



# 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. 127: June 30, 2012

## A Voice

Fujiko Hara, President, Diplomatt Inc.  
Managing Director, Ozaki Yukio Foundation  
Director, Minato UNESCO Association

It is difficult not to think of the mothers with small children in Fukushima. I am all the more frustrated knowing that there is so little I can do to help them. We say 'children are our treasures' and that 'their needs must be met.' However, we do very little to protect them, the bearers of our future. When the governor of Fukushima, where the nuclear reactor accidents took place, asked the prime minister in person to provide children under 18 years of age free medical services to protect them from the adverse effects of radiation exposure, the governor did not get his wish. The prefecture decided to cover the expenses the government refused to pay.



What are we teaching children we call the bearers of our future? Certainly, we want them to carry on with their lives, learn useful skills and be positive members of our society. It must be asked if it is not more important to teach by example, not to tell lies, not to put cost and economic performance above people's lives, and that above all we must live by certain moral values. I am afraid what we have done is to create a nuclear power safety commission whose members, tied to the interests of the nuclear and electric power industries, are more committed to securing their economic interests rather than the safety of the citizens. Are we not guilty of failing to prepare ourselves for the worst scenarios? This has resulted in serious accidents that threaten our lives and livelihood, polluting not just our hometowns and our country with radiation but the world's air and ocean.

No one takes responsibility for this gross failure. This applies to the previous regime that created the system and sat on it over decades, as well as to the present government that appears at a loss to cope with the tragic reality whose effects reach far beyond our shores. Even amidst this tragedy politicians are too involved in shameful power play.

What is the government there for? First and foremost it exists to protect the lives and property of citizens. Herbert Spencer (1820 - 1903), a British philosopher, was clear that governments exist to implement the law that all people have an equal right to happiness. And that the rights of citizens are above governments, just as purpose outweighs means.

(To be continued on Page 6)

## The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Event of MUA “Around the World with Songs and Dances”

Date: Saturday, November 19, 2011

Place: Minato City Takanawa Kumin Center

As a highlight event to celebrate MUA's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, our extensive discussions and ideas crystallized into a Minato City-like stage show where resident representatives from different countries demonstrated songs and dances of their home countries.

Fortunately we could get full cooperation from Tokyo International School, International Secondary School, and Temple University Japan Campus. Most of the people who performed on the stage were amateurs and they have made tireless preparations and exercises for this event. It was rewarded by wonderful performance on the day.

Professional performers impressed us with a high level of stage skills. We are truly thankful for their participation as volunteers.

Rain started to fall in torrents from the morning of the 19th, when stage performers started their rehearsals. Fortunately, however, all seats in the hall were occupied before the start of the anniversary show.

President Takai of MUA gave an opening speech:

“Thank you everyone for coming to this event despite the bad weather. Minato UNESCO was established in October 1981 as a Minato City-based volunteer organization. So we mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this fall. Today there are over 20,000 foreign residents from 120 countries in Minato City, accounting for over 9% of the total city population. This city is truly international.



President Takai

During our extensive discussions on how to produce the most appropriate 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative event, we hit upon an idea to hold a stage show where people from different countries can sing, dance or play the musical instruments to demonstrate their homeland culture. Those who will perform on the stage today, range from elementary pupils to university students, from a 7-year old child to a 77-year old senior. The countries they represent are from Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, and Central & South America. Without their generous volunteerism and cooperation, it would not have been possible to hold today's event. We at MUA would like to extend our whole-hearted appreciation to them all. We hope that all the attendees will enjoy a live presentation of “Around the World with Songs and Dances.”

Next, Vice President Shimizu, Steering Committee chairman, gave a welcome speech:

“We'd like to extend our hearty thanks to you all for coming to see MUA's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative event today. There is a saying that goes “Music is an internationally compatible language.” How true! Each country has a wonderful music heritage rooted in its own culture. Despite language barriers, music enables a heart to heart communication while also expressing the national



Mr. Shimizu

characteristics. Let us reiterate our thanks to all stage performers, the Minato Education Board which supports this event, the Tokyo UNESCO Liaison Office, and all behind-the-scene staff. Let's enjoy the stage show."

### A Summary of Stage Show Program

#### 1. International Secondary School (ISS)

Eight performers from Light Music Club, Cheerleading Club and Dance Club:

- ① Cheerleading: Cheer-mix
- ② Dance: Lip Gloss
- ③ Band: Funky Monks
- ④ Band: Medley



Profile: ISS is a Minato City-based co-ed junior & senior high school and is a very small institution, accommodating a total of 40 students at seven different grades. The school focuses on international education tailor-made for each individual. It's almost like a big family where students enjoy their campus life in an at-home atmosphere. Our stage performers, from different countries and age groups, will demonstrate their youth and power.



#### 2. Tokyo International School (TIS)

Chorus by 30 students at age 7 – 12.

