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## Looking back on my 25-year involvement in UNESCO activities

Norio Nakagawa, Vice President, Minato UNESCO Association

I never expected to be requested by Mr. Mizuno, Secretary-General of MUA, to prepare a front-page essay for this issue of MUA's bulletin. I know it would be quite a challenge to me but somehow I responded yes automatically.

As our readers know well, the front page essays of the MUA bulletin have been contributed for many years by Dr. Kimitada Miwa, former MUA president, in an elegant and crisp style. In those essays he discussed political issues of both topical or historical importance, as well as cultural subjects from the viewpoint of an internationally trained scholar.



Sometimes, the subjects were too academic for me to fully understand, due to the lack of basic knowledge on my part. Still his scholastic opinions and knowledge were intellectually stimulating and awakening for me, and provided a good opportunity to deepen my understanding and perception of different subjects in diverse areas. Indeed, his essays were like treasures to be shared by each and every MUA member. Taking this opportunity, I'd like to extend my renewed respect to Dr. Miwa for years of his essay contributions up until his retirement as President Emeritus last year.

I joined MUA in 1986, thanks to the introduction by a senior member of the Junior Chamber International Tokyo where I had been actively engaged. In those days MUA's secretariat office was housed in a former classroom of Atago Junior High School which had by then terminated its school functions and was expected to be torn down. The old building was almost deserted and at night it produced an unpopulated, dark image around it.

Once I joined MUA, I was immediately assigned to be a standing director, responsible for New Year's Party and intra-networking activities. Frankly speaking, however, I could not come up to MUA's expectation due to time restraint as I was still very actively involved in the activities of the Junior Chamber International Tokyo.

In 1988 I had to abruptly quit my job at a real estate company, in order to succeed our family business. My father passed away immediately thereafter. This caused me to be fully tied up with inheritance and business succession procedures. In addition, the bursting of the Japanese bubble economy emerged two years later and it made me even busier. I regret to say this but I was unable to fulfill even half of what I was expected to do for MUA as standing director for almost a decade.

We will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MUA's foundation on October 17 this year. Since toward the end of last year, various commemorative events have been planned under the leadership of the Commemorative Project Committee. Ms. Takai, our new

(To be continued on Page 10)

**The Present Situation and the Future of Africa  
- The Perspective of a Journalist -**

Date & Time: November 17, 2010 (6:30 – 8:30pm)

Place: Minato City Lifelong Learning Center (Room 305)

We had the pleasure of having Mr. Jinichi Matsumoto, a former columnist, of the editorial board, The Asahi Shimbun, as the speaker for this workshop.

Profile of Mr. Jinichi Matsumoto is as follows:

Former columnist of the editorial board, The Asahi Shimbun. Upon graduating from the Faculty of Law, The University of Tokyo, he joined the Asahi Shimbun Newspaper. He assumed positions of Nairobi Office Chief. Middle East and Africa General Bureau Chief Columnist in 1993 onwards. He has won “Vaughn-Ueda International Journalist Prize” for reporting Middle East peace in 1994, “Japan Essayist Club Award” in 1998, “Award of Japan Newspaper Publishers & Editors Association” in 2002, and “Japan National Press Club Award” in 2007. He has written, “Africa Report”(2008), “Kalashnikov”(2008), “Eat Africa, Sleep in Africa”(2008), “Jews and Palestinians”(1995), etc.



Africa drew increasing attention from all over the world this year, when the World Cup was held in South African Republic. A lot of request to know better about Africa which is located in a distant world and, therefore, is least familiar, was expressed to MUA. In order to respond to such requests, we asked Mr. Matsumoto to deliver a lecture on the present situation and the future of Africa. A big audience made it a very enthusiastic lecture meeting in spite of a miserable weather.

**1. There is something strange about Africa**

There are 48 nations in the south of Sahara. All of them are suffered from the same illness. They were supposed to take another challenging step forward the hopeful future with their abundant natural resources after winning independence from the colonial occupation by the western states back in the 1960's, only a half century ago.

However, the end of the Cold War only revealed the reality of Africa where corrupt leaders ripped off the nations' property that started the collapse of the nations. Even now in many nations, people are sacrificed by corrupt government officers and getting much poorer than ever that triggered the escalation of killings among them.

Let's take a look at such situation in Zimbabwe and Republic of Sierra Leone.

**A. Zimbabwe (former Rhodesia)**

Zimbabwe is an inland nation of southern Africa with 13 million inhabitants. It won independence in 1980. When a new government was established there, it was celebrated by the world as the most blessed independence in Africa. Both huge farms run by whites and small ones by blacks enjoyed high productivity backed by almost perfect agricultural foundations. Agricultural production more than filled the demand, and the surplus production was exported to neighboring nations which generated one third of foreign currency revenue. The nation also had large scale industrial cities as well as quality labors, abundant mineral resources, established mining facilities, highly qualified railway operation techniques, and ample motorways. It used to be a wealthy nation with \$2.5 billion of foreign currency revenue.

But now agricultural production does not fill even half of the demand, thereby spread the poverty in

the nation. Inflation rate exceeded 160,000% in February 2008. It is said that 3 million of working population, which is equivalent to one fourth of the entire population, escaped to the neighboring nations seeking employment. The nation is collapsing.

Why this happened? The current President Mugabe used to be a leader in the struggle for independence gradually corrupted after 10 years of independence. It was reported in newspapers that he was bribed \$3 million from French corporation in the construction of a new international airport. This report triggered a coup d'etat. He unilaterally decided, without consulting the assembly, to grant the pension to 70,000 ex-guerrillas who were influential over the Military. It amounted to a lump-sum payment of \$5,000, and monthly payment of \$500 per head. It was a financial expenditure without budgetary appropriation, and resulted in the financial collapse of the nation.

He got married to a young woman for second time, who was an extravagant person. He built a luxurious house in Hong Kong as well as bought a diamond mine in Congo just to sweeten up his young wife. During the civil strife in Congo, he dispatched two divisions of Zimbabwe Military to protect the diamond mine he bought, thereby spent a huge amount of nation budget. Such silly policies shook up the nation and ended up in deteriorating economic conditions.

President Mugabe, in an effort to alienate the public disaffectedness, let ex-guerrillas occupy farms run by whites. However, they did not have any know-how required for the operation of huge farms. Huge farms were devastated, productivity damaged, and lost foreign currency revenue. A very horrifying inflation started thereafter.

Aside those who can barter, the salary earners were put into serious financial trouble. They escaped to such neighboring nations as South African Republic or Zambia, while wealthy people like medical doctors or pharmacists moved to London. Those salary earners as school teachers who could not escape were forced to live wretched lives.

#### B. Republic of Sierra Leone

A republic nation located in the west of western Africa facing the Atlantic Ocean. It was colonized by the United Kingdom in 1808 and attained independence in 1961. The United Kingdom brought the freed slaves in the land originally inhabited by aboriginal people, and let them establish a nation there. While freed slaves had an opportunity to experience civilization, those aboriginal people did not. This difference immediately created a circumstance wherein some blacks dominated other blacks.

Diamond mines were discovered in the 1960's. The President and his family dominated the revenue generated around diamonds in the amount of over \$2 billion a year and left the construction of infrastructure required of a nation untouched. Anti-governmental movement arose against such situation. However, the aim of the anti-governmental rebels was also the controlling power over the diamonds. Construction of roads, electricity and sewage disposal was all neglected. Under the continuous civil wars, farmers could not plant any seeds. The poor repeated the burglary in a port town. Even if they had diamonds, they did not utilize their property for nation-building at all.

Anti-government rebels were disliked by people, and ran short of soldiers. Thus, they caught children in front of school and made them soldiers.

Liberia, located just south of Sierra Leone, was a nation established by freed slaves sent by the United States. The President of Liberia bootlegged arms to guerrillas of Sierra Leone and had them acquire diamonds by illicit means. As a result, there appeared a strange phenomenon where Liberia, which does not produce diamonds at all, became an exporter of diamonds.

Above are two examples of nations that collapsed. I can show you more of such examples as Republic of Equatorial Guinea which has over \$10 billion of GNP while the most of the wealth is dominated by the leader, and the people suffer from the poverty. Corrupt around arms business by a small number of people in a Cabinet post in Congo as well as the deteriorating condition of public safety in Nigeria are also examples of collapse of nations. Nearly 20 nations in Africa are collapsed or collapsing.

