



# Bulletin

みなと  
ユネスコ

MINATO UNESCO ASSOCIATION NEWS & CALENDAR

ISSUED BY / MINATO UNESCO ASSN. 16-3, SHIMBASHI 3-CHOME MINATO-KU TOKYO 105-0004 / MITSUKO TAKAI PRES.  
発行所 / 港ユネスコ協会 〒105-0004 東京都港区新橋3-16-3 TEL・FAX 03 (3434) 2233 発行人 / 高井光子

No. 121: December 27, 2010

## A shameful fact of the past Imperial Japan I have only recently learned for the first time

Kimitada Miwa, MUA Chairman Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Sophia University

I remember having once read a little book entitled “Ariran Sailed aboard the S.S. Kimigayo-Marū.” Kimigayo is the national anthem of Japan and Ariran is the Korean song so dear to Korean folks. The story was about the Korean immigrants mostly from Cheju Island to Osaka, Japan after Japan’s annexation in 1910 of Korea, the so-called “Hermit Kingdom of Morning Calm.” It did not leave any particularly strong memory in my mind.

However, I made a shocking discovery about the conditions of life of those migrant “Japanese subjects” in their adoptive country. The learning resulted from the reading of a novel by Yan Sogiru, *Blood and Bones*. The hero of the story named Kim Shumpei is a big burley man, from time to time giving vent to his irrepressible rage and violent sexual behavior. He is married and has children, but squander his modest earnings on gambling, and doesn’t care for daughters.

The basic belief was that the father was bones and the mother was blood, and the carrying of the family name was up to the male posterity. Thus the especially important task of the father was the rearing of his sons. So he spent lots of money as fees for the naming of his sons by professional learned men. Even then, his blown-up interest in his own sons tended to be whimsical, allowing one to die in an accident and another from starvation.

This obvious irregularity was caused first and foremost by the betrayal of a beautiful woman of a brothel he had fallen in love with the first time he met her. He had paid up to make her free and his own. The next morning when he returned to pick her up, she had been gone. Some twenty years later, he himself had become nearly a homeless, and when he was putting up at a down-to-earth rickety hostel he heard and found in the next room, separated only by paper sliding partitions, his old flame, emaciated and coughing in the last stage of tubercular consumption.

Telling her that he would cure her, he took her to an abandoned charcoal making hut in a recessed corner in the mountains. The sick woman was sexually as alive as before and the man goes to town to bring back choice nourishing food for her. It looked indeed that his devotion helped her to restore that attractive complexion and all that the woman used to possess to allure men. But one day when he returned from town, she was found dead sprawled on the cold floor of the kitchen.

My first surprise was that there really is such a vehement man. But what I identified as something I had learned for the first time is something else. It was about how these newly created subjects of the Emperor of Japan were treated in the working places in Osaka. They were paid less than half the salary of Japanese co-workers. And when the depression of the 1930s hit, they were the first to be displaced. They were more severely affected by the rising fares they had to pay to cross the seas between their home in Korea and destination Osaka. One way sailing cost the equal of their three-month pay.

(To be continued on Page 14)



## UNESCO Youth Forum in Minato 2010

Date: Sunday, July 25, 2010

Place: Minato Gender Equality Center



The Minato UNESCO Association (MUA) held for the first time the subject forum, in cooperation with the Utsunomiya UNESCO Association (UUA). The objective was to provide an opportunity for promoting grass-root cross-cultural understanding through face-to-face interaction with foreign students who come from different Asian countries to study at Utsunomiya University. A total of 17 students who come from China, Kyrgyz, Mongolia and Russia took part in the event while about 30 Japanese people from Minato City and elsewhere also attended.

**Ms. Lu from China and Mr. Ganod (right photo)** from Mongolia jointly played the role of masters of ceremony. It started with self-introduction, in fluent Japanese, of foreign students, followed by presentations of their homeland countries, and free conversation with Japanese attendees. The event was wrapped up with a sing along session. The 3-hour event came to an end so quickly. At the beginning of their presentations, students taught us how to express daily greetings in their mother tongue, such as "Hello," "Thank you" and "Friends." If you say the word "Friend" to someone, it will give a message that we can become friends.



To kick off the event, Mr. Nakagawa, Vice President of MUA, and **Ms. Nagato, President of UUA (left photo)**, gave opening speeches. Mr. Nakagawa made great contributions as program manager in organizing this forum. President Nagato of UUA has been concurrently involved in MUA activities ever since its foundation. She established an organization called ICCLA (Inter-Cultural Community Life Association) and has been its president. Being always at the forefront, Ms. Nagato demonstrates a successful model for us

UNESCans in terms of grass-root cross-cultural activities.