Conductor: Miguel Arambulo

Piano: Tsutomu Mokkoi

- ① Banuwa (African folk song)
- ② The Colors of Winter
- ③ Stars
- ④ Wakati Wa Amani (Time of Peace)



Profile: This co-ed school accommodates a total of 321 students from over 40 different countries, who believe in different religions. Today our group will sing songs from different countries. A message from Conductor Arambulo: "Music unites people. Nationality does not matter. Music can integrate all of our hearts into one and help us to know that we are not that different after all."

#### 3. Bag pipe performance by Father and Son Duo

Mr. Seiichiro Otsuka: Former Ambassador to Sweden and Essayist

Mr. Seisuke Otsuka: Senior Student, Faculty of Law, at Chuo University

- ① Scotland the Brave (Gallantly march. Unofficial national anthem)
- ② Highland Cathedral
- ③ Amazing Grace

Profile: It's very rare to see a Father & Son duo to play the bag pipe in Japan. Ambassador Otsuka was enchanted by the bag pipe sound when he first heard it in the Edinburgh Castle in Scotland 20 years ago. He immediately found an instructor and started to take



lessons in playing the bag pipe. His son took up playing the instrument at age 8 and has been hooked up on the sound ever since. While being the Consul General in New York, Ambassador Otsuka joined the Tokyo Bag Pipe Band and marched along Fifth Avenue on St. Patrick's Day. They won the best band award.

#### 4. Temple University Japan Campus

Multi-dance Club: Tink-Up-Jewels  
(5 members)

Shuden Boys (5 members)

Music tune: Fly away mix



Profile: Our Multi-dance Club has been active for the past 18 months. Because our school is a branch in Japan of an American university, our members vary in nationality and cultural background. The club's name was given in the hope that different cultures be mixed through dancing.



#### 5. Bulgarian Folk Songs and the Performance of Gadulka, a traditional musical instrument

Singer: Katerina Markova (Doctoral degree candidate student)

Gadulka player and singer: Yordan Markov

- ① Sednalo e Djore Dos: Folk song about a boy who is knitting a stocking for the girl he loves.
- ② Tracian Dance Music: A quick tempo dance music performed by gadulka. The tune has been cherished throughout Bulgaria.
- ③ Medley of regional folk songs in Pirin: Romantic folk tales from Bulgaria and Macedonia.



Profile: Mr. Markov is a professional musician. By coincidence the two performers came from the same region in Bulgaria. The country has a history of over 1,300 years, with abundant ethnic culture. The Bulgarian folk culture, collectively called the Bulgarian Voice, has been well known throughout the world. Valya Balkanska sang a Bulgarian folk song called "Izlelo e delyo haidutin" and it became well known. When unmanned surveillance spaceships, Voyager I & II, were launched, they carried CD's introducing different cultures on earth, including this popular Bulgarian song. Incidentally, not many Japanese are aware of the fact that the said CD's also included the tunes of a traditional Japanese musical instrument, "Shakuhachi," played by Goro Yamamoto.

#### 6. Traditional Korean Dance

Presented by: Chun myoung sun Traditional Korean Dance Research Institute,  
Cultural Project Promotion Committee, Kanagawa head office of the  
Korean Residents Union in Japan

Commentator: Chun myoung sun

Dancers: Sonobe Kazuko, Sung in sook, Lee sook ja, Chun wan ju, and Saito Mitsuyo

- ① Hwa goan mu (Dance of celebration in the palace)
- ② Tae pyoung mu (Palace dance with exquisite footsteps)
- ③ Pan go (Finale dance)

Profile: Our institute is based in Kanagawa Prefecture and provides opportunities for Japanese people, across all ages, to learn the charm of the traditional Korean dances and culture. For this purpose, we have actively participated in various international events



and contributed to the promotion of cross-cultural understanding and exchange between our two countries. Please enjoy our traditional dances.

## 7. Songs and dances from Latin American countries (presented by Café y Libros)

### A. Songs from Colombia and Bolivia

Singer: Ms. Rosa Cardenas (Embassy staff)

Singer & guitar player: Mr. Carlos Ceverich

- ① Colombia Tierra Querida
- ② Besame Morenita
- ③ Amigo



### B. Tango's of Argentina

Dancers: Martin Choren and Yuki Kimura

- ① Tango Milogueando
- ② Tango Milonga

Profile: There are over 20 countries where people speak Spanish and nurture local culture. Since Columbus discovered the American Continent 500 years ago, the blending of blood among Europeans, indigenous people and Africans has developed and produced abundant mixed culture. We can feel such developments in literature, music and arts.



In Session A, Rosa Cardenas, an Embassy staff, sings a Colombian song while a professional musician, Carlos Ceverich from Bolivia, plays the string instrument. In Session B, a professional dancer duo, Martin Choren and Yuki Kimura, demonstrate dynamic and graceful tango's of Argentina.

## 8. "Hakumon" male glee club (25 members)

Conductor: Kenji Fujisawa

Piano: Naoko Ohba

Accordion: Gunji Shimizu

- ① Aka tombo
- ② Kokoni sachiari
- ③ Narayama
- ④ Kawano nagarenoyouni
- ⑤ Hakoneno Yama
- ⑥ Seitara Bushi



Profile: This club was organized in 1960 by OB's of Chuo University Glee Club. This past May 2011, the club held its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative concert. In the past the club has sung actively in foreign countries as well, including China, Korea and the U. S. (Hawaii). While home-based in Tokyo, the "eternally youthful" singers have sung extensively in Niigata Prefecture and elsewhere. The club members requested the audience to join a sing along of a popular song called "Furusato." The hall was filled with happy voices and shared enthusiasm.



Mr. Shimizu

The most entertaining stage show finally came to an end. Mr. Kensuke Kikuchi, MUA auditor, gave a closing remark: "Before we became aware, already two hours and 30 minutes have passed. We have been totally enchanted by the wonderful stage performance of the "Around the World with Songs and Dances." I sincerely hope that all of you enjoyed it. The Minato UNESCO Association has maintained its activities for 30 years, thanks to the generous understanding and cooperation offered from our friends and related organizations. Needless to say, such activities have been promoted by the concerted tireless efforts made by individual members under the banner of MUA.



Mr. Kikuchi

Thirty years ago we planted a UNESCO seed in a field called Minato City. The seed has grown and produced a beautiful big flower today."

*(Written by M. Takai, President of MUA, and translated by S. Tanahashi, VP, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)*

---

(Continued from Page 1): **A Voice by Fujiko Hara**

To save their children from the danger of radiation, many mothers have reluctantly chosen to leave their husbands, fathers of their children, and their homes in polluted areas. Brave mothers say what they fear most is the cold and critical reception they will receive from those who remained if and when they can return. A deep wedge is being driven within communities most affected by the accident.

Let me share with courageous mothers dedicated to protecting their children these lines from a poem by Teruyo Takeuchi (1904 -2001) that Empress Michiko translated and read in English poetry circles in 1982 and 2001:

On the cheeks  
Of your innocent newly born,  
Mothers  
Do not drop tears  
Of your own despair

## The 2012 New Year Friendship Lunch

Date: Sunday, January 15, 2012  
Place: Italian Restaurant “GRIFOne”  
In Shiroganedai, Minato City

A total of 32 MUA members joined the annual kick-off event this year. It started at noon with a photo taking of the attendee group.

President Takai gave an opening address: “The fiscal year 2011 marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MUA’s foundation. That’s why we have been engaged in so many activities. Everyone must have been very busy. Thanks to your dedicated cooperation, each program was accomplished successfully. From April 1 MUA will enter the 31<sup>st</sup> year. I sincerely hope that we will join our hands and strive further to achieve MUA’s future goals.”

Vice President Matsumoto undertook the role of proposing toast, saying, “I expect all of you to come up with your own opinions, cooperate with other members and cherish the belonging feeling toward MUA.” While serving themselves to the sumptuous buffet lunch, our members broke into several groups and started happy conversation.

Toward the end of the gathering, we enjoyed BINGO. Each time a new number was called out, we heard joyful voices and disappointed sighs. A total of 12 members hit the Jack Pot and received gifts. Vice President Nakagawa gave a closing remark: “Thanks to your cooperation, major commemorative programs during the anniversary year have been completed successfully. We plan to wrap it up with the publication of an anniversary book in March. Let’s take a new step into the next milestone from April, with a refreshed mind.”

*(Written by S. Naruse, Chairperson of the Membership Committee, and translated by S. Tanahashi, VP, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)*



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Cross-Cultural Awareness Workshop in 2011  
**Brazil is hot now!! Looking into the power of Brazil  
that expands its presence in the world**

Date: January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Place: Minato City Lifelong Learning Center

We had the pleasure of having Mr. Shigeki Tsutsui, a former President of ITOCHU Brazil Corp., and Vice President of Japan-Brazil Agricultural Development Co. (CAMPO) as our lecturer for this workshop. Mr. Tsutsui worked in Brazil for a total of 28 years which is equivalent to two thirds of his 47-year business career. Four years ago he stepped down as a board member of CAMPO, where he worked during the last 10 years of his business career, and returned to Japan. He still serves as a member of the advisory committee of CAMPO, and pays a visit to Brazil twice every year.



1. Brazil at a glance

1) Land area:

850 million hectare, approx. 23 times larger than Japan. The land available for agriculture and cattle breeding is 50 times larger than that of Japan. The land holds 20% of fresh water on earth.

2) Population

190 million which is equal to the number of cows bred in the country. Approx. 190 million cows are bred on the grass farm with the size of 220 million hectares. It means there is 0.86 cow for one hectare. Brazil does not suffer from mad cow disease as all cows are let free in the pasture and they are not under stress at all. There does not exist any avian influenza either as there comes no migrant birds flying over the jungle of Amazon.

3) Basic facts about Brazil

Capital: Brasilia, transferred from Rio de Janeiro in 1960.

Language: Portuguese

National Structure: Federal Republic (Upper Chamber: 82, Lower Chamber: 513)

Currency: Real (US\$1 equals 1.5 – 1.8 Reals)

4) President

Ms. Dilma Rousseff. She took the office in January 2011 as the first female president.

5) GDP

2.1 trillion U.S. dollars in 2010 which ranks No. 7 in the world, surpassing Italy. In 2011 Brazil seems to have surpassed the U.K. and ranked No. 6. It is equivalent to 40% of the GDP of Japan. National income per capita is 11 thousand U.S. dollars which is over twice bigger than China's.

2. Strengths and Challenges

The power of Brazil is now recognized by the world. It attracts rising international attention as a resource power that grows most steadily among BRICs. This is because Brazil surpasses the other three emerging countries in the four factors described below:

1) Stability in Politics

Democracy is firmly fixed and the rule for power change is firmly established. Brazilians do not have any ethnic problem or religious antagonism in or around

the country. There is no contortion in Brazil's social system like a politically privileged class or a hierarchical system that could shake up the social stability. However, there exists a gap between the rich and the poor.

Brazil is the only country that does not have atomic bombs among BRICS. There exists no fear of terrorism. The land is flat and fertile. Climate is moderate and is suited for agriculture. Change of power is done in a very transparent way. As a matter of fact, there was no chaos associated with the change of president in 2011. No investors of the world had any uneasiness at all.

## 2) The Biggest Resource Power

Brazil has almost all kinds of natural resources without any disproportionate weight and most of them are available for export. There are not many countries which can boast that the export of most of their natural resources is ranked No.1 in the world.

Agricultural products:

The volume of production of sugar, coffee, orange juice, soybean, soybean meal, beef, broiler, tobacco and bio-ethanol is the largest in the world.

Mineral Resources:

Brazil produces over 80 kinds of mineral resources. Especially, the production of ironstone is the largest in the world.

Oil reserves:

Brazil started the export of oil 2006. In the same year, an oil field under salt layer of Tupi was discovered 5 – 7 kilometers below the continental shelf in the offshore of Santos. The size of the oil reserve is estimated as 50 billion barrels at the smallest. By adding up the existing reserve of 13 billion barrels, the total reserve reaches over 60 billion barrels which is ranked at 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> largest in the world.

Oil Production:

Brazil exceeds 2 million barrels per day now. It should reach 4 – 6 million barrels per day in 2016 which shall be ranked as 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> largest oil production in the world. Natural gas is self-sufficient.

Bio-ethanol:

It is made of sugar cane in Brazil whereas it is of corn in the U.S. Therefore, it does not have an adverse effect over the world supply of food. The cost of production is low while the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction effect is high. Thus, you can say that Brazil shall be the only successful country once the age of bio-ethanol comes.

Bioethanol Vehicle:

Brazil is advanced in the field of bioethanol vehicle. 90% of cars became 100% bioethanol vehicle in 1985. As there was no flexible-fuel vehicle at that time, however, the use of bioethanol vehicle stopped due to the drop of oil price and the rise of the sugar price. Thanks to the development of dual-fuel technology that enables any combination ratio of oil and ethanol, most cars became flexible-fuel vehicle by now.

## 3) Strength in the Private-Sector Economy Fundamentals

After conquering hyper-inflation, the level of prices in Brazil stabilized on a

par with the level of advanced countries. It turned from a hugely indebted country to a creditor country in terms of external assets. By improving the twin deficits in its budget and trade, Brazil established a healthy economic foundation which will not be affected by changes in overseas situations.

- 4) The Only Country That Improved Income Disparity in Economic Development  
Two policies, implemented under the administration of the ex-president Lula, that focused on the bottom of society worked successfully. One is livelihood allowance given in return for providing children with compulsory education. The other is the rise in the lowest wages over the inflation rate. In 2010 the middle class exceeded 50% of the population for the first time in its history.

There remain many challenges. Indirect tax in excess of 70% is one of them. Complicated and heavy taxes are the big cost of Brazil. In spite of hard work by the Lula administration, all the tax reform plans were turned down by the Diet. Although the Lula administration attained some progress in the improvement of inequality in the pension program between private and public sectors, there is still a long way to go.

With the World Cup and the Olympic Games coming soon, the pressing challenge for Brazil is how to improve the deteriorating public security. It has improved little by little in combination with the narrowing gap between rich and poor amidst the economic development. The Koban system, introduced in 2008 with the assistance from JICA, produced a certain effect.

### 3. Relation between Japan and Brazil

It is said that Brazil is the most pro-Japan country. The reasons for this could be summarized as follows:

- 1) The two countries are located geopolitically distant and, therefore, no antagonism has arisen historically, involving their national interest such as territorial issues.
- 2) Diligent and honest Japanese immigrants have established a trustful relationship deep in grassroots. They celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of immigration from Japan in 2008. There is an expression in Brazil that goes, "Japones Garantido," which means Japanese are reliable.
- 3) Japan cooperated in the following natural resource projects, with its power that enabled the miraculous restoration from the postwar deterioration:  
Japan-Brazil Agricultural Development Project in Cerrado that originates in Usiminas Iron Mill, Amazon Aluminum, Celulose Nipo-Brasileira S.A., Companhia Siderurgica de Tubarao, and Carajas Mine development. People of Brazil appreciate the cooperation extended by Japan as it eventually enabled Brazil to become a resource power.

Among others, Japan-Brazil Agricultural Development Project in Cerrado started the developmental work from Cerrado in 1975. It was a vast dead soil 5 times bigger than the land of Japan. Mr. Tsutsui worked for the company until 4 years ago, The amount of soya bean production at that time was only 300 thousand tons. However, it increased to 40.48 million tons, accounting for 16% of the world production or 60% of the entire production in Brazil. Brazil was an importer country until 1978 but it grew to be the biggest exporter of soya bean. The establishment of Brazil depends largely on the success of Japan-Brazil Agricultural Development Project in Cerrado. Brazil is one of the few countries in the world that could cope with the steep rise in the demand of

food along with the development of emerging economies.

The export of soya bean to China boosted ten times bigger in the last 10 years because China continues its economic growth at over 10% every year (1.78 million tons in 2000, 19.06 million in 2010 and 23.7 million in 2011). The export of soya bean by Brazil to the world expanded to 25.86 million tons in 2009, 29.07 million in 2010 and 39 million in 2011. The proportion of its export to China was 61% in 2009, 66% in 2010 and 61% in 2011. On the other hand, the proportion of import by China of soya bean from Brazil reached 45% of its total import. It would not be any exaggeration to say that Brazil helps China to avoid a food crisis.

What made this export to China possible was the efforts made by Japan-Brazil Agricultural Development Project in Cerrado but it could be further traced back to the efforts by Japanese immigrants. This is why people in Brazil appreciate the great cooperation extended by Japan in the resource development of their country.

The economic relationship between Japan and Brazil is revitalized, conquering the lost 20 years of bilateral relationship. I can raise three examples which represent the brisk exchange of economy between the two countries.

- 1) Thanks to the successful adoption of Japanese-standard digital TV system, which was the first in the world, Japan and Brazil succeeded in the sale of the digital TV system to South American countries. All the South America countries adopted Japanese-standard digital TV system.
- 2) Brazil plans to construct a high-speed railway transit system between Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo by the opening of the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. President Rousseff highly expects that Japanese Shinkansen participates in the project. If Japanese Shinkansen were adopted, it wouldn't be a dream that all of the South American countries adopt Japanese Shinkansen just like they did for digital TV.
- 3) There emerges the initial scheme of both Japan and Brazil to cultivate savannah for agriculture in order to save people in Africa who suffer from the shortage of food. Such efforts will be promoted by utilizing the experience and technology developed by Japan-Brazil Agricultural Development Project in Cerrado which accomplished the great contribution to the enhancement of food production as well as the food security. A memorandum of understanding was signed by the governments of Japan, Brazil and Mozambique for the realization of this scheme. If it were realized, we would have another good example of cooperation between Japan and Brazil.

Direct investment by Japan in Brazil's private sector is recovering its momentum. It reached 2.5 billion dollars in 2010 and 7.4 billion dollars in 2011. The balance of Japanese direct investment in Brazil at the end of 2011 should become the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> largest in the world.

Political relationship between Japan and Brazil is also quite good, centering on the efforts of Diet members caucus. Both countries work with coalition to become members of Veto Power within the UN Security Council. Brazil now plays an important role of coordinating interests among advanced and emerging countries in G20. If Japan wants to maintain its presence in the world in response to the rise of China, it would be definitely necessary to maintain and strengthen a good relationship with Brazil, a very pro-Japan country.

#### 4. Brazil is hot

At the end of my speech, I would like to talk about how hot Brazil is. It is the theme of today's lecture. I visited Brazil twice last year. Because Brazil will host the World Cup in 2014 and the Olympics in 2016, both in Rio de Janeiro, the country's presence in the world has been expanding. Together with the good condition of economy, the entire country is filled with hope and excitement.

A new president was elected on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Mr. Lula, the ex-president, served eight years in the office of president, which is the full term of presidency as designated by the constitution. He maintained as high as 80% of approval rate at the end of the term without falling into a lame duck status. This is simply because people in Brazil gave him a high mark as his administration was based on his charisma as well as strong leadership. For the first time in the history of Brazil, he shed light on the bottom of society, thereby narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor. He heightened Brazil's position from the leader of South America to the leader of the world's emerging countries.

He is also famous for being pro-Japanese. He was treated very kindly at a laundry run by a Japanese immigrant family where he worked as an apprentice during his childhood. Apprentices at that time were often treated below slaves. He still feels grateful for this Japanese family. He expressed his delight when his daughter was married to a Japanese descent, in such a way as only the pro-Japanese person would do; he welcomed Japanese blood merged into his family.

The incumbent president Rousseff is also interested in Japanese culture. She visited Japan in 2008, as a representative from Brazil, on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of Japanese immigration to Brazil. That's when she got on a Shinkansen train between Tokyo and Kyoto and left an anecdote that she was so impressed by the superb quality of Shinkansen that she could not leave the car for a while.

She was also very much moved by the beautiful colors of autumn leaves as well as the profoundness of Japanese culture during her stay in Kyoto. It is said that she seized every opportunity to talk about the glory of Japan when she returned home. Thus, there is no other country but Brazil that is so pro-Japan, from the president all the way down to ordinary people. This must be a very precious "hidden asset" for Japan. Mr. Tsutsui is confident that Japan and Brazil will further develop a multi-layered cooperative relationship in the years to come, making the best use of this "hidden asset."

We all enjoyed the lecture on the vigorous development of Brazil, with a half-envious feeling. Among others, the passion Mr. Tsutsui has had for Brazil came across to our hearts. I would like to visit Brazil someday though it is located far on the opposite side of the earth.

*(Written by Cross-cultural Awareness Committee, and translated by Y. Suda, the Bulletin, PR & Internet Committee)*



## Cooking Workshop of Finnish Christmas Dishes

Date: Saturday, December 10, 2011

Place: Minato Gender Equal Center (Libra)

For this workshop, we had the pleasure of having Ms. Sirkku Sakane as our instructor. She is also an interpreter, translator and teacher of the Finnish language. She speaks beautiful Japanese because she spent her young days in Oita Prefecture from age three to thirteen.

The workshop started with an introduction of Finland. It has a population of just above 5.3 million in a land which is nearly the same size of Japan, excluding Shikoku region. It gained independence from Russia on December 6, 1917 and became a republic. Women in Finland were enfranchised earlier than their counterpart in any other European nations. Jobs and housework are shared equally by men and women.



The staple food in Finland is potato, and rye bread is most popular among different bread. Dried fruits and nuts are often used. Family members stay together from the 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of December and enjoy Christmas cuisine. They continue to eat such dishes until the end of the Christmas season.

The day's menu included the following five dishes:

**JOULUKINKKU:** Christmas pork

**ROSOLLI:** Salad of beets and vegetables

**PERUNAMUUSI:** Finnish mashed potatoes

**JOULUTORTTU:** Christmas pie

**JOULUGLÓGI:** Spicy hot Christmas drink

At her own "taste" choice, Sirkku-san bought and added rye bread and ginger cookies.

Recipes of each dish were as follows:

### JOULUKINKKU: Christmas pork

Boil pork in salty water and put it in a refrigerator. After two days, wrap it in foil and bake it in an oven. Eat it sliced and with mustard. It tasted good and refreshing.

### ROSOLLI: Salad of beets and vegetables

Dice and boil potatoes (May Queen) and carrots. Add diced apples and minced onions. Also dice boiled beets and cucumber pickles. Mix them all together. Put a dressing of fresh cream, broth of beets, white vinegar, and little sugar before you eat it. A combination of sour-seasoned vegetables, mixed with pickles and topped with rich dressing, tasted delicious.

### PERUNAMUUSI: Finnish mashed potatoes

Use "Danshaku-Imo" potatoes. Add some milk, fresh cream, butter, salt and pepper for seasoning. Although it's a familiar taste, the potatoes were especially good.

### JOULUTORTTU: Christmas pie

Use commercially available pie-sheet. Place boiled prune at the center of the pie-sheet,

## Bicycles, More Bicycles and Rickshaws

Kimitada Miwa, MUA president emeritus

We had a heavy snowfall in Tokyo recently. I personally welcomed it because we had a long continuation of fine weather, resulting in a spell of dried-up days.

On the terrace of our house, there are four pots of ume trees. The original tree was purchased, perhaps over 20 years ago, at the Yushima-Tenjin shrine. If these trees were human, they should have experienced a coming-of-age ceremony but I noticed it's too late now.



I remember we bought the tree during our ume-viewing at the shrine when our second daughter was still single. Today she is a proud mother to celebrate the coming-of-age ceremony for her first daughter. To meet the need of this grand-daughter, my wife took out kimono materials, handed down from her mother, and selected appropriate ones with the help of our third daughter. On the very day of the coming-of-age ceremony, all three daughters of our first daughter's wore kimono. Our hearts were filled with happiness.

This season the ume trees produced red blooms even before the arrival of a new year. I was a bit concerned what they would do when a full-fledged spring comes. Spring without any bloom on the ume trees in the pots would be tasteless. It may be due to the unusually warm winter. When we were about to see the small buds start to slowly show reddish color, we were hit by a heavy snowfall. It produced a beautiful winter scene.

My wife warned me not to go out, to avoid the risk of slip & fall, and asked me to stay put at home. Who do you think I am, I retorted. I spent my boyhood in Nagano where snow-covered and ice-bound streets were a part of ordinary life in winter. Thus I left my wife and started to walk over to my office in Takanawa. The surface of the street seemed to be already icy so I took a firm foothold, step by step, to avoid any slip

I said hello to the people who were sweeping snow in front of their residence. A tall, middle-aged man among them smiled back to me, with a look of a naughty boy. Snow-sweeping was already finished in front of individual stores along the street toward the Shiroganedai subway station. People in the U. S. and Canada also do manual snow-sweeping but more typically communities mobilize special cars which sprinkle salt, not water, along the streets to accelerate snow-melting. Tokyo metropolitan or Minato City administrations should not make an excuse for their slow action against the snow, citing unpredictability about the heavy snowfall.

I expected that snow-sweeping must have been finished much earlier in front of the subway station than anywhere else. To my disappointment, the reverse was the case with Exit 2 of the Shiroganedai station. It wasn't so difficult to walk near the Sengakuji exit. When I walked over to the BMW store, I noticed that the management had finished snow-sweeping but it was only with the area where cars enter or exit, leaving the remaining areas totally snow-covered.

To the best of my memory, the snowy weather continued for three days but the snowfall was not seamless but sporadic. Because I expected that snow-sweeping must be over along the main street, I decided to walk over to my Takanawa office. When I came to the Toyopet store, located next to the Miyako Hotel, I was really embarrassed

with what I saw. A stamped, very thin walkway was developed along the store front but the large volume of piled up snow was left untouched on the pedestrian road. Again, what the management did was to sweep snow only at the area where cars enter or exit. On the following day I saw with a big sigh the piled up snow already frozen. I've been aware that the car industry in Japan has been on the decline but, alas, even the mentality of people engaged in that industry seems to suffer from moral hazard.

In Asakusa we can see rickshaws which carry tourists. Once I talked with a middle-aged rickshaw carrier who used to be a "freeter." He said he likes the job because it serves two purposes simultaneously – health management and part-time income. An increasing number of people ride bicycles today for physical exercise and health maintenance purposes. However the popularity of bicycles has brought about traffic accidents. Bicycle riders barely ring warning bells or turn on lights in the dark. They carry umbrellas as they ride a bicycle on rainy days or pass you by on the pedestrian zone with a child or a pet in the rear seat of their bicycles.

When you walk over the street crossing, you should keep watching out other pedestrians. Otherwise you may be bumped into by those who don't look ahead because their eyes are fixed on cellular phones. It seems as if there were non-urban beings walking around in large cities.

"Iyashi," or healing, has been the buzz word in recent years in our society. The latest addition is "Kizuna," or human bondage. These words symbolize what's lacking in our society today. In Japan the culture of modesty must have existed in the past but it seems as if it were an illusion. I miss modest Japanese culture. (January 28, 2012)

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

---

(Continued from Page 13): **Cooking Workshop of Finnish Christmas Dishes**

fold the sheet into a cross shape, and bake it in an oven. Pie-sheet, processed with butter, is recommendable. It is easy to cook and tasty.

#### JOULUGLÓGI: Spicy hot Christmas drink

It's a hot red-wine and berry juice drink, seasoned with cinnamon, clove, cardamom, ginger, raisin and sliced almond. It is a so-called mulled wine or Glühweinm. It tastes so palatable that you would feel like drinking more.

The day's Christmas dishes were all easy to cook, tasted good, and looked attractive. You would welcome it when you get bored with Osechi-ryori (Japanese new-year dishes). Hot wine is best during the cold season.

All attendees were impressed with Sirkku-san's fluent and crisp Japanese while also enjoying a menu of early Christmas dishes. I'd like to extend my hearty gratitude for Sirkku-san and all attendees.

*(Written by K. Matsuzaki, the World Cooking Workshop Committee, and translated by H. Yoshihara, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)*

## Visit to the Embassy of India

Date: January 24, 2012  
Place: Kudan-Minami,  
Chiyoda-ward, Tokyo

Minato UNESCO Association has held an annual program called “Embassy Visit” since its first visit to the Canadian Embassy in January 2002. This program has been highly recognized to be helpful for international understanding.

This year MUA’s Embassy Visit program took place at the Embassy of India. India is a country with a history of over five thousand years and a population of 1.2 billion. The embassy is a grand building renovated three years ago. It is located in a beautiful environment, facing Chidorigafuchi (a part of the moat around the Imperial Palace).

It was a cold winter day with piled up snow, seen here and there, from the previous day’s snowfall. The scene was totally opposite to the “hot” nation image of India. But such coldness of the weather was flown away when we were welcomed by smiles and warm hospitality of friendly embassy staff.

The grand modern building is equipped with most up-to-date facilities while construction materials, imported from India, are used extensively.



The first sight we noticed after entering the building is a picture of Buddha in the famous Ajanta Stone Caves and a statue of Ganesha, the Hindu god. From the mere fact that a picture and a statue of different religions were displayed together, I felt a kind of generosity or complexity of the Indian mentality. Indeed I felt as if I were visiting a part of the Indian continent.

We were told that, on the third floor, there is a library where many books in English or local languages are accommodated and offered open to the public. To our unexpected and most pleasant surprise, we were given the chance to experience Yoga and play “tabla,” a traditional musical instrument. An instructor of India’s “culture and tradition” was invited for us and gave a wonderful demonstration. We could also perform by ourselves the traditional exercise and musical instrument.

I still remember the words of the instructor, emphasizing how important Yoga is to improve the health of human beings. That must be true because Yoga has been maintained for five thousand years and spread all over the world. I also enjoyed the sound and rhythm of tabla, which were created when tapped with palms and fingers. I felt my mind was consoled and became light-hearted.

In a spacious audio-visual room, we were entertained with video presentations of marvelous Indian natural landscapes and cultural heritages for about 30 minutes. We were told that India has 21 cultural heritages and 5 natural heritages certified as UNESCO World Heritages. If Japan is a country of “wood and paper” culture, I presume that India is a country of “stone” culture. In my mind I compared the Horyu-ji temple in Nara with the Ajanta Stone Caves or the stone temple in Ellora, and became convinced of such contrast.

Mr. Sanjay Panda, Deputy Chief of Mission, was very generous and came to greet us though he must have been very busy. During his welcome speech, Mr. Panda emphasized the importance as well as the potential of bilateral relations between India and Japan for the future of our two countries.

The embassy visit ended with our hearts filled with heartfelt appreciation for the thoughtful messages and memorable hospitality offered by the embassy staff. Before we left the embassy, we received many information materials about India. I believe it is not only me in our group who felt that India, which used to look like a far away country, is suddenly a very close neighbor after the visit. I strongly hope that more participants would join our “Embassy Visit” program next year.

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

---

(Continued from Page 18): **From the UNESCO Press Release**

A total of 20 cultural sites were inscribed during the session:

Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy (Bahrain); Major Mining Sites of Wallonia (Belgium);  
Rio de Janeiro, Carioca Landscapes between the Mountain and the Sea (Brazil);  
The Landscape of Grand-Pré (Canada);  
Site of Xanadu (China);  
Historic Town Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire);  
Nord-Pas de Calais Mining Basin (France);  
Margravian Opera House Bayreuth (Germany);  
Cultural Landscape of Bali Province: the Subak System as a Manifestation of the Tri Hita Karana Philosophy (Indonesia);  
Masjed-e Jāmé of Isfahan (Islamic Republic of Iran),  
Gonbad-e Qābus (Islamic Republic of Iran);  
Sites of Human Evolution at Mount Carmel : The Nahal Me'arot/Wadi el-Mughara Caves (Israel);  
Archaeological Heritage of the Lenggong Valley (Malaysia);  
Rabat, Modern Capital and Historic City: a Shared Heritage (Morocco);  
Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (Palestine);  
Garrison Border Town of Elvas and its Fortifications (Portugal);  
Bassari Country: Bassari, Fula and Bedik Cultural Landscapes (Senegal);  
Heritage of Mercury Almadén and Idrija (Slovenia/Spain);  
Decorated Farmhouses of Hälsingland (Sweden);  
Neolithic Site of Çatalhöyük (Turkey).

Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (Palestine) was inscribed on UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger, as it was added to the List of World Heritage. Two of Mali's World Heritage sites, Timbuktu and the Tomb of Askia, were also added to the List of World Heritage in Danger, as were Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City (UK) and the Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama).

Two conservation success stories were recognized by the World Heritage Committee allowing for them to be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger: Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) and the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines).

## Twenty-six new sites inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List this year



© Raul Ladeira & Domingos Bucho/Municipality of Elvas - Castle. General view

**The World Heritage Committee on Monday morning inscribed Lena Pillars Nature Park of the Russian Federation, the last site to be added to UNESCO's World Heritage List during this year's session. Chad, Congo, Palau and Palestine had World Heritage sites inscribed on the List for the first time.**

Lena Pillars Nature Park is marked by spectacular rock pillars that reach a height of approximately 100 metres along the banks of the Lena River in the central part of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia). They were produced by the region's extreme continental climate with an annual temperature range of almost 100 degrees Centigrade (from -60°C in winter to +40°C in summer). The pillars form rocky buttresses isolated from each other by deep and steep gullies developed by frost shattering directed along intervening joints. Penetration of water from the surface has facilitated cryogenic processes (freeze-thaw action), which have widened gullies between pillars leading to their isolation. Fluvial processes are also critical to the pillars. The site also contains a wealth of Cambrian fossil remains of numerous species, some of them unique.

A total of five natural World Heritage Sites were inscribed during the present session of the World Heritage Committee: Lakes of Ounianga (Chad); Sangha Trinational (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo,); Chengjiang Fossil Site (China); Western Ghats (India); Lena Pillars Nature Park (Russian Federation).

Rock Islands Southern Lagoon (Palau) was inscribed as a mixed natural and cultural site.  
(Continued on Page 17)

---

Minato UNESCO Association is a citizens' voluntary membership organization that promotes Japanese traditional culture, holds cross-cultural workshops and presents multicultural events and international symposia for world peace. For any questions or comments about our articles, please contact our secretariat office at:

Tel: 03-3434-2300, Tel & Fax: 03-3434-2233, E-mail: [minato-unesco@nifty.com](mailto:minato-unesco@nifty.com)

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