

For Dreams Come True

Ms. Takako Imamura, Vice President, MUA

It is my honor and pleasure to write this opening page, though with a strain on the nerves, and to think back my involvement with MUA. In the fast growing era of Japanese economy, I had no other choice than dedicating my daily life to working for my husband, a corporate warrior, and three sons. Spending several years in both living abroad and medical treatment for unexpected disease, I looked searching what my family life should be like.



The establishment of MUA in 1982 moved such a forward-looking woman as well as the youth and their parents who needed international mind and sociality most. An international symposium entitled how women seize the days in the international community of 80's which was held in the following year by MUA was an attractive pioneer-like event, and three panelists of Ms. Wakako Hironaka, commentator, Ms. Ann Murase, assistant professor of Sophia University, and Ms. Yan Minja, public relations attaché, UN High Commissioner for Refugees showed an epoch-making discussion. I remember I joined MUA by accepting at once a member's request and wanted to be reborn as a fresh woman by being blown with the international wind. I felt strongly I had to strengthen objective thinking, and nurture personality of self-determination.

MUA has continued to hold over three decades a variety of events for promoting international exchange and mutual understanding among countries, such as international symposiums, seminars, friendship parties for YFU students or students from the Philippines, and so forth. One of them is world cooking classes for which I am responsible, and Peruvian family dishes scheduled for this March is 100th one. Also Co-action activity and literacy education aid through National Federation UNESCO association in JAPAN have been performed throughout the year for a long period. I have been involved in various voluntary activities. My three year service in the MUA secretary office was an unforgettable experience.

The 30 year anniversary commemorative publication which our president edited described every event and I was easily overwhelmed by those weighty letters. I believe it is a pride and a treasure of MUA. One person cannot make it, but if we can collect power and wisdom of various kinds of people, despite of differences by gender, age, nationality, academic career, or profession, we can accomplish anything. I hope such a precious experience is handed over to the next generation.

I believe the spirit of the first sentence in the UNESCO Constitution, 'since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed' should spread among more people, and also better communication would be sure to overcome any conflicts, small or big. I hope we continue such activities to promote the world peace with such a pride as the Japanese resilient character which proved through the East Japan Big Earthquake.

(Translated by H. Shimada, the Secretary General of MUA)

The 2nd Cross-cultural Awareness Lecture for 2012
Japan's Diplomacy and Territorial issues

Dr. Kazuhiko Togo
Former Ambassador to the Netherlands and
Director, Institute for World Affairs, Kyoto Sangyo University

Date: September 28, 2012

Place: Minato Life-long Learning Center

We had the pleasure of having Ambassador Kazuhiko Togo, who is also a Director of our Association, as the speaker for this lecture. Please see a summary of his professional career shown below:

Born in Nagano Prefecture. Graduated from Tokyo University in 1968 and immediately joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Worked in Russia-related divisions and assumed key positions in International Treaties Division, Europe & Asia Division, followed by Ambassador's position in the Netherlands. Retired from MOFA in 2003. Taught at Leiden University, Princeton University, Seoul National University and other academic institutions. Received doctor's degree from Leiden University in 2009. Assumed the current position in 2010. Major publications: Hoppou Ryoudo Kousho Hiwa; Rekishi to Gaikou; Sengo Nihon ga Ushinatta Mono; Japan's Foreign Policy (co-author), etc.



When our committee was discussing the choice of a speaker and subject for this lecture back in May this year, no one expected that Japan would soon have such serious territorial issues as we face today. The year 2012 happens to be a year where we will see a whole change of leaders in Japan's neighbor countries, including China, Russia and Korea. We have been concerned about the future developments in Japan's bilateral or multilateral relations with those neighbors after the said changes of leaders took place.

This is why we decided to ask Ambassador Togo, an expert in territorial issues, to speak for us. He generously accepted our request, saying "Sixty seven years have passed since Japan's defeat in the last war. Japan is yet to settle any of the three territorial issues which have challenged Japan. Against the backdrop of this perception, I will address issues, including why Japan places such an obstinate attachment to territorial issues; how the current "diplomatic defeat" was brought about; what is the difference in the nature of the three territorial issues; and how we would ever be able to work out a solution."

None of us expected that we would soon see shocking images on TV, involving the territorial disputes over the Takeshima and Senkaku islands. These incidents renewed our awareness about the important and sensitive bi-lateral relations with our neighbor countries, involving territorial or border issues. These incidents also awakened us about the fact that we have been so ignorant or unaware of the historical issues and facts on such subjects.

The subject of this lecture unexpectedly turned out to be very timely. No wonder more than 60 people attended this lecture, reflecting the rising concern, shared by ordinary Japanese citizens, over the worsening Sino-Japan and Korea-Japan relations.

Before he started his lecture, Ambassador Togo handed out materials, including one titled "Three Territorial Issues facing Japan" and maps showing the disputed areas, which he had generously prepared for us. Because we were totally attracted by the ambassador's presentation, we did not realize that two hours had passed by.

The following is a summary of Ambassador Togo's lecture:

Today I will talk about Japan's territorial issues, in the order of Senkaku, Takeshima and northern islands. During the past several months, I think Japan has been challenged by territorial issues which involve utmost diplomatic difficulty, and which have put Japan into a totally new and adverse international environment.

In February 2012, I published a book titled "Nihon no Ryoudo Mondai" (or Japan's Territorial Issues) which was co-authored by Mr. Masayasu Hosaka, a non-fiction writer and critique. My perception of the serious nature of this issue motivated me to undertake this publication.

During my diplomatic career, I was involved in the northern territory issue for many years and exerted accumulated efforts to work out a solution. However, our diplomatic negotiations were a long series of "Try & Fail" and did not result in any meaningful step forward. I have had a personal perception that Japan started to have nationalist sentiments over Takeshima and Senkaku issues, because of the accumulated frustration over the deadlock in the northern territory negotiation. However, the aggravating trend has accelerated much faster than I had expected.

I joined MOFA in 1968 and spend a 34-year diplomat career until 2002. Initially I was engaged in the U.S.S.R and Russia-related assignments for 17 years, which account for exactly half of my entire diplomatic career. The focus in the assignments was on the pursuit of the conclusion of a peace treaty, namely the settlement of northern territorial issues. Now I'm into the tenth year since my departure from MOFA. Even today I cannot help following up on this issue, not as a government official but as a private person completely detached from the state.

During my career at MOFA, I have not been engaged directly in the Senkaku or Takeshima issues. However, I have worked for the International Treaty Section or worked as a secretary for the Minister of MOFA and also as Director of the International Treaty Bureau. During the periods of such positions, I came to understand the official governmental perceptions for each issue. So I have worked based on such official perceptions.

After retirement from MOFA, I have studied about Asian issues which I could not address sufficiently due to limited opportunities during my diplomatic career. I could thus have time to research in the Senkaku and Takeshima issues as well. My honest conclusion is that "Territorial issues are so tough to deal with." I recently came to have the following notion: the three territorial issues which face Japan are different in their historical background and nature. When those different factors get intertwined, it becomes so hard and complicated to identify the true cause or character of those issues.

Now, let us think what a territorial issue is all about. Major entities, which constitute the international society today, are nation states. A nation state has the right to exercise an exclusive sovereignty over its territory. Such sovereignty addresses not only its territory as a geographical concept but also its people as a human concept. Therefore, any nation state bears both rights and obligations for its territory and people. Territorial issues occur when a state comes into a conflict with another state during the process of either protecting or recovering its territory by exercising its sovereign right to fulfill its obligation as a state.

I think there are three dimensions to territorial issues:

Firstly, there is a "legal dimension" which should substantiate a claim for the territory. It will be natural for Japanese people to expect the other party to become aware of their unreasonable logic during the process of negotiations and thereby withdraw their claim. This is because we Japanese are confident of our legitimate position and of the other party's illegitimate claim. However, the other party is also thinking the same way. Therefore, it seems extremely unlikely that legitimacy under the rule of law would solve the problem.

Secondly, we have to consider a "political dimension." Should there be a solution to a territorial issue after everything was boiled down, it must be in the form of a political agreement through

negotiations by both parties. Up until the first half of the 20th century, the international society might have tolerated a solution by an exercise of military power. However, from the viewpoint of a tolerable solution for modern Japan, there won't be any other settlement than a mutually acceptable political agreement. Such an agreement would reflect the national interest of both parties while the division of the benefit from the settlement would reflect the balance of power among related nations.

Thirdly, a territorial issue would be accompanied by a "historical dimension" because such issues are closely connected with the history of each nation. A territorial issue cannot be simply dealt with by international laws alone. Nor would it be simply treated as an issue of benefit division in reflection of the balance of power. It is an issue closely linked with the history of related nations, thereby constituting a "historical dimension." Therefore, it won't be any exaggeration to say that a territorial issue could be a history issue. Should a territorial issue be connected with nationalism which has arisen from a historical issue, it becomes extremely difficult to sort out the tangled issue and work out ways to arrive at a solution, one way or another.

Let's look at the three territorial issues which currently face Japan, from the viewpoint of the aforementioned three dimensions. Then we become aware that the common denominator is difference, case by case. The difference would involve the significance to Japan of each issue, the track record of negotiations with related countries, the causes of success or failure in negotiations, or the desirable solutions we should pursue in each conflict. I think that what we should do regarding each territorial issue would become visible only after we could appropriately identify and distinguish the said differences.

It is desirable to promote diplomatic negotiations among related nations to work out a territorial issue solution without deploying military power. I have adhered to the following three principles which should substantiate any action:

1. The party, which wants to change the current status of the territory under effective control by the other party, should not deploy military power.
2. The party, which possesses the status of effective control over the territory, should at least respond to a request for negotiations from the other party.
3. Related parties should strive to establish mutual trust.

As you can see from the above summary, Ambassador Togo gave a detailed presentation on the history and current status of each of the Senkaku, Takeshima and northern island territorial issues. As he expressed in his talk, "Each of those territorial issues are currently in an extremely sensitive and difficult status." Therefore it was quite a challenge for us to prepare a summary of his lecture. If our readers are interested in knowing further details of his lecture, we recommend that you read related books authored by Ambassador Togo.

All attendees listened ardently to Ambassador Togo's lecture. Dr. Hiroshi Nagano, a Director of MUA, wrapped up the workshop saying, "We were excited to know many behind-the-scene stories. It was truly a precious opportunity for us to get a glimpse of such sensitive stories. What we learned today would make a good sounding board when we come across similar issues in the future."

After MUA held this lecture, it seems the territorial issues have worsened and regrettably the distrust among related parties was further aggravated. We only hope that a peaceful settlement could be worked out by all means.

(Written by Y. Miyashita and M. Takai, the International Science & Cross-cultural Awareness Committee, and translated by S. Tanahashi, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

Cooking Scottish Christmas Dishes

Date: Saturday, November 27, 2012

Place: Minato Gender Equality Center (Libra)

We had the pleasure of having Mr. Charles Bentley, a member of St. Andrews Association, as the instructor for this workshop. Ms. Kimiko Makino of the same Association assisted him as interpreter. Mr. Bentley appeared in tartan kilt and looked a little bit like Santa Claus.

The program was started with the introduction of Scottish dishes. Originally, people in Scotland obtained most food materials from local mountains and sea, but in the 9th century the Viking brought a different cooking method - "smoking." Later in the 16th century, another influence was added by French cooking when James V married Marie de Lorraine who brought French chefs to Scotland. So, it is fair to say that Scottish cooking has tastes of both wildness and subtlety. I guess that not a few people in Japan might have heard of or even tried porridge (oatmeal mush) and haggis (a traditionally Scottish dish that consists of the heart, liver, and lungs of a sheep or a calf, minced with suet, onions, oatmeal, and seasonings and boiled in the stomach of the animal).

Today's Menu:

- (1) Cock-a-Leekie Soup: Traditional Scottish soup
- (2) Poached Salmon: Dish of Fish
- (3) Scotch Trifle: Dessert using plenty of Drambuie

How to cook each item:

- (1) Cock-a-Leekie Soup: put chicken, bay leaf, green part of leek(if not available, Japanese *naganeki* is fine) in a big pot, season with salt and pepper, and boil for 1 hour. Add rice and white part of leek and prune, and boil for another 10 minutes.
- (2) Poached Salmon : First, prepare vegetable soup stock with sliced onion, carrot, celery, adding some bay leaf, stalk of parsley, fresh dill, seasoned with salt and pepper, and boil for 30 minutes, then add white wine and boil for another 20 minutes. Second, place salmon fillet in a pot and boil with the soup stock. Arrange them on a plate decorating with mayonnaise, lemon, paprika, etc., and attach with vegetables such as broccoli and mashed potatoes.
- (3) Scotch Trifle: Place a sponge cake applied with raspberry jam on the bottom of a glass bowl, and pour the Drambuie to fully sink into the sponge. (Drambuie is the liqueur based on malt whiskey, using Scotch whisky as a base.) As an option, crumbs of amaretti biscuit may be applied on the sponge. Finally, prepare custard cream with raspberry, milk, sugar and starch, and apply it on the sponge, then refrigerate it. Just before eating, apply whipped cream and sliced almond.



Thanks to the competent guidance of Ms. Makino as interpreter and assistant, we were able to enjoy an extra Christmas pudding handmade by the instructor. We were all grateful for the opportunity to experience the Scottish Christmas dishes ahead of Christmas season.

We heard many positive comments from the attendees such as "It was pleasant," "The thick soup and the poached salmon were very delicious," or "I would like to participate again." Let us express our thanks to everyone's cooperation during this program.

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

Report on the Study Meeting of Kanto Bloc UNESCO Activities 2012 in Ibaraki

“A message from a local community - Let’s build up a peace fort in our mind for constructing sustainable society”

I participated in the study meeting of Kanto Bloc UNESCO Activities 2012 held for two days at the Tsukuba Research Park in Ibaraki Prefecture. The agenda of the day is shown below.

Mr. Kenichiro Hidaka, Professor of University of Tsukuba World Heritage Studies, gave keynote lecture on review on the 40 years history of world heritage and the vision for the future. Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage was adopted as the result of the reflection over the destruction of historical buildings during the World War II, and was adopted by the general assembly of UNESCO in 1972. Remains, scenery, nature, and so on that contain remarkable universal value and have to be commonly owned by the people are the objects of world heritage.

The Convention has been the institutional basis for the registration and preservation of many cultural and natural heritages as well as the salvation of critical heritages for the past 40 years. Such examples add up to 972 as of the year 2012 – 47 examples in Italy, 44 in Spain and 43 in China. We have 16 of such examples here in Japan which is ranked at the 14th from the top. There exists a great possibility that world heritage could contribute to the realization of the world peace through the cultivation of the mind of people to save the heritages that contain common value for the people. It was a very interesting lecture.

Participants joined in the subcommittee meeting of their own interest on the 2nd day. Each association gave a report on the activities closely connected to its own community at the subcommittee meeting. It was found that there existed a number of associations that have no head office and members operate out of their own home in sharp contrast to MUA.

There was a female president of a school in Nepal who attended the exchange event. Her remark given on the stage thanking for the support extended by National Federation of UNESCO Association in Japan was very impressive.

Reports presented by the universities were also very aggressive, and are very promising at the next convention as well. The convention this time provided me with a great opportunity to meet many people from other UNESCO associations as well as a chance to think about the meaning of UNESCO activities.

Agenda of the Day:

October 13 (Sat) (Venue: Tsukuba Capio Hall)

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| 12:20 – 12:50 | Opening Event |
| 13:00 – 13:40 | Opening Ceremony |
| 13:50 – 14:50 | Keynote Lecture “Review on the 40 years history of world heritage and the vision for the future” |
| 15:00 – 16:40 | Panel Discussion “World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage are the Treasures of Community” |
| 16:50 – 18:00 | Report of Japanese National Commission for UNESCO and National Federation of UNESCO Association in Japan |
| 18:30 – 20:30 | Networking Event |



October 14 (Sun)(Venue: Tsukuba International Conference Hall)
09:00 – 10:30 Subcommittee Meeting
No.1 “Culture of Peace” activities
No.2 Worldwide Terakoya activities
No.3 Activities around the World Heritage and Local Heritage
No.4 Activities of Young Group
10:40 – 11: 40 Closing Ceremony
13:00 - Tour to Tsukuba Space Center (JAXA)

(Written by Ms. Ritsuko Sato, a member of MUA, and translated by Y. Suda, a member of the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

The 31st Minato Citizen’s Festival in 2012

Minato Citizen’s Festival this year was held on October 6th (Sat) and 7th (Sun) at the Shiba Park area as in the past. It was quite fortunate that the festival was favored by the fair weather which attracted many people and pumped up the festival quite a lot.

MUA participated in the festival under the booth No.29 in the “everybody’s square.” Members of each committee got a little creative with the panel introducing their activities. They also handed out flyers. Ms. Toshiko Watanabe, Standing Director of MUA, together with voluntary members held a mini bazaar.

MUA also held a fundraising activity for helping children suffered from the Great East Japan Earthquake. The fund raised through this activity as well as the mini bazaar was sent to National Federation of UNESCO Association in Japan as the scholarship money. Mr. Masaaki Takei, the Mayor of Minato City, kindly visited our booth for greeting on October 6th.

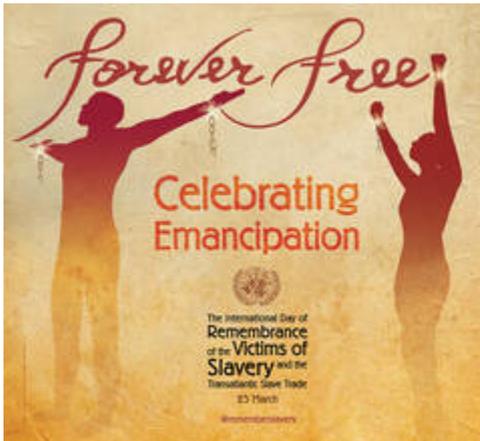
Ms. Masako Kasahara and her friends served green powdered tea and sweets to those who visited our booth. Ms. Watanabe and Mr. Osamu Kitaoka, Chairman of the Minato Citizen’s Festival Committee of MUA, participated in the review meeting held at the restaurant “Port” located on the 11th floor of the Minato City Office on October 25th.

Thank you for your assistance.



(Written by Osamu Kitaoka, Chairman of the Minato Citizen’s Festival Committee, and translated by Y. Suda, a member of the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

Student videoconference celebrates abolition of slavery



Forever Free: Celebrating Emancipation" is the theme of the Fifth Annual Global Student Videoconference which will link 500 students from UNESCO Associated Schools in Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom and the United States with other students at UN Headquarters on Tuesday, March 19.

This live interactive forum, for students aged 15 through 18, commemorates the United Nations International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade which falls on 25 March.

The event celebrates in particular the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation in the U.S. and the 180th anniversary of the Slavery Abolition Act of 28 August 1833 which ended slavery in the British Empire.

During the videoconference students will make presentations on the theme using theatrical re-enactments, poetry, music, statements and readings from historical texts. They will also interact and ask questions about what was presented.

Students can also communicate via social media, and live tweets will be displayed in the conference room at the UN.

The event will be webcast live so that schools anywhere in the world can view the proceedings and send comments/questions via the dedicated Facebook page. (more)

Donations

Our whole-hearted thanks go to the following donors:

- Participants in the "Japan's Diplomacy and Territorial Issues" lecture"
(A total of ¥16,900 was raised)
- Participants in the 2012 Minato Citizen's Festival
(A total of ¥14,238 was raised)
- Participants in the "Our Life- style in the Future"
(A total of ¥5,500 was raised)
- MUA members (Ms. Iwata, Ms. Nagai, Ms. Okumura, Ms. Osaki & Ms. