King's coffin was laid. Later, it was also placed at ritual places or at levees.

- End of *Haniwa*

After Buddhism traveled to Japan in 538~552, *Zenpoko-en-fun* and *Haniwa* started to lose their demand in the Kinki district after the mid-6<sup>th</sup> century. In the 7<sup>th</sup> century, they lost their presence throughout the country. In the latter half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, *Haniwa* with unique shapes emerged in Kanto and other areas. These figures had been copied or re-copied from the *Haniwa* shapes originally prevalent in the central region.

### 3. Introduction to the special “*Haniwa*” exhibition

The *Haniwa* called “*Keiko no Bujin* (warrior wearing *Keiko*), stored in the Tokyo National Museum, was designated as a national treasure in 1974. This marked the first such recognition for *Haniwa*. In 2024, a special exhibition was held in commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national treasure designation. In this exhibition, different *Haniwa* figures, stored in local regions from Tohoku to Kyushu, were collected and exhibited. A major attraction was the “*Odoru* (dancing) *Haniwa*” which were publicly exhibited for the first time, after it was repaired.

A special mention should be made that the aforementioned “*Keiko no Bujin*,” regarded as the masterpiece of *Haniwa*, was also exhibited along with four sibling *Haniwa* figures, which are believed to have been created in the same studio.

\* The “*Keiko*” means a type of armor. As the photo ⑤ below shows, the torso portion and the skirt-looking portion are integrated. Many elongated metal plates are stitched together.

\* Restoration of original color: The “*Keiko no Bujin*” figure shows remains of colored parts. The exhibition shows a figure whose surface was restored to the originally colored appearance, with grey and red on top of basic white.

Photo ④ “*Dancing Haniwa*” (Kumagaya, Saitama Pref.) ©Colbase

Photo ⑤ “*Keiko no Bujin*” (Ohta, Gunma Pref.) ©Colbase

④



⑤



#### 4. *Haniwa* in Minato City

Mr. Kawano gave an extra talk on Haniwa unearthed in Minato City. There is a Zenpoken-fun (called Shiba Maruyama Kofun) cemetery in Shiba Koen Park, the largest of its kind in Tokyo, which is estimated to have been built during the latter half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. As it is located close to the old coast line and built on an elevated platform overlooking the sea it is regarded as a cemetery of an influential figure who commanded water traffic.

In 1916, human-shaped Haniwa (a male with hat, a female with necklace), a head portion of a horse-shaped Haniwa, etc., were excavated from Shiba Maruyama No.8 Fun, adjacent to Shiba Maruyama Kofun while gardeners were engaged in placing plants. These Haniwa pieces were baked in kilns, located in Kohnosu City, Saitama Prefecture, and were carried to Minato City. This seems to demonstrate that there were interactions among regional leaders, bypassing the intervention of the Yamato kingdom. As there were not mountains in Minato City, the leader could not obtain wooden materials to be burned in kilns.

(For reference) Shiba Maruyama Kofun (Minato City, Tokyo) (Photo by Kawano) ⑥  
Haniwa from Shiba Maruyama No.8 Fun(Minato City, Tokyo) ©Colbase ⑦



After the presentation, more than 15 interesting questions were raised from attendees. Mr. Kawano gave satisfactory answers to each and every question. We later knew that the total number of attendees to the special Haniwa exhibition reached over 300 thousand.

(Comment from MUA staff)

I hope that our readers will find the above summary of Mr. Kawano's presentation interesting. We strongly recommend that you visit the Tokyo National Museum and see first-hands the smiling Haniwa pieces displayed in the Archeological Exhibition Room on the first floor.

*(Written by ISOBE Toyoko, Standing Director, the International Science& Culture Committee, and abridged & translated by TANAHASHI S., the PR & Internet Committee)*

## International Winter Party 2024

Date: Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Venue: Exchange room at the Minato City Center for Traditional Culture

"International Winter Party," was held on Sunday, December 1st, during the height of the Christmas mood. This is the year-end event which was started last year. The building is a designated tangible cultural property of Minato City and is one of the oldest existing wooden *Geisha* houses in Tokyo. The historical building, with its charming tatami-matted rooms, was a great venue for the event, and enhanced the party atmosphere.

This year, with a slightly more adult mood, the theme was "With Music, Tonight" featuring professional artists performing opera, classical music, jazz, piano & violin with narration, and more. The event was fully booked, with residents, workers, students, members, and foreign nationals from countries such as France, Indonesia, and Taiwan, making it truly an *International Winter Party*.



The first part began with an opera solo concert. Eight songs were performed, including the opera and the group chorus of "Awatenbou no Santa Claus." The soprano singer's angelic voice surely resonated with everyone's hearts.

Next was the narration and music. The actor's narration of Kenji Miyazawa's "The Restaurant of Many Orders" was delivered with different tones for each character, which created a vivid atmosphere. The live piano and violin performances that accompanied the scenes of the story were not only wonderful but also drew the entire audience into the narrative. After the reading session, there was a performance of

Christmas songs by piano and violin. The beautiful melodies echoed throughout the venue.



The second part began with a quiz competition featuring luxurious prizes that everyone could participate in. The true/false quizzes and multiple-choice quizzes were very exciting.

The last part was the live performance by a renowned bassist who captivated everyone with their stunning performance. It was their

second time at the party, following their performance last year. As the performance began, it felt like we were at *Blue Note*, the famous jazz club in New York. The harmonious performance of the double bass and piano resonated throughout the venue. The deep, warm, and rich sound of the double bass, combined with the syncopated rhythms, created a powerful yet elegant and gentle performance that captivated everyone in the venue once again.

The second International Winter Party, which started with the theme "With Music, Tonight" ended with great success in taking everyone into the Christmas mood.





Next day of the party, we received a letter from a participant as below,

“Dear Sir/Madam, Thank you very much for allowing me to spend an unexpectedly enjoyable, wonderful, and fantastic time last night [...] I am deeply grateful for the heartfelt program prepared by the staff”

It was a very delightful message for us. We are truly happy that all the participants enjoyed themselves and that we could spend such a wonderful time together. We will keep on working to create a fun event, where everyone can have great time together.

2024

## インターナショナル・ウィンターパーティー

今宵は音楽とともに  
～ music tonight ～

2024年12月1日(日) 17:30開始 20:00終了予定

\*開会挨拶 港ユネスコ協会会長  
\*スタッフ紹介 プログラム案内

**第一部**

**\*オペラ独奏会**

1. 天使のパン セザールフランク 作
2. そして小鳥は ブッチーニ 作
3. ねむの木の子もり歌 上屋后美智子様 作
4. クリスマスメドレー (ピアノ)
5. 歌劇「イル・ガンビエッロ」から  
「さようなら、愛しのヴェネツィア」
6. あわてんぼうのサンタクロース
7. 命の歌 村松宗継 作

**第二部**

**\*クイズ大会**  
**\*Jazzライブ**

\*港ユネスコ協会の紹介  
\*閉会挨拶

**\*語りと音楽**

朗読「注文の多い料理店」 宮沢賢治

クリスマスソング演奏

1. クリスマスキャロル・メドレー
2. ダニー・ボーイ
3. ザ・クリスマスソング

(Written by FURUICHI. Y., Standing Director, and translated by KODAMA K., the PR & Internet Committee)

## The 8<sup>th</sup> MUA Japanese-language Speech Contest

Date & Time: Sunday, December 8, 2024, 13:00–16:00  
Venue: Minato City Libra Hall

On December 8, 2024, the Japanese-language speech contest for non-native speakers was held at the Libra Hall. The event was honored by the attendance of Ms. SEIKE Ai, the new Mayor of Minato City, and Mr. URATA Mikio, Superintendent of the Minato City Board of Education, making it a valuable opportunity to engage the entire community.

Due to a decrease in the number of participants, Ms. ISHIGO Kazuyo was invited as a surprise speaker. Drawing on her many years of living in France, she captivated the audience with her realistic and engaging story. In the end, eight contestants from seven countries took part, each confidently sharing their perspectives and experiences in Japanese, greatly energizing the atmosphere of the venue.

In the second part of the event, an exchange session was held between the contestants and the audience. Students from Tamagawa University and Aoyama Gakuin University UNESCO Clubs served as facilitators, creating a natural and welcoming space for interaction among participants.

This event also marked a generational shift within the Minato UNESCO Association, with many fresh ideas and humor from younger participants contributing throughout. As a result, we were delighted to hold a more streamlined and effective event in a relaxed manner, leading to its great success.

We sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the event and look forward to even greater participation next time.

### Contest Results (Prize & Recipient)

Grand Prize: Obeng Mavis

MUA President's Award: Rai Dhuba

Minato City Mayor's Award: Natsuki Schiavone

Superintendent of Minato City Board of Education Award: Husam Amanallah Bukhary

President of the Minato Shopping Street Federation Award: Aiya Bulat

Judges' Award: Abeeha Sajjad

Excellence Award: Oskar Schmid

Excellence Award: Meerab Sajjad

Special Audience Award: Rai Dhuba



*(Written by TAGAWA Junko, Standing Director, and translated by SUDA Y., the PR & Internet Committee Associate)*



## Minato City New Year's Reception

Date: Friday, January 10, 2025

Venue: Tokyo Prince Hotel, Phoenix Hall

The moment I stepped into the Tokyo Prince Hotel, I thought to myself, “Oh—something feels different this year!” What was different, exactly? It was the atmosphere—there was a sense of brightness in the air.

Ms. SEIKE Ai, Mayor of Minato City, welcomed guests wearing a kimono with soft yet dignified colors, radiating an aura of happiness that seemed to brighten everyone around her. Amid a gathering of about 900 internationally diverse attendees, the traditional sake barrel opening (kagami-biraki) ceremony was conducted by the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and the Ambassador of Italy. The closing remarks were delivered by the President of the Social Welfare Council.

This year, the Year of the Snake (Mi) symbolizes “rebirth and transformation.” It is said to be a year when efforts bear fruit, bringing growth and progress. Mayor SEIKE’s policy slogan is: “Co-design the future – Minato City”, a vision of the city where the future is shaped together.

We at the Minato UNESCO Association also embrace this theme of “rebirth and transformation” and strongly hope to be an organization that truly co-designs the future together.



(Written by TAGAWA Junko, Standing Director, and translated by SUDA Y., the PR & Internet Committee Associate)

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(Continued from P. 12) UNESCO Press Release

### Increased financial support for educational and scientific programs

UNESCO and the Prada Group have announced the renewal of their SEA BEYOND partnership, a global educational program dedicated to spreading knowledge about the ocean and its preservation. With the commitment of both Organizations, since 2019, this program has resulted in the training of more than 34,000 students in 56 countries, as well as the opening of an ocean education center in Venice.

Together, they announced the creation of a fund to finance projects led by young people on every continent, strengthening ocean education and culture within their communities. (Excerpted)

## World Cooking Workshop : Fish Cooking Class

Saturday, January 18, 2025 12:00~15:30

Venue: Minato Gender Equality Center Libra

First, Mr. NAGASAKI Ikki gave a lecture on fish eating culture in Japan. “How much fish do you think the Tokyo residents consume? Surprisingly, regarding the fish consumption volume, Tokyo ranks No. 5 following Toyama, Aomori, Sapporo and Akita cities. Whereas people seem to eat more meat and less fish in recent years, Japanese people consume 45 kg of fish annually. Compare this to the global fish consumption of 20kg, we may safely say that Japan is a fish-eating country”. Today’s class was made possible by students from Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, who procured fresh and high-quality fish from Toyosu market. Sardines, horse mackerels and sea breams --- They all had transparent black eyes, and their meat plump and glowing, a proof that they were freshly caught.



Helped by today’s instructors, participants of the class learned how to gut and clean fish as the first step in seafood cooking. They were told to follow the basic procedure: (1) Cut off the head, (2) remove gills and organs, and (3) fillet a fish into three pieces. Everyone actually experienced this procedure hands-on, and prepared “horse mackerel nambanzuke”, “red sea bream carpaccio”, “sea bream rice”, and “sardine namerou”.

At the tasting session, they pleasantly savored the food they prepared themselves.



*(Written by FURUICHI Yoko, Standing Director, and Shirotori Shuto, igoan UNESCO Club, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, and translated by MIYASHITA Y., Standing Director, the PR & Internet Committee)*

## MUA's 2025 New Year Gathering

Date & Time: Thursday, January 30, 2025,  
11:30am – 14:00pm

Venue: NEC Shiba Club in Mita

A total of nine MUA members, including President Tanabe, former President Nagano, joined the annual New Year networking event. This event used to be held in the evening but this time, we selected the daylight time. This is because most attendees are elderly and it's better to close the gathering before dark and before the evening rush hour.

We enjoyed the “Shokado Bento” and different drinks. Ms. Kasahara, Standing Director, was dressed in her favorite kimono, and helped produce a traditional Japanese New Year's atmosphere.

Mr. Ishii, Vice President, gave the opening speech, which was followed by a New Year's greetings by President Tanabe. Then Ms. Kasahara proposed a “kick-off” toast.

In the second half of the meeting, each attendee talked about personal plans during the New Year. The event was closed by Mr. Nagano's wrap-up “Kampai” remark.



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



## Putting the ocean at the heart of classrooms

Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General



**10 June 2025** (Last update: 16 June 2025)

UNESCO has made environmental education a priority, to integrate it into school curricula and in the daily life of schools. The Organization supports its Member States - such as South Africa, Portugal and South Korea - in developing educational content on the protection of the ocean. With UNESCO's support, Brazil this year became the first country to adopt a national curriculum, from primary to secondary level, dedicated to ocean literacy.

Presented in 2022 at the One Ocean Summit, UNESCO's educational reference framework for ocean education has enabled nearly 2,400 schools in 48 countries to join the global network of Blue Schools. It provides a framework for schools wishing to integrate the ocean into their teaching, through practical activities and field projects. In addition, UNESCO has trained nearly 350,000 young people and adults in ocean protection issues.

### Video games and ocean sciences: a new tool for learning

UNESCO has unveiled *Ocean Heroes*, a new adventure in the Minecraft video game. Developed with Minecraft Education and Voice of the Ocean Foundation, over 35 million players will be able to explore coral reefs, seaweed forests and mangroves aboard a research vessel, while facing real threats such as pollution and invasive species.

Through entertaining missions, young players will acquire practical knowledge of ocean sciences, biodiversity and conservation techniques. The game offers concrete scientific challenges to solve, develops critical thinking skills and reinforces understanding of the impact of human activities on marine ecosystems.

(to be continued on P. 9)

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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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