(left photo: Mr. Nakagawa, VP, MUA)

The following is a summary of country-by-country presentations on the four countries by foreign students.

### Mongolia

**Mr. Zorigoo (right photo)** introduced the daily life of nomadic people, including the unique gesture in their communication. In Mongolia, you are expected to extend your right arm for a handshake to express your feeling of “I apologize” or “Excuse me.” He said that he still unconsciously does so and embarrasses Japanese friends.



It seems that Mongolian people feel very close to Japan. For one thing, there is an annual national event in Mongolia to compete in Japanese songs and speeches. **Ms. Bolormaa (right photo)** won a gold medal in the 2003 singing competition, sang for us her winning song “Nadasoso,” dressed in their traditional costume.



### Kyrgyz

This republic is located in central Asia and became independent in 1992. **Ms. Asel (photo below)** explained the history of her homeland which was formerly called “king Masas’s State.” This country has people of multi-ethnic constituents and they seem to feel close to Japan.



They have an interesting legend: “Kyrgyz and Japanese people were formerly siblings. Those who like meat remained in central Asia and became Kyrgyz. Those who like fish traveled east, crossed the ocean, and came to live in Japan.” Ms. Asel certainly looks very much like a Japanese student. The national economy of Kyrgyz was challenging for some time after its independence, she said.

It was a great encouragement for us to know the presence of a highly motivated young foreign student who came from a young country, and who is doing her best to study in Japan.

### Russia

**Ms. Olga (right photo)** explained how people live in Siberia. There are minority tribes who live around Lake Baikal. They maintain a unique culture and life style, respectively, based on traditional religion and customs. Showing many slides of her homeland, she talked about interesting topics, including a fresh-water fish which melts under sunshine, a mystical island in Lake Baikal, a popular resort place, and animals for furs which live in the taiga forest, and which are games of her father’s hunting.



Thanks to her intriguing presentation, I felt as if I were very close to the way of life in her homeland although I have never been to those places.  
(left photo: Mr. Anton)

## China

**Ms. Chu (right photo) and Ms. Huang (photo below)** gave a presentation on Inner-Mongolian Autonomous District and the City of Shanghai, respectively. Mr. Chu proudly explained that she was born as a descendant of the local Han tribe, and that her identity is based on the unique influx of different culture and life style in the district where a total of 49 different ethnic groups co-exist, including Mongolians, Manchurians and Muslims. Ms. Chu gave a vivid explanation about Shanghai where the World Exposition was held, including typical local dishes.

Her presentation was as energetic and feverish as Shanghai itself. It was regrettable that, due to time restraint, they could not talk about more topics.



Following an intermission, attendees and MUA members were divided into three groups to start free discussions with foreign students. Students talked about their life in Japan as well as their future plans. For example, Mr. Zorigoo from Mongolia is now studying engineering and, after graduation, wants to contribute what he has learned to the development of his home country. Foreign students are generally very busy with study and part-time jobs but I was delighted to know that they somehow work out fun time with their friends. At the end of the discussion,

representative students from each group gave a summary report and comments.

The finale of the event was a sing along time where students sang a variety of songs in their mother tongues. When some students seemed to have difficulty in keeping up with the song “Sekaini Hitotsudake no Hana,” the floor helped with an assisting chorus. As for the “Clap your hands when you’re happy,” singing in different languages, from Japanese to English, Chinese, Mongolian, etc. echoed and stepped up a happy excitement. The chorus was accompanied by the accordion played by **Mr. Shimizu, Vice President of MUA (right photo)**. Even before the official start of the event, he played for us a nice introductory BGM. At the very end of the event, **Ms. Takai, President of MUA (photo below)** gave a closing speech with words of thanks for all who took part in the successful program.



We are pleased to introduce to our readers positive remarks submitted to UUA from foreign students who participated in this youth forum event:

### China:

Lin Songjie:

It was a very enjoyable event. My first visit to Tokyo this time was very exciting. Presentations made by foreign students provided me with a great opportunity to learn not only my own country but Russia and Mongolia as well. I really enjoyed the exchange of opinions with Japanese students during the debate session in a group setting.



Chen Jiamin:

I met various people from various countries. I was able to not only exchange information but also increase awareness on my own country as well as deepen my understanding on Japan even a little bit. I made a very good memory during my stay as a foreign exchange student.

Shen Menglu:

I was glad to learn that there were many people in charge of the Forum who visited China. I enjoyed conversations with participants. I am very grateful and thankful for the kindness extended to me that very tasteful meals were served and even commemorative gifts were passed out.

Yin Chenghui:

I am really glad that I participated in the Forum this time. I will definitely participate as occasion arises from now on. I am grateful for all the efforts put by the staffs into the preparation.

Huang Jiabei:

I was thrilled by the questions given on the various aspects of my stay as a foreign exchange student, and was also pleased to have communicated with many participants during the debate session in a group setting. I believe that it is quite important to have a direct communication in such a manner we did in the Forum.

Chu Guannan:

I am really happy that I could participate in the Forum. I devoted myself in the preparation of my presentation as I felt I was given a great opportunity to make the participants understand about my home, Inner Mongolia, the information of which being rarely available here in Japan. It reminded me of the importance of affirming strong identity as a human being given birth in Inner Mongolia. I am really thankful for Ms. Nagato and Ms. Takai for their providing me with this opportunity. The outstanding results were achieved through the close coordination among staffs of UUA and MUA who deliberately guided us, those who participated in the debate session in a group setting, and all the foreign students who did their best in the preparation as well as presentations. It is the best memory in my life. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all for their good job. I have nothing but best wishes for the advancement of UNESCO activities, and I am committed to do everything I can.

Lu Susu:

I am very glad that I could participate in the Forum. I enjoyed serving as overall host together with Mr. Ganod. All of the seventeen foreign students gathered at Utsunomiya Station at eight o'clock in the morning without a single late comer, and departed for Tokyo. Some members have never visited Tokyo before, and not only them but all of us were very excited. As we arrived at the venue around 10:30am, we observed that staffs from MUA were already working hard for preparation. That made us feel that we should do our very best as well. Upon finishing the rehearsal, we entered our key stage, where we were able to accomplish our duty thanks to all the hearty support provided by everyone. Introduction to home countries presented by four students was magnificent. Discussions thereafter added more excitement to the session. The Youth Forum played a great role in providing an opportunity for foreign students and local people to exchange each other. It surely served as a forum for exchange, being a good opener for local people to expose themselves to the world as well as for foreign students to deepen their understanding on Japan. It provided us with opportunities for meeting many people, building up strong links among them, and then, deepening the relationships with the society and the world. Last, but not the least, I would like to express my appreciation for the staffs from UUA and MUA.

**Mongolia:**

Zorigoo:

I am very glad to have been able to participate in the Forum. I could have such a productive day in Tokyo thanks to MUA. I am grateful for the staffs of UUA and MUA for providing me with such an opportunity. I put together a brochure as a member of the planning committee taking advantage of my expertise in the field of information technologies. I did deliver a presentation introducing Mongolia as well. It was a valuable experience during my stay in Japan as a foreign

exchange student. I am thankful for all who kindly provided me with directions. I will continue to do my best.

Lkhamsuren:

It was really an enjoyable day. I made delightful memories with all. Finishing a year-long stay as a foreign exchange student, I will depart for my home with valuable memories on September 24<sup>th</sup>. After returning to my home, I will continue to do my best as an international volunteer under the auspices of the "Ulan Bator Inter-Cultural Community Life Association."

Undrakhzaya:

I did enjoy the Forum. It made feel like I would continue to participate in voluntary works. While I have known UNESCO only by name so far, I obtained good knowledge about the activities of UNESCO this time.

B.Anu-Jin:

I made very good memories. I would like to participate in the UNESCO program again. I was impressed that all the staffs of UNESCO were very kind.

**Kyrgyz:**

Asel Subgojoeva,:

I was very happy to have been able to introduce my home country. It was one of the enjoyable aspects of exchanges that I found something common among the participants in spite of the different languages used. Everyone was very kind, showed interest in different cultures and languages, and asked about various things. I would be very aggressive in studying new things without missing such an opportunity as this Forum during my stay in Japan. In doing so, I would be pleased if I could help Japanese people deepen their understanding in Kyrgyz.

While foreign nationals account for 10 percent of inhabitants in Minato City, there are not many opportunities for us to closely deal or communicate with them. We at MUA hope to aggressively expand such opportunities for the international youth exchanges.

Last, but not the least, this was the 7<sup>th</sup> Youth Forum held in Utsunomiya. All the programs are carried out through the voluntary planning and management by the participants. I thank those who took part in bringing this Forum to Minato City for the first time for all their good works. I would also express my deepest appreciation for the participants. I look forward to receiving them again at the next opportunity.

*(Written by K. Shimada, Standing Director, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee, and translated jointly by Y. Suda, Chairman, and S. Tanahashi, Vice President, of the same committee)*



# Welcome Party for Newcomers 2010

Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Place: Minato Life-long Learning Center

We held this party, inviting newcomers who had joined MUA during the last one-year period. The objective was two-fold: first, to provide an orientation on MUA's history as well as its current status and future, and secondly to promote interaction & friendship between new and old members. Mr. Nakagawa, VP of MUA, undertook the MC role.

## Part I. Orientation (at Room 305 with 34 attendees)



Ms. Takai, President, gave an opening speech: "MUA will be into the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation in October this year. It was founded at the request of Minato City Mayor and the education board to set up an organization which will promote international exchange activities, symbolizing the international nature of the city. Leaders from business, cultural and educational circles got together to kick off the new

organization. Ms. Takai also gave a summary of MUA's 29-year history, focusing on its extensive activities and what it would address in the future. She concluded her speech, encouraging the newcomers to develop new acquaintances and experience the joy of working together as volunteers.

Mr. Tanahashi, VP, followed it up with his own account of MUA: "MUA is blessed with two outstanding advantages – first the regional resources, and second the human resources. If you trace back the history of Minato City, you'll notice that it was the very place where Western powers established their legations toward the end of the Edo period, and where the early developments of Japan's modernization and internationalization took place. According to the 2009 year-end data, Minato City accommodates 75 foreign embassies out of a total of 145 embassies located in Tokyo. In terms of its residents, foreigners account for 9.6% of total. So Minato City inherently abounds in cross-cultural resources. Please join our activities of your choice and expose yourself to such regional atmosphere."

## Part II. Networking Reception (at MUA's secretariat office)

After Part I was finished, we all walked over to MUA's home room for having a fun time. Ms. Akiyama, Standing Director of the Membership Committee, worked as MC and asked Mr. Matsumoto, VP, to propose a toast to kick off the reception. Although the room was not spacious, it was certainly full of at-home atmosphere. Sumptuous food, prepared out of humble budget, was offered and attendees gradually formed several groups for lively conversation. Soon it was time for the newcomers to make a self-introduction in turn and demonstrate their personality.



Toward the end of the enjoyable gathering, Mr. Shimizu, VP and MUA's premier musician, started to play the accordion. Everyone joined a happy sing along, making it an impressive climax. My hearty thanks go to those who made elaborate preparations for the welcome party.

*(Written by M. Tomogane, Standing Director, the Membership Committee, and translated by S. Tanahashi, VP, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)*

The First of 2010 Cross-cultural Workshop  
**History, Culture & Life in Pakistan**

Date: Thursday, August 5, 2010

Place: Minato Life-long Learning Center

Our speaker for this workshop was Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad, Minister, Pakistan Embassy in Tokyo. Despite abnormally high temperature, the Room 305 was crowded with some 40 attendants. At the entrance, they were given literature and other necessary information provided by the embassy.



Mrs. Ahmad accompanying the minister in ethnic costume and their two lovely children who go to Minato municipal kindergarten contributed exotic mood to the lecture. Following hearty words of sympathy by the coordinator for the recent flood disaster in Pakistan Ms. Yoshiko Nagato, a board director and who the minister is said to adore as mother in Japan introduced his background and personality including their first encounter back in December 1989. As you might know, Ms. Nagato is known to have taken care of many young diplomats and students from overseas living in Utsunomiya and she calls Minister Ahmad a proud son..

Minister Ahmad finished his graduate course in Britain as well as in Pakistan before becoming a diplomat. He first came to Japan in August 1988 to learn the Japanese language under the Foreign Ministry's invitation program. From 1989 to 1993 he served as the third and second secretary at the Pakistani Embassy in Japan and from 1998 to 2002 he was the first secretary. In September 2007 he was assigned to Japan for the third time. Currently he is engaged in diplomatic activities between Japan and Pakistan as Minister, the number two key person of their embassy in Tokyo. During this period of time, he also served as the first secretary of the Pakistani Embassy in Sweden and as the counselor of the Pakistani Embassy in the Republic of Korea.

To begin the lecture Minister Ahmad first introduced his family in fine Japanese. "I am going to talk mainly about today's theme; Pakistan's history, culture and people's life. Later, please ask any questions you may have." Using the slides he brought in, he deftly continued the lecture.

- ◆ The National Flag: Green is a holy color of Islam. Green means prosperity and white means peace. Crescent indicates progress and development. Stars symbolize light and knowledge. The portion of white on the left hand side is for minority people.
- ◆ The history of this old yet new state "Pakistan" began on August 14, 1947 when it became independent from Britain.
- ◆ The name of the country is Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- ◆ Its capital is Islamabad. At the time of independence, Karachi was the capital but as the population increased, it was moved to where it is now.



◆ The current total population is 17million and its annual increase rate is 1.8%

◆ Pakistan is a multiethnic country consisting of indigenous people and those who came from Central Asia, Iran and so forth. It took them 50 centuries to intermingle to become what they are today. Of the long history of Pakistan, the period during which they shared the country with India was 700 years.

◆ Languages: Urdu is their national language, but their official and business language is English. Depending on the state or which race they come from, the languages they use are different. Also depending on the occasions (saying prayers or speaking with people from different states for example) they use different tongues.

◆ The land of Pakistan has 5000 years of culture and is the birthplace of Indus Valley Civilization (7500 BC ~ 600BC) which is one of the four major civilizations of the world. The remains of the civilization, “Mohenjo-daro” are known worldwide. In the field of agriculture which is characteristic of the Indus Valley Civilization, we know that wheat and cotton were grown there and goats and sheep were raised. We also



know that there were big storage houses. The houses for living were made of red bricks. There was a port and people were already engaged in shipbuilding. Also, the city planning was already in practice. In building roads and waterways they also had their maintenance in mind. The lecture went on showing slides of restored wells, houses, eating plates and utensils, accessories etc. Hundreds of seals have been discovered, but regrettably, they have not been able to tell what they mean.

◆ Gandhara Age: Gandhara is a Buddhist kingdom that flourished in the north western part of today's Pakistan. There was said to be the world's first university. Monks came from such overseas countries as China, Korea and Japan to learn Buddhism, so we can assume that our ancestors have had ties with the people there. As a birthplace of Buddhist statues and as the root of Japan's Buddhist art, this is a very important place.

◆ An image of fasting Buddha (designated as a world heritage)

Gandhara exhibit was held twice in Japan, in 1983 and 2002, but now no overseas exhibits of Gandhara are given. (It was announced that their replicas have been kept in Kamakura.) The comments Minister made showing slides were interesting. “Looking into the face of the statue one can feel the influence of Greece.”

◆ Alexander the Great

When Alexander the Great invaded its surrounding nations, their soldiers came as far as to the land of today's Pakistan. Many of them did not go home but remained there. The clan of those soldiers was fond of dancing and had a unique culture. They live in the area called Chitral. The roads were completed recently and now tourists can visit there.

◆ Mughal Empire(1536~ 1885AD)

A great kingdom inaugurated by Babur in northern India. The height of its prosperity was from the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and their economic power was almost equal to that of China.

Taj Mahal, Lotus Fall Fortress, Queen's tomb, Huge mosque constructed three centuries ago, where 150 thousand people can pray together, and the tomb of the great king...We were fascinated by splendid photographs.

◆ The area of today's Pakistan? It's about twice as big as Japan and consists of four provinces. It faces the Arabian Sea and borders on Iran, Afganistan, India and China. In other words, Pakistan is situated at a place that connects South Asia, Middle East and Central Asia.

◆ Geographic Features of Pakistan

Northern Pakistan is quite mountainous. Series of mountain ranges such as the Karakoram and the Himalayan include a lot of high peaks, many of which are higher than 6,000 meters. Of those, five peaks are as high as 8,000 meters.



◆ Climate

The distance from the northern to southern end is 1800 kilometers, so naturally the climate changes. The mountain area has a lot of rainfalls but the dry season is long. People can enjoy four seasons. Winter is from December to March. Spring is short, only one or two weeks in March. The period between April and June is summer, and from July to September is the monsoon. Autumn starts from October.

◆ Temperature: Whether you are in the north or south, temperature changes from 55°C to -36°C. Even for those who endured the scorching heat in recent months, 55 degrees Celsius must be beyond imagination. Minister Ahmad doesn't seem to be bothered by the rising temperature, saying "electric fans are good enough."

◆ The founding father and the first commissioner of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah passed away a year after Pakistan became independent. A grand tomb is erected where he is buried.

◆ Parliament: Two-chamber system. The total number of law makers is 442, 35% of which are female.

◆ Sports: Cricket, hockey and soccer are popular.

◆ Major import items are automobiles, petroleum, etc. and major export items are cotton, leathers, fish, fruit, etc.

◆ Sightseeing spots: Thanks to the slides, we visited so many different places ; not to speak of Mohenjo-daro, the cultural city of Lahore, historical city of Thatta, Karachi, the former capital with a population of 20 million, farming areas along the Indus River, the valleys in Kashmir, mountain peaks of Karakoram, camels walking through the desert in the south, snow-covered mountains in summer, and glaciers of the north In addition to tourists visiting those places of historic interest and scenic beauty, many people come from around the world every year as pilgrims to visit the cradle of Sikhism.

◆ People's day-to-day life: Thanks to a large number of slides, we learned how people live including what they wear and what they eat. We also learned

about one month of fasting (Ramadan), modern and dynamic city life verses traditional rural life in the country. It was interesting to see how young people meet and enter a married life. On the slides we saw hundreds of people leaning to each other holding on to something, which made us wonder what they were doing. Minister Ahmad explained, "It's just a picture of a crowded train."

At the end of the lecture, the Minister answered questions from the floor.

Question 1: How are the relations with India?

Answer: The relations between the two countries are getting better and better. There have been top-level meetings, negotiations, etc. We do have many problems to solve, but we believe that we should solve them through negotiations.

Question 2: Possibility of exhibiting Buddhist art in Japan

Answer: We held exhibitions twice in the past. We are now working on another exhibition in 3 years' time.

Question 3: I was impressed by the rich environment of your hometown Lahore.

Answer: Lahore is now a big city of 10 million people with many historical buildings and universities.

(Note) Minister Ahmad personally thinks that old Lahore was more interesting.

Question 4 About women. What is the ratio between women who have jobs and women who stay home for household chores. Also, what do they do about lunch?

Answer: From 50 to 60% of women live in the country. In the farming community, women are engaged in heavy farming labor just like men. In the urban areas women have all kinds of jobs. At universities, there are more women than men. They work hard and study hard. The government is also taking positive measures for women's



education and their roles in society. As for lunch, in the farming area, they make lunch at home and eat it on the farm. In the urban towns, they eat lunch either in a restaurant or cafeteria.

Question 5 How rapid is the introduction of IT in Pakistan?

Answer : 70 to 80% of the population have and use mobile phones. In the urban areas, most people use the Internet. IT education is also popular and the ratio of IT in the export items is increasing.

Question 6 Because of declining and aging population of Japan, Japan will suffer serious shortage of working population 15 years from now. What do you think of sending some of your people to Japan?

Answer: Since the population of Pakistan is large, some 6 million to 7 million people have been sent to such countries as Middle and Near East, the United States, Great Britain and so on. The number of Pakistanis staying in Japan is approximately ten

thousand, 80% of which are engaged in the used car business exporting to 70 countries. They are playing a significant role in the car business. It is extremely difficult to enter Japan. We will soon need to study what to do to cope with the problem of immigration.

Question 7 At what grade do children start learning the official language, English? What languages do television stations use?

Answer: Generally speaking, English is first taught to first graders of elementary school. Private schools often teach English from kindergarten. To some peoples, the national language, Urdu is a foreign language, so it's quite confusing at first. Children can choose to learn Russian and other Asiatic languages in the middle school. The Minister explained there was only one TV channel when he was a child but now there are as many as sixty. Many TV channels use different languages.

Question 8 The literacy rate which UNESCO promotes through World Terakoya Movement stays at 53%. What do you think is a reason for stalemate? Do you think their rural life has anything to do with this?

Answer: One big problem is that there are not enough schools in the rural areas. In Pakistan, agriculture plays an important role and many students have to quit school to help their parents. The government is taking various measures encouraging them to enroll in school. Female students get free textbooks, free education or even subsidies for education. We are doing what we can so that the literacy rate will exceed 80% in ten to twenty years' time

With big applause from the audience, this year's first lecture meeting for international understanding came to an end. A questionnaire read, "To me Pakistan was a far away country. Now I feel it so close at hand." We are very grateful to Minister Ahmad and his family, as well as to the Embassy of Pakistan in Tokyo that provided such a hearty assistance for this successful gathering. And also, we can never forget to thank you who listened to the lecture eagerly to the end. Thank you very much.

*(Written by S. Yamada, a member of the Cross-cultural Awareness Committee, and translated by T. Suzuki, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)*



## Indonesian Home Dishes

Date : July 24, 2010 12:00 – 15:30

Place: Minato Gender Equality Promotion Center

Our instructor for this cooking workshop was Mrs. Supri Handari, who was assisted by her husband, Mr. Suharno for explanation. Indonesia is a vast heterogeneous country consisting of very many islands with inhabitants of more than 300 ethnic groups with even larger number of languages. It was a great surprise to know that most of the citizens there do not have family names, while it is very common here in Japan that anyone have their first and family names. The diversity of ethnicity, locality and climate brings about the differences in language as well as food culture.



This time, Mrs. Supri Handari and Mr. Suharno kindly introduced the very popular Javanese home-style cooking, using spices they brought from Indonesia.

**Nasi Goreng:** Very popular here in Japan. It was very interesting to eat fried-rice and junk-food (shrimp flavored rice-cracker) together. Terasi, which I have never seen before, was quite similar to Nam Pla with a burning scent. After being heated, however, it turned out to be very flavorful spice essential to Nasi Goreng.

**Gulai Cumi-cumi:** In Southeaster Asia, people use various spices including coconut milk in preparing curry. Mr. Suharno brought some of those very unique spices here. One of them was green stems of fresh lemongrass. They do not use leaves of lemongrass in Indonesia. Squids were stuffed with a cake of tofu and cooked in coconut milk. It was good for human body so as not to suffer from the summer heat.

**Gado-gado:** “Gado-gado” means to stir up in English. It is a sauce made from a bunch of peanuts and various spices fried and then tossed in the blender. While we used the sauce made in a modern and convenient way utilizing the electric blender, they often use the stone-ground Sambal sauce. It was quite surprising that the sauce was not very hot though quite a lot of garlic and peppers were added in. We learned that the same foodstuffs turns out to be quite different dishes in flavor and taste depending upon the difference in the cultural background and the way they are cooked.

**Bubur Biji Salak:** It was a desert made of sweet-potato. It was more like a plentiful main dish, though it was a very good shiruko. Salty-sweet dishes using Tempe (something like natto, fermented soybeans) which Mr. Suharno brought from Indonesia and peanuts, as well as dishes made from the stir-fried peanuts and little fishes were masterpieces. There exist a variety of dishes using fermented soybeans in different countries. We have to be very proud of our ancestors who produced various kinds of preservative foods that well conformed to the environment they lived in.

We were very thankful for the number of applications sent in, while many of them had to be wait-listed. Getting over the hot and humid season by taking in hot and spicy foods is a great gift from our ancestors which was handed down for generations. As we spent most of our time in cooking, we could not afford enough time for eating. However, we did enjoy all dishes very much.

Taking this opportunity, all of the staffs express our deepest appreciation for Mrs. Supri Handari and Mr. Suharno for their hard work in teaching us Indonesian food culture, their daughter Aozora who had been a good girl while their parents were busy cooking, and last but not the least, all the attendees who dare joined in spite of the very hot weather with the temperature over 36 degrees.

*(Written by Ryu Hyun Mi, a World Cooking Committee member, and translated by Y. Suda, Chairman, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)*

## Experiential Workshop for Wearing Yukata for the Youths and Foreigners

Date: June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Place: Minato Life-long Learning Center

Our instructors for this workshop were Ms. Sanae Haraguchi, a member of MUI, and her friends. I had the opportunities to wear the Yukata before, but this was really my first experience to wear the Yukata for myself.

At first, I watched the way the instructor wears the Yukata and then implemented it.

I borrowed a Yukata of dark-blue colored wonderful pattern. To start with, I aligned both bottom edges of the Yukata with each other at my ankles and set them. Then I fixed and tied them at the central position with a string. I learned that every action conducted cordially will make a beautifully finished form in the end.

I first tried to wear once by taking instructions of the instructor and then wear for myself from scratch. But, I had trouble doing “Ohashiri” successfully and other procedures despite my wish. Having learned that obi could be tied in various forms such as butterflies and ribbons, I wanted to learn the art of tying the obi in more depth.



After having worn the Yukata, we all had group photos taken. We introduced ourselves each other enjoying Maccha and cookies, and also exchanged with several foreign students and other participants.

I recognized again the importance of wearing the Yukata, one of the seasonal features of summer, in learning “Wa (harmony)” which is valued most in the heart of the Japanese people. I wish to thank those people concerned for providing me with an opportunity to have a precious experience.

*(Written by Y. Ide, the Youth Activity Committee, and translated by A. Shimizu, an associate of the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)*

---

### **(Continued from Page 1): A shameful fact of the past Imperial Japan**

So those already in Osaka, chipped in to inaugurate their own shipping company. Theirs was a fare affordable for migrant Koreans. But the Japanese company reduced the fares until the Korean workers' company was forced into bankruptcy. The competition having been won, the Japanese company jumped its fares back to the horrendous level.

This was the known business practice of the cutting to kill. The railroad baron Harriman did this to force out rival transcontinental railroads in the United States. You might condone it as regular business tactics in the capitalist free economy. But once this practice had taken place in the traditional Chinese cultural world of Imperial benevolence, and when it happened in the expanded empire of modern Japan, it appeared to me inexcusably hypocritical.

Although I merely read a novel written by a man of Korean ancestry, I was ashamed and choked with muddy sediment seeping into my conscience as a Japanese living in the post-colonial world of today. (Sept. 28, 2010)

The 14<sup>th</sup> MUA Salon  
“My Naturally Dyed 2,000 Works”

Date: July 7, 2010

Place: MUA Secretariat Office



Our speaker for this salon was Ms. O. Ebara, a new member of MUI. She was born and raised in the Shikine Island in Metropolis of Tokyo. She now lives in Inagi-shi, and goes back and forth between her home and the the Shikine Idland. As, in her childhood, she helped people doing the work of dyeing fishing nets for Ise Ebi (lobster) with “barks of the ternstroemia gymnanthera” in the Shikine Island, she has acquired the art of dyeing.

She started simple “Kusa-zome (plant dyeing)” triggered by the thought of trying to dye 100 articles utilizing the traditional technique toward “100th anniversary of the inhabitation in the Shikine Island.

She herself calls it “natural dyeing” because she dyes articles to natural colors using natural grasses, trees, flowers, and plants of the sea, and fruits and roots of the plants grown in fields, without using dyeing agencies

“I boil anything such as grasses, trees, fruits, and flowers nearby, and dye merely with the solution made out of those boiled down. Anybody can do it. The residuals of the materials consumed are sent to the Shikine Island and returned to the soil. They become fertilizers that prevent the plants from worms and diseases.

I feel again the power of the nature,” said Ms. Ebara.

“Today people who’ve become aware of my dyeing work bring me variety of plants and I can get materials more than I expect. As the dyed works have been made thanks to the good will of those people, I can’t part with any of the works and keep them with me. They now amount to 2000 or even 3000 items.”

She brought and showed us the real indigos, turmeric, grass lithospermi radix, fruits of gardenia, purple potatoes, and madders that can be used as the materials for the dyeing. She also presented a number of works such as a dyed obi sash, bags, Japanese sandals, belts, children’s dresses, and pocket handkerchiefs. Colors of all these works were so natural, light and soft that I could hardly describe.

Ms. Ebara said “Finished colors of dyed goods vary by the materials, amount, temperature and season. Everything I learned in the island is useful now. I always go to exhibitions on the dyeing whenever they take place.” “I am challenging at present to plant and grow sugar canes so as to use the sugar as a dyeing agency.” she also said. Ms. Ebara looked brightened and lively as she talked about the plant dyeing.

*(Written by S. Naruse, Chairperson of the Member Committee, and translated by A. Shimizu, an associate of the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)*

---

**(Continued from Page 16): MUA’s Co-action Activities in 2010**

Your warm heart will surely help children in Mindanao find their bright future. Any donation is always welcome.

Postal Transfer Account: 00190-4-73732, “Minato UNESCO Association (Co-action)”

*(Written by the Co-action Committee and translated by T. Mizuno, Secretary-General)*

## MUA's Co-action Activities in 2010

MUA decided to support "Mindanao Children's Library" (MCL) this fiscal year 2010. MCL is a project launched in Mindanao by Mr. Tomo Matsui, Juvenile Literature Specialist, and legally authorized by Philippine government, focusing on the following activities.

- Activities through library to help local children grow up,
- Activities for deprived children such as medical projects, a scholarship, shelters for homeless children, aid to orphanages etc.

In October 2005, we had the pleasure of having a cross-cultural awareness workshop titled "Medical and Library Projects in Terrorism- and War-torn Mindanao" by Mr. Matsui. It seemed to have cheered up every audience. Some of the MUA members have been personally supporting his project since then.



Mindanao is a big island located in the south of the Philippines and is lagging behind economically. Fertile and rich areas are largely owned by American capital in the form of large farms. Poor day workers employed by the farmers, mountain people and Islamic who were driven out to the areas with worse living circumstances account for more than a half of the inhabitants in Mindanao. It is the place where guerilla forces and government troops are still fighting each other, resulting in the situation that 70% of children cannot attend school and, what is worse, a birth record does not exist for many children.

(To be continued on Page 15)

---

### Coming MUA Events at a Glance

<u>Date &amp; Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Program</u>
1/16(Sun) 12:00~	Shinjuku "Neboke"	MUA New Year Lunch (MUA members only)
1/18(Tue) 18:30~21:00	Azabu Civic Center	MUA International Symposium
2/26(Sat) 12:00~15:30	Libra (Tamachi)	World Cooking Workshop (Korea)
3/4(Fri) 18:30~20:30	Baloon (Shimbashi)	Cross-cultural Awareness Workshop (Bulgaria)

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

- The Minato-ku Tennis Association which donated ¥80,000 for MUA's Peace Fund on July 30, 2010.
- Participants in the Cross-cultural Awareness Workshop on Pakistan, held on August 5, 2010, who contributed a total of ¥7,700 for MUA's co-action activity for Mindanao Children's Library.

### Following schools visited MUA:

- May 13: Akasaka Junior High School in Okayama Prefecture (6 students)
- May 19: Fukurohara Junior High School in Sendai City (4 students)
- June 8 & 11: Mita High School in Minato City (30 students accompanied by their teachers, Ms.Fujimura and Mr. Sakai)

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, Fax: (03) 3434-2233, E-mail: [minato-unesco@nifty.com](mailto:minato-unesco@nifty.com)

URL:<http://minato-unesco.jp/>