## **2. Why nations collapsed? What are nations?**

Under the Cold War structure, both the Soviet Union and the United States supported nations in Africa respectively that fell under each bloc. This structure covered up the ineptness of the Presidents of those nations. The reason why a man named Mobutu maintained his rotten presidency in Congo (the former Zaire) was simply because the United States supported him. Zimbabwe was supported by the Soviet Union. Thus, those nations that are hardly recognized as states have been around due to supports extended by the United States and the Soviet Union.

Once the structure of the Cold-War has disappeared and the supports by the United Nations and the Soviet Union were gone, however, those nations began collapsing and people could not live in there.

Most of 48 nations located in the south of Sahara are contiguous on the same continent. During the colonial period, the national boundaries were drawn based on the dynamics among the colonial powers regardless of the geography, natural ambience and the ethnic groups. Tribal communities are what the people living in the area traditionally lean on and what they regard as the basis of their sense of belonging. It was disregarded totally, though. This ended up with the birth of many multiethnic nations that cannot be brought together as single nations.

Let's take Sudan, as an example. The United Kingdom pulled Arab land and black land together when it decolonized Sudan. Arabians were the ruling elite resided in the northern part of the nation. Oil gushed from the southern part where blacks lived. All the wealth from the oil was taken up by the Arabians. As the result, there is not an airport built, not a road surfaced, all the functions as living area come to a stop once it rains in southern part. Chinese workers mine oil there.

There occurred a mass human slaughter of more than one million people in Rwanda because of the clan-based rivalry that lingered since 1994.

There are many clans and languages of more than 300 in Congo. Belgium decolonized Congo as the Democratic Republic of the Congo. People living in the area quite distant from the capital are not interested in where their capital is located, nor who their President is.

As you see, many of the nations in Africa are losing significance as being independent states. Not only public safety being endangered, but the salaries of such civil servants as soldiers, policemen and school teachers are not delivered on time. As the result, the middle class people, educated medical doctors and lawyers who are all needed as the core of a nation fled from their own nations. It is truly the collapse of a nation.

We can see various kinds of animals as well as beautiful scenery of Africa on TV. However, we all need to be well aware of how African people lead their everyday lives.

## **3. Japan is not immune to the collapse of nations in Africa**

About 200 foreigners' bars in Kabuki-cho in Shinjuku are run by Nigerians. Because they could not make a living in their home country, they first made exodus from their country to London in UK, its former colonial power. But, the population of Nigerians in London was so dense as to reach a point of saturation. Following UK, South Africa became the target of their exodus, but situation there was similar to that in UK and it has led Japan to be their new destination.

At first, they engage in the work to attract customers in Roppongi and then open foreigners' bars in Shinjuku saving money. People from countries including Ghana and Sudan have come to Japan as well. Most of Africans conducting risky businesses are college graduates.

Since they are unable to make a living due to the collapse of the home lands, they thus come to Japan to work away from home. It is, therefore, meaningless to control their operations. The collapse of African nations are directly affecting to our lives by such factors as worsened security in Kabukicho.

During the Meiji Restoration period in Japan, there appeared leaders with a view of forming a nation. They thought intently about what to do to prevent Japan from getting colonized by foreign

countries. To this end, they devoted considerable efforts to modernize the society by improving armaments, economy and education. They built schools nationwide in the year Meiji 12. Although the education will only bear fruits in far future, we can remark that it was a great thing to have made an investment on the education.

After the World War II, Japan was restored because Japan was then a society worth challenging. People worked hard because the nation guaranteed “the state worth challenging” that allowed people to feed their family if they worked 8 hours a day and to go to hot spring resorts if they worked hard. Thus the nation has been formed. On the contrary, that doesn’t exist in most of African countries today. However, we can’t tell African nations “Change their way.” nor “That’s wrong.”

We can’t interfere in the “nations” that lag in the establishment of its foundation as a nation. Nevertheless, though we can’t get involved in the nations or the governments, we can do instead in the civic communities.

In fact, there are NGO organizations and private companies from Japan that are undertaking efforts to motivate the people in African countries to challenge. To name but a few of such Japanese people and companies teaching the essence of working and contributing to development of the locals;

1. Japanese company that trained appropriately 5000 laborers to deal with the electricity demand of a local aluminum refining company in Mozambique.
2. President Sato of “Kenya Nuts” who’s been successful in manufacturing and sale of macadamia nuts chocolates in Nairobi, Kenya.
3. President Kashiwada who has succeeded in starting and operating Phoenix, Inc, an apparel maker, in Uganda.
4. Mr. Nanao, a member of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), who promoted activities to foster motivations of the local people during the training of the technology for farming oysters in Senegal. He established a business for tourists, built a fishermen’s union and provided for refrigerator trucks. He nurtured the union until it became capable of earning a profit and that made local people to get to tackle with the fishery earnestly. The fishery union continues to be functioning after the JOCV left.
5. Other than those, there came out a new movement that local people try to change their lives by their own efforts without depending on government by forming a NGO to make child’s clothes. They pay payrolls of teachers out of the profits earned. We can support such activities.

#### 4. Questions & Answers

Q. I hear that there are only 1000 or fewer Japanese while there are one million Chinese in Africa? Is it the fact?

A. Number of Chinese living in Africa was 10,000 in 1980. But, today, it is said that it is 800,000 or even one million. They stay in Africa to engage in the projects managed by the Chinese government or to conduct businesses on personal basis.

Such individuals purchase cheap products in large volume from China and sell locally. Nowadays, markets of cheap apparels, groceries and shoes, and the low and middle class products thereof are totally controlled by Chinese. For that reason, most of local small businesses were expelled.



People in Zimbabwe growing vegetable with NGO



Chinese companies even provide directly leaders of the government with vested interests such as houses and cars. As the relation between Japan and Africa is based on ODA, Japan is unable to compete with China in the corrupt business.

It is a fact that China is eagerly advancing into Africa, so it is likely that the entire economy of Africa would be controlled by China in 10 years.

All this is because 200 million people are jobless in China, hence they go to Africa and anywhere. However, I think that, in the long run, the way of China wouldn't do good.

Q. What do you think of the activity of UNICEF? Are they functioning in the support of the children in hunger?

A. UNICEF owns many staff familiar with the local conditions and they are doing good jobs. For instance, they are building schools. Villages are built around schools and good communities are being formed centered around the schools.

Q. Were the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers compelled to withdraw by the worsened security?

A. It is fact that the security of African countries have been worsening. I myself was robbed 12 times during my 4 year stay in Nairobi. Many correspondents stationed in South Africa have the experiences of being robbed. They say Kyodo News Service determined to withdraw from South Africa. It can't be helped under this circumstance as they need to often go on business trips leaving their families home. Members of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers withdrew from Zimbabwe. In Lagos trading companies are mainly withdrawing.

We regret that the pictures brought by Mr. Matsumoto could not be projected due to the failures in the instruments, but we are pleased that he gave us, using easy words, precious and suggestive observations on the present status of Africa and the reason that has brought about such status, what is nation? And, from where and how should they be going about their problems?



*(Written by S. Yamada, the Cross-cultural Awareness Committee, and M. Takai, MUA president, and translated by Y. Suda, Chairman, and A. Shimizu, Associate, of the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)*

## The World Cooking Workshop Christmas Dinner in Argentina

Date: Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Place: Minato City Gender-free Center

A charming couple of third-generation Japanese-Argentine was invited to this workshop as our instructors, namely Mrs. Aurora Nanakusaki and Mr. Adrian Shiroma.



For starters, Mr. Shiroma, a Spanish-language teacher, spoke about their home country, including their family's history. His grandfather was an Okinawan and his wife's grandfather came from Fukushima prefecture located to the north of Tokyo. Both of them moved to Argentina by sea, leaving Yokohama 40 years ago, respectively. Twenty years later, their grandchildren, Aurora and Adrian, came to Japan to work, and their paths crossed after a while, resulting in the creation of a nice couple.

Mr. Shiroma explained about the characteristic of Argentine culture. For example, people are quite lenient about time. He also cited various interesting experiences. Argentina is far from Japan because it's located on the opposite side of the earth. When it is 00:30 midnight in Buenos Aires, it is 12:30p.m. in Tokyo. Season-wise when it's summer in Argentina, it is winter in Japan. When he started to live in Japan, he could not understand why people work so hard. Eight years later, when he visited Argentina, he felt rather irritated about people's behavior.

Mr. Shiroma introduced his wife as a professional cook. Indeed he said that he was looking forward to tasting the day's menu which would offer a restaurant quality rather than for home. Mrs. Nanakusaki is regularly teaching at a South American cooking class. For this MUA workshop, she prepared a menu which includes "tomato bowl with tuna and potato" for appetizer, "heart of palm, dry-cured ham and pineapple" for salad, "roast pork stuffed with prunes" for main dish, and "strawberry jelly mousse with cream" for dessert.

Mrs. Nanakusaki kept this workshop rolling smoothly by giving adequate explanations whenever necessary even though she is a calm and graceful person. The cooked dishes were gorgeous and delicious. The appetizer, the salad and the dessert, with their colors and taste, were all so suitable for Argentine Christmas in summer. Finally, all participants joined a toast with cider, saying "Feliz Navidad" which means Merry Christmas in Spanish.



Mr. Shiroma was totally impressed with the way all the steps in the workshop progressed so punctually. He said, "You folks have worked like machines from preparation, cooking to final cleaning." By his candid comment we renewed our awareness of cultural difference. I wish that I'll be able to visit Argentina someday and eat Argentine beef which Mr. Shiroma endorses is more delicious than Yonezawa beef.

*(Written and translated by Y. Kanazawa, the World Cooking Workshop Committee)*

## 2011 MUA New Year's Party

Date: Sunday, January 16, 2011

Place: "Neboke" restaurant in Shinjuku

This year's kick-off party was held at a Japanese restaurant called "Neboke," which is located on the 50<sup>th</sup> floor of a high-rise building in Shinjuku. It was fantastic to see a panoramic view of the metropolitan area. A total of 34 MUA members attended this annual event, to enrich friendship and enjoy traditional "Tosa" dishes the restaurant offers.



Ms. Takai, President, gave an opening speech. She focused on the fact that MUA, established in October 1981, would observe its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. In the past MUA has promoted a wide variety of programs at the forefront of the times, addressing the local needs of Minato City which boasts international resources. She concluded her speech, asking for further dedication and cooperation from MUA members so that the commemorative anniversary programs would be successfully planned and implemented.

After Mr. Matsumoto, Vice President, proposed a toast, it was time to enjoy conversation and tasty "Tosa" food. During the following one hour or so, each member stood up in turn and gave a brief self-introduction. Toward the end of the party, we enjoyed a lottery game as usual. All the floor applauded when Ms. Haraguchi, the eldest of the attendees, hit the jackpot.

Time flies so fast when you are engaged in a happy gathering. Mr. Nakagawa, another Vice President, gave a wrap-up remark and proposed that everyone join a traditional Japanese "Ippon-jime" closing. Although it was a cold winter day once you step out of the building, my heart was filled with thankfulness for everyone's cooperation and a feeling of rewardedness as a member of the planning team.



*(Written by F. Iguchi, Vice Chairperson, the Membership Committee, and translated by S. Tanahashi, Vice President, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)*



## **Soccer players and Coach Zaccheroni who brought back the Asian Cup blew off the gloom of Japan's second war defeat**

Dr. Kimitada Miwa, President Emeritus of MUA

What a dark society! Prime Minister Kan calls it the third open-door, with the first one being at the end of Tokugawa shogunate followed by the defeat in World War II and now, rigid free trade in the modern world. A popular French anthropologist, Emmanuel Todd, is sounding an alarm, saying that free trade leads causes a collapse of democracy. Not a few intellectuals in this country are in support of this assertion. If countries trade with products they specialize in, it will be beneficial to both sides. Workers' wages will go up and people on both sides can enjoy a mutually prosperous economy.



However, the situation today is drastically changing. The economic development of the so-called BRICs nations, with the exception of Russia perhaps, has deprived the people of industrialized nations of their jobs. It does not mean, of course, that everybody in those countries has become poor. On the contrary, the gap between haves and have-nots is widening. They say that this is the situation that can destroy democracy.

Thus the image of the third open-door of our country is rather dark. What they really felt under the current circumstances was almost the second defeat. But then, there came the breaking news of a victory from Doha that "Samurai Blue won back the Asian Cup." What a strong emotion we got! Dark clouds flew away and the flag of the rising sun was flapping in the blue sky. It was just as inspiring as the news we heard soon after the end of the last world war. At the U.S. Swimming Championships held in Los Angeles, Japanese swimmers, Furuhashi and his colleague Hashizume, won the race renewing world records. The news really bolstered up the Japanese people who were downhearted from the defeat in the war. Marveled at the great achievement, Americans called the Japanese swimmers "The Flying Fish of Fujiyama."

Watching the soccer game against the Australian team, we trembled witnessing a beautiful shoot by Lee Tadanari and a superb play by goal-keeper Eiji Kawashima. After the victorious game, national team players said that Coach Alberto Zaccheroni praised Japanese players' solidarity and unrelenting spirit of offence. The players appreciated the coach's mindful remarks as well as his excellent command of the game. An ideal combination of organization, solidarity and leadership.

I wonder if politicians who run this country have learned something out of this.

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

The World Cooking Workshop  
**Kimchi & Traditional Korean Dishes**

Date: Saturday, February 26, 2011  
Place: Minato City Gender-free Center

We were so lucky to have Ms. Ryou Hyunmi (right in the photo) and Ms. Kim Yooheui as instructors in our World Cooking Workshop this time. Ms. Ryou is a member of MUA and also of the World Cooking Workshop Committee. She has lived in Japan for almost 20 years and speaks Japanese fluently. Ms. Kim is her nephew and is now studying in Japan as a graduate student. The day's menu included Kimchi, Possamu, Pajeon, GaeranJim and Sujunggwa. Before the workshop started, it was difficult for us to imagine what they were. But Ms. Ryou taught us kindly how to cook each of these dishes perfectly. Details of each menu item were as follows:



**Kimchi:** It is a famous Korean dish. It has been known since the Era of Three-Kingdoms (4~7C.) or even earlier. In those days hot red peppers were not used in Kimchi. These came from Japan during the Hideyoshi Toyotomi's reign. Indeed it was not until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century that Kimchi started to include hot red peppers. Therefore Kimchi we eat today is historically speaking rather new. It was a great discovery for us attendees to know the history of Kimchi. There are a great variety of Kimchi, in terms of ingredients, regions and seasons. Since Ms. Ryou comes from Jeolla-do (Lower southwest region), we had Jeolla-do's traditional Kimchi which uses more fish sauce.

**Possamu:** It is boiled pork with Chinese cabbage and other vegetables with Kimchi sauce. During the winter season, people in Korea are busy making Kimchi ready for the season. Possamu is an essential item for their meal.

**Pajeon:** It is a kind of pancake. Lots of Chinese chives are used, along with sea food mix. Addition of a little bit of green pepper makes it hot and delicious.

**GaeranJim:** It is a Korean egg pudding with fish stock. It's easy to fix the dish. Just heat it in a microwave oven and then it'll be ready and yummy..

**Sujunggwa:** It is traditional Korean tea. But I'd like to describe it as persimmon punch. We put cinnamon and ginger in a pot and boiled it. Then we put some dried persimmon and pine nuts. It was so sweet without adding any sugar.



We had a wonderful time cooking and tasting an authentic Korean cuisine. We are now aware of the history of Kimchi and how to make it. All participants brought their own Kimchi home to ferment. We all thanked Ms. Ryou and Ms. Kim for their kindness and patience. And our special thanks go to Ms. Ryou's mom for sending us hot red peppers from Korea.

*(Written and translated by K. Matsuzaki, the World Cooking Workshop Committee)*

**(Continued from Page 1): Looking back on my 25-year involvement in UNESCO**

president, is a founding member of MUA and has experienced and fully understood all activities undertaken by MUA. That's why she has a strong motivation to promote the milestone event. I sincerely hope that, with the support of all MUA members and related organization/personnel, we can successfully carry out the commemorative project.

I'd like to conclude my essay by sharing with you some excerpts from a book titled "Shinkon ni hibiku kotoba" or words which appeal to your mind and soul. The book was written by late Mr. Shinzo Mori whom I have always looked up to. Mr. Mori is regarded by some as the greatest figure in the field of education in Japan throughout pre-war and post-war years. He always placed importance on practice, and established his own system of thought, called "Zen-itsu gaku," based solely on truths obtained from practice. After retirement, he spent over half of his time, visiting different places throughout Japan to give lectures. He also authored innumerable books. I think he demonstrated a successful model of a true educator.

I'm especially fond of the following maxims from the book because I think they can encourage and motivate people:

- \* Happiness is not something you seek but something you'll be given. Heaven presents happiness to those who have fulfilled their responsibilities.
- \* You will certainly meet those you should meet during the course of your lifetime. The encounters will be never too early or too late.
- \* Suppose a single letter or a single word can console or encourage others, could there be any other act that's more rewarding?
- \* Human worries arise from comparing yourself with others.
- \* Be sure to keep the promised date even if your job is only 80% perfect. Make it your principle for getting along in society.
- \* A single day is a miniature of your life time. Once you become aware and feel solemn about it, you have touched a part of truth in human life.
- \* Truth can be imparted only through shared mental inspiration. It cannot be accomplished unless those who teach do not possess inspired minds about truth.

Mr. Mori is best known for his lecture records about ethics. They are a collection of his ethics lectures delivered at Tennoji Shihan School in pre-war years. Twenty years have passed since this collection was initially published but it still continues to be reprinted as a bestseller. It is said that there are many leaders in education as well as business and sports circles who enthusiastically read this collection.

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

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## **Donations**

Our whole-hearted thanks go to the following donors:

- Mr. Shimizu, Vice President, who offered a beer certificate, equivalent to ¥4,480, on the occasion of MUA New Year Party (2011/1/16).
- Participants in the MUA International Symposium, held on January 18, 2011, who contributed a total of ¥22,400, to support the Mindanao Children's Library (MCL), through MUA's co-action activity.
- Ms. Erica Wang Shunyu, who contributed ¥15,000 on February 22, 2011 for MCL,
- Ms. Kawashima, Ms. Takai and Mr. Tomogane of MUA, who contributed ¥10,000, ¥5,000 and ¥2,000, respectively, for MCL.
- Several MUA members and non-members offered support materials for MCL. These were shipped from Japan in February and were received at MCL in March.
- Mita High School donated a total of 543 misaddressed postcards on February 18, 2011, to support the UNESCO World Terakoya Movement.

## UNESCO launches Global Partnership for Girls and Women's Education



© UNESCO/Ania Freindorf - United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova.

(May 26, 2011) World political and corporate leaders today launched a major new Global Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education during a High-Level Forum held at UNESCO Headquarters. UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova welcomed the participants to the Forum which aimed to galvanize support from the private and public sectors to make quality education available for girls and women everywhere.

Globally, some 39 million girls of lower secondary age are currently not enrolled in either primary or secondary education, while two thirds of the world's 796 million illiterate adults are women. Only about one third of countries have achieved gender parity at secondary level.

"There are no immovable barriers to gender equality and education for all," Irina Bokova said. "Young girls and women are changing the world, we must support them. We must give them the tools they need to shape the world as they wish."

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon struck a personal note in his opening remarks, as he recalled his childhood as a displaced person at the close of World War II when his mother, like other women enjoyed little help bringing children into the world.

Observing the similar needs of women in Africa today, the Secretary-General stressed his conviction that "investing in girls and women must lie at the heart of the global development agenda. Education sends a message of confidence and hope, it tells children 'you have a future, what you think matters'. But although education is a right, it is not a reality for all too many girls," said Mr Ban. (excerpted)

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### Coming MUA Events at a Glance

<u>Date &amp; Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Program</u>
7/6(Wed) 18:00~	Baloon #101	"Mongolian Evening" with students from Mongolian Junior High School
7/9(Sat) 13:30~	Baloon#203	"Let's try Yukata" Workshop for Youth and Foreigners
7/20(Wed) 18:30~	Baloon*	MUA Salon (MUA member only)
7/30(Sat) 12:00~	Libra* 4F	World Cooking Workshop "Okinawa"
9/3(Sat) PM	Akasaka Civic Center	MUA Special Event "Japanese Culture and World Heritage" (Lecture & Video Presentation etc.)
9/17(Sat) 9:30~	National Bunraku Theater	Japanese-Culture-Introduction Workshop "Bunraku"
10/2(Sun) all day	To be decided	One-day Bus Tour (Details to be decided)

Note: "Baloon" is Lifelong Learning Center, and "Libra" is Minato City Gender-free Center.

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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