

A Greeting from the New President

Mitsuko Takai, President of MUA

In April this year I was elected to be the president of MUA, immediately following the retirement of Dr. Kimitada Miwa as Honorary President. Although this new position is a big challenge to me, I am determined to do my best to fulfill what it will call for.

MUA will mark the start of its 30th anniversary this year since its foundation on October 17, 1981. Dr. Miwa has demonstrated his distinguished leadership for 18 years since he succeeded Dr. Kenzo Tange, the first MUA president. It was thanks to Dr. Miwa's strong steering power that we could start and promote with confidence a wide variety of activities that embodied the forefront trends of the times. Under Dr. Miwa's insightful leadership, MUA has accomplished a continued steady growth.



Taking this opportunity, I would like to reiterate our heartfelt appreciation for what Dr. Miwa has contributed over the years. Even in his new position as Honorary President, we would like Dr. Miwa to provide guidance and support to us on a continued basis.

Ever since its inception, MUA has abided by the ideal, expressed in the UNESCO Constitution, namely "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed." As a local organization, MUA has been immensely supported by the Minato Education Board. Under the said shared UNESCO slogan, we have accumulated our experiences in (1) activities which seek realization of a co-existent & peace-oriented global society, and (2) activities which are possible by capitalizing on the inherent international nature of the Minato City community.

In the future it will be necessary for our community to place more importance on activities which address internationally shared issues, and which are expected to enrich the local society. It will be my policy as new president to (1) respect the continuation of MUA's mainstream activities, without drastic changes, (2) add optimal new programs that will meet the needs of the times, and (3) invite active participation of more newcomers into our programs to ensure brisk organizational growth. I sincerely hope that, through their participation in any of MUA programs, new members will experience the pleasure, fun, significance and rewarded feeling which our volunteer activities will surely offer.

Last but not least, I would like to reiterate my hearty thanks to each of the MUA members as well as to people and organizations which have supported our activities over the years. Your continued support and cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

(Translated by S. Tanahashi, Vice President, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

Looking back at my 18 years as MUA president which overlap with Japan's notoriously stagnant two decades

Kimitada Miwa, MUA Honorary President and Professor Emeritus of Sophia University

Will posterity recall the period from 1992 to 2010 during the Heisei Era as the two decades of gloom which didn't let out for Japan? In the aftermath of the Japan's economy that busted, nobody knew how to keep Japan's influence on international affairs. Japan's position as the second largest economy only after that of the United States of America is about to be taken over by China.



On May 11, 1945, only three months before Imperial Japan's surrender to the Allied Forces in the final year of the Asia-Pacific War, a 22-year old drafted student, without any means to resist the societal pressure, flew away into the sky over Okinawa on a suicidal attack mission and perished in the southern sea.

"Being a liberalist, I'm aware that history has attested that totalitarianism has always lost to liberalism. Japan is destined to lose this war. Still it won't change unless I die for the country. My beloved countrymen, please turn Japan into a great nation. That's the only wish I have." This was the final message this young student wrote in his will, in response to a request by a military pressman, on the previous night before his death-bound flight.

This student was my sempai, an elder gradate, from the same junior high school in prewar Japan. I was 16 years old when Japan surrendered. Much later, I was writing a postscript for a new book of mine titled "Nippon: 1945 Nen no Shiten" (Japan: A Viewpoint in 1945), which was published from the Tokyo University Press. That's the time when I became keenly aware of the strong wish this sempai had entrusted to his countrymen who he hoped would survive the war. His final message was included in a book titled "Kike Wadatsumi no Koe," a collection of final words from drafted students who perished in the war.

Ever since, I have never forgotten his message. However, I confess that there were times when I wanted to say, with a sign, "Sempai, please forgive me. I have my own objective in life to seek after."

In the past I have told MUA members that we should undertake "volunteer activities" with a belief that they are entrusted to us by God. This perception of mine about volunteer work has been almost identical with my commitment to carry on the mission entrusted by the aforementioned sempai.

Please forgive me if I sound like a man talking big. Frankly I tend to be rather lazy. I can say with confidence that my life has been challenged and sustained by the final message of the 22-year old student who perished in the war, wishing for Japan's change into a great nation by concerted efforts of war-survivors. I have interpreted what he meant by greatness of a nation as "Dougri Taikoku" or a big power in terms of justice. At MUA I have always been encouraged by the earnest attitude of MUA members, seeking after peace and justice. I have also been substantially supported by Vice Presidents and steering committee leaders. Taking this opportunity, I wish to reiterate my hearty thanks for their cooperation which has enabled me to fulfill the position of MUA president.

Last but not least, I have always been mindful of the presence of Dr. Kenzo Tange, the first president of MUA. Dr. Tange demonstrated a distinguished leadership during his 10-year tenure, and generously remained with MUA as honorary president. Throughout my tenure as the second MUA president, I have maintained my commitment never to cause any disgrace or impairment to Dr. Tange's respected legacy. I sincerely hope that MUA will see even more exciting developments under the leadership of new president Takai.
(May 16, 2010)

(Translated by S. Tanahashi, VP, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

Report on the 2010 MUA General Assembly

New President of MUA Elected

Date: Saturday, April 24th

Place: Minato City Life-long Learning Center

The 2010 Annual General Assembly of MUA was held on Saturday, 24th April. During this assembly, Ms. Mitsuko Takai, formerly Vice President, was elected as the new President of MUA. She has consistently played important roles in MUA for about 30 years since its foundation. Dr. Kimitada Miwa, who had led MUA for 18 years as its second president, was selected to be Honorary President.

At the closing of the meeting, Ms. Takai gave a speech, expressing her heartfelt thanks to Dr. Miwa for his great contributions to MUA over many years. She also expressed her wish that MUA would continue its activities addressed to the creation of a peaceful global society, based on the philosophy of UNESCO, while also utilizing regional characteristics of Minato City. In addition, Dr. Miwa also talked about three past leaders of MUA, namely Kenzo Tange, the first president of MUA, Shigeharu Matsumoto, Founder & former Chairman of the International House of Japan, and Michio Nagai, formerly Education Minister of Japan. They all supported MUA's creation and development with enthusiasm. Dr. Miwa concluded his speech by asking all MUA members to fully support Ms. Takai in pursuing MUA's further development.

Listed on the agenda for this meeting were amendments to the articles of MUA. They included a new addition of a stipulation on "Honorary President" and clearer definitions of "the board of standing directors" as well as "the board of directors". Following the approval of these amendments, nomination of new board members were proposed and approved. Mr. Hiroshi Shiojiri, formerly Ambassador to Libya, and Mr. Kazuhiko Togo, formerly Ambassador to the Netherlands, were newly elected as directors. Mr. Yuji Ohtsuka and Mr. Yoshikazu Kaneko retired from the board of directors. Also, Mr. Seiichi Tanahashi, standing director, was elected as an additional Vice President. Newly elected to be Standing Directors are Ms. Masayo Akiyama, formerly chairperson of the Membership Committee, and Mr. Takashi Mizuno, Secretary General of MUA.

The second part of the day's event was a familiar attraction program which MUA provides each year after the general assembly. This year's attraction was "Japan- Indonesia Friendship Party." It turned out to be a wonderful occasion where all attendees could enjoy watching traditional Indonesian dances from different regions. A group of five Indonesian female dancers, clad in dazzling traditional dancing costumes, performed to music. The dances we saw were those performed on various occasions in Indonesia.



Before the start of the Indonesian dances, Mr. Ryosuke Takahashi, Superintendent of the Minato City Education Board, read Mayor Takei's congratulatory message on his behalf. Also, two new directors, Mr. Shiojiri and Mr. Togo, gave a short speech, respectively.

At the very end of the event, an impromptu workshop of Indonesian dancing was provided for the attendees, thanks to the courtesy of the Indonesian dancing group. It was a wonderful way to conclude the party in a friendly atmosphere.

(Written & translated by T. Mizuno, Secretary-General)

Messages of Thanks to Dr. Kimitada Miwa, MUA Honorary President

Masaaki Takei
Minato City Mayor and Advisor to MUA

On the occasion of Dr. Miwa assuming the post of Honorary President of the Minato UNESCO Association, I would like to extend my hearty congratulations. During the eighteen long years as the President, you truly exerted yourself for the promotion of international understanding and furtherance of world peace, for which I extend our deep appreciation



Looking back on the last eighteen years, I realize that they coincided with further internationalization of Minato City. In 1992 when Dr. Miwa became the president, the number of foreign residents in Minato City was 12,000. Now the number of residents has increased to 22,000, accounting for 10 percent of the entire Minato City population. The number of countries represented by them is now 130.

Meanwhile, in close collaboration with the city staff, Dr. Miwa and members of the Minato UNESCO Association contributed so much to establishing an intercultural convivial society in this cosmopolitan city. Thanks to the efforts of people concerned, Minato City is developing as a very unique urban community in Japan where people with different languages and cultures can live as good neighbors to each other.

I sincerely hope that Dr. Miwa will continue to contribute his wide knowledge and rich experience stored over the years to further internationalization of Minato City.

Lastly, I send my best wishes for your continued good work and ever flourishing future of the Minato UNESCO Association.

Yoshiko Nagato

**President of the Inter-Cultural Community Life Association, and
President of the Utsunomiya UNESCO Association**

It is said that “Good encounters make life rich.” For more than seven years since the end of 1974, my family lived in Minato City due to my husband’s transfer and I was involved in working for the establishment of the Minato UNESCO Association, as the chair for the Women’s Activities Committee, from its early days.

Among numerous encounters, one of the most memorable ones was that with Dr. Miwa who enabled the dream of a mere housewife to come true. The dream was to bring an international NGO activity to Utsunomiya. Dr. Miwa gave it a very good name, namely ‘ICCLA’ meaning the “Inter-Cultural Community Life Association”. I have been very grateful for his warm mentorship.



Kensuke Kikuchi

CEO, Fuse Limited Liability Company

Dr. Miwa, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and deep respect for the eighteen long years of service as the president of Minato UNESCO Association. The day you assumed the post of president still remains fresh in my memory as if it happened yesterday. During the 18 years you yourself took part in various activities and personally talked to each of the MUA members present. I am sure that through these personal contacts they were able to experience firsthand the objectives of UNESCO, namely international peace and common welfare for mankind.



President Miwa also took the trouble of writing front-page essays for every issue of the UNESCO Bulletin for so many years. His objective bird's-eye analyses and views of what is happening in the world and in Japan, presented on the front page, were sent not only to us MUA members but also to various interested parties and organizations.

Once again, I would like to thank you for the 18 years of your guidance and cooperation. I also wish to pay my deep respect to Mrs. Miwa for offering her warm and unobtrusive support and assistance for her husband.

(Translated by T. Suzuki, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

(Continued from Page 9): **Profile & Major Programs of MUA Committees**

World Cooking Workshop Committee

Standing Director: Takako Imamura

Vice-Chairperson: Yumi Yamamoto

Message: The World Cooking Workshop will be held 3 times this year as was in the past. After the preparatory meeting with the instructor who is very skilled in Japanese communications, you will be able to expand your understanding on the historic, cultural and environmental background of the cordial home-style dishes of the country which the instructor comes from.

Minato Citizens Festival Committee

Standing Director: Shimada, Kazumi

Chairperson: Osamu Kitaoka

Message: MUA will participate in the Minato Citizens Festival to be held at Minato Public Parks on the 10th (Sat) and 11th (Sun) of October this year. Major activities will include the promotion of MUA and its Committees, management of Mini-Bazar and the introduction to Islamic culture as done previously.

Youth Activities Committee

Standing Director: Hirakata, Kazuyo

Chairperson: Masako Kasahara

Message: While our committee has been inactive for the past several years, it is positioned as the most important body of activities to the invigoration of MUA. Our committee plans to kick its activities into gear. A Yukata-wearing Class for Youths and Foreign Nationals will be held in June while UNESCO Youth Forum in Minato 2010 will be held in July. Don't miss it!

(Translated by Y. Suda, Chairperson of the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

Greetings from Five Vice Presidents

We have appreciated Honorary President Kimitada Miwa's contributions and will support New President Mitsuko Takai

Hiroshi Matsumoto

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Professor Kimitada Miwa for his continuous dedication to Minato UNESCO Association as President, demonstrating distinguished leadership over the past 18 years,

In particular, he has made a great deal of contributions in guiding us as a coordinator in setting themes, selecting panelists and implementing activities of the MUA International Symposium organized by Science & Cultural Committee I am in charge.

Meanwhile, Ms. Mitsuko Takai, the new President elected at the general meeting held on April 24, has actively participated, initially as a Director and later as Vice President, in a number of committees and activities ever since the foundation of MUA in 1981. In external relations, she has been MUA's interface with Tokyo Metropolitan Liaison Council and Federation of Japan UNESCO Association. She has virtually devoted herself to the development of Japan's UNESCO through MUA for nearly 30 years.

She accepted the challenging presidential post this time, despite of what her personal issues call for. Therefore, we are bound to support President Takai's leadership as Vice Presidents, in close cooperation with all the other MUA members

In the future activities of MUA, we should step up our PR efforts so that UNESCO will be able to win as much recognition as UNICEF, as pointed out as a challenging requirement by Mr. Hisanori Isomura during MUA's 25th anniversary international forum.

William Auckerman

It has been my pleasure to work with Dr. Miwa for the past 16 years. I would like to thank him for his incredible efforts, and congratulate him for his enduring accomplishments.

During his tenure as president, he has been more than a leader – he has been the very heart of the Minato UNESCO Association. Although he will be missed, I'm sure that MUA will continue to be successful under the guidance of M. Takai.



Thirty years ago, when my hair was still dark, I was summoned by Social Education Department of Minato-Ku to participate in a preparatory committee to establish a UNESCO association. In naming the association, I proposed "Minato-ku UNESCO Association." However, "Ku" was eliminated due to an opinion that it might give an impression of a narrow focus. Since then, being a person of a narrow view, I have never been confident enough about my qualification to be a member of MUA.



Fortunately, however, I could receive helpful guidance from Honorary President Kimitada Miwa who successfully led MUA for 18 years with his profound academic knowledge. Thus I've accepted to assume the position of Vice President for the second time, for another two-year term. While I expect much from female-like fine-tuned activities under newly elected President Takai's leadership, I'm also aware of major challenges MUA faces today when I look around. They include (1) decrease in membership, (2) increase in aging members, and (3) mannerism in activities and lack in innovative project planning.

Later this year the "UNESCO Youth Forum in Minato 2010" will be held in cooperation with Utsunomiya UNESCO Association on Sunday, July 25th this year. This will be a meaningful project where we expect participation by foreign students, studying in Japan, as well as junior and senior high school students. It will surely provide them with a valuable opportunity to talk about the cultures of their home countries as well as Japan's own. It will also be an opportunity to demonstrate the spirit of UNESCO, as stated in the Chapter of the United Nations, which we hope will lead to an increase in MUA's members.

Your cooperation would be highly appreciated.

Norio Nakagawa

I wish to thank Honorary President Kimitada Miwa for his years of devotion to Minato UNESCO Association. He has continuously dedicated himself to development of Minato UNESCO Association over the past 30 years since its foundation. His tenure as President has lasted for 18 years. All of the MUA members are aware of his passion and strong leadership with which he has accomplished impressive growth and developments in MUA. Words cannot express how much we owe him.



Recently, I read again the collection of his front-page essays in the MUA bulletins which was published as a commemoration of the 20th anniversary of MUA's foundation. There I could find his insightful historical viewpoints as well as truths based on a high level of philosophy. I felt that all these wisdom could be the essential guidelines for us on human life in general.

A decade has passed since it was published. Still I was impressed to know that his messages included in the collection appeal in an even more meaningful way to my mind.

I think that thanks to Dr. Miwa's insightful leadership MUA has been able to maintain a high level of activities, far beyond the scope of ordinary volunteer organizations. For this reason I wish to reiterate my heartfelt thanks to Honorary President Miwa.

I hope that Dr. Miwa will continue to watch over us in the capacity of Honorary President, and that we can receive candid advices for improvement whenever necessary.

Seiichi Tanahashi

I was recently elected as a Vice President, in connection with the change of our president. In the past I have strived to make humble contributions to MUA in the area of PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee activities. In particular, I have enjoyed taking an active role in the publication of MUA English bulletins, capitalizing on English and editorial skills I have acquired in my business career.



Our committee has asked Honorary President Miwa to prepare a front-page essay for each & every bulletin, both in Japanese and English. It has been a great pleasure for me to be the first person to receive a new essay draft from Dr. Miwa and read it. This is because each time I could see his insightful analysis & interpretation, from a comprehensive viewpoint, concerning the latest trends & topics in our society.

From now on, I am expected to cooperate with Mr. Tomogane, a Standing Director, in strengthening the activities of the Language Study Committee. I have always respected his leadership in starting and establishing MUA's English conversation classes as the pillar program of the committee. In addition I am determined to support new president Takai as much as possible, concerning those issues which should be addressed from the entire MUA viewpoint. I would appreciate receiving continued advice and cooperation from MUA members.

(Translated by A. Shimizu, an associate with the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee, and S. Tanahashi, Vice President, the same committee)

Donations : Our whole-hearted thanks go to the following donors

- Ms. M. Takai donated one set each of digital camera and IC recorder to MUA on April 16th, 2010.
- NPO International Educational Association for Children donated ¥95,835 in total for the UNESCO Terakoya Movements on April 28th, 2010.

Profile & Major Programs of MUA Committees

Membership Committee

Standing Director: Mamoru Tomogane, Masayo Akiyama

Chairperson: Shigeko Naruse,

Vice-Chairperson: Jun Miyosi, Fumiko Iguchi

Message: Our committee will plan a variety of activities to increase new members and promote interaction among MUA members. You are encouraged to join our committee, a cozy group of friendly people, and offer valuable tips and ideas. Our activities include MUA Salon, One-day Bus Trip, Embassy Excursion, New Year Party, and many more.

PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee

Standing Director: Kazumi Shimada

Chairperson: Yasushi Suda,

Message: Our Committee is in charge of editing and issuing of our members magazine called "Bulletin," and management of the MUA website. "Bulletin" is issued every three months a year both in Japanese and English, and distributed to MUA members and related organizations. Our committee plans to maintain very effective transmission of information on the MUA activities through the good teamwork among limited number of committee members.

Science and Culture Committee

Standing Director: Yukari Miyashita, Kazuyo Hirakata

Chairperson: Sachiko Sano

Vice-Chairperson: Kazuko Matsuzaki

Message: Our committee acquired a new member last year after a long interval, and, therefore, all the current members were very encouraged and delighted. Our committee bears grave responsibility in the success of the International Symposium among others. All the committee members are committed to carry on the work with good teamwork. Your support in proposing ideas on the theme of symposiums will be quite welcome.

Cross-cultural Awareness Committee

Standing Director: Toshiko Watabe, Yuki Nakamae

Co-Chairperson: Keiko Auckerman, Kazuko Okumura,

Message: For better understanding about and deepening our insight into global issues and different cultures based on the Constitution of UNESCO, our committee plans and conducts lecture meetings where outstanding lecturers from diversified areas ranging from embassy staffs, cultural figures and journalists offer very comprehensive remarks on livelihood, culture, history and state of affairs in foreign countries. Our committee also conducts coactive programs for promoting increased literacy rates as well as global peace.

Foreign Language Study Committee

Standing Director: Mamoru Tomogane

Chairperson: Kenji Shinoda

Vice-Chairperson: Shinobu Fukuhara, Emi Yamasawa

Message: Our committee is in charge of managing foreign language trainings. Currently, there are two English conversation courses for beginners and intermediates. Very enjoyable lessons are conducted every week by an American instructor using jokes. Anyone who is determined to improve one's English communication skill is welcome. Consult MUA's website for more details. (To be continued on P. 5)

International Literacy Day (8 September): UNESCO launches new Knowledge and Innovations Network for Literacy (KINL)



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UNESCO is launching a new Knowledge and Innovations Network for Literacy (KINL) that will enable researchers and practitioners all over the world to link up and share information and best practices. The network's launch will be a highlight of International Literacy Day celebrations* on 8 September at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The annual 2010 International Literacy Prize awards ceremony and a round table on Literacy and Women's Empowerment are the other main events of the Day.

In addition, UNESCO's Director-General Irina Bokova will be in New York to give a keynote address at the international conference "Literacy: an essential foundation for development" at the United Nations. The opening address will be given by former First Lady of the United States Laura Bush, who is Honorary Ambassador for the UN Literacy Decade (UNLD).

"Literacy and women's empowerment" is the theme of International Literacy Day 2010, in line with the UNLD thematic calendar. While women's empowerment is at the core of the global development agenda, girls still account for more than half of the 67.4 million out-of-school children in the world, and two-thirds of the 796 million adult illiterates are female.

As Ms Bokova stressed in her message for the Day, "Investing in women's literacy carries very high returns: it improves livelihoods, leads to better child and maternal health, and favours girls' access to education. In short newly literate women have a positive ripple effect on all development indicators. This international day aims to mobilize everyone's attention to the urgent need for increased commitment to literacy, especially for girls and women."

On 8 September at Organization Headquarters in Paris, the award ceremony for UNESCO's 2010 International Literacy Prizes, which recognize innovative approaches to literacy education, will be held from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in Room IV. The two awards of the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize, supported by the Republic of Korea, have been attributed to projects in Cape Verde and Germany. Programmes in Nepal and Egypt are receiving the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy, supported by the People's Republic of China.

(03.09.2010 Source: UNESCOPRESS)

Coming MUA Events at a Glance

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Program</u>
9/26 (Sun)	Ashikaga	One-day bus tour to the Ashikaga Gakkou and Ashikaga Flower Park
10/9 & 10 (Weekend)	Shiba Park	Minato Citizens Festival
11/5 (Fri)19:00~	Sogetsu Hall	Traditional Korean Music & Dance
11/17 (Wed)18:30~	Balloon	A Journalist's Viewpoint on Africa
11/27 (Sat)12:00~	Libra	World Cooking Workshop: Christmas Dishes in Argentina

(For further details & registration, please contact MUA secretariat office shown below)

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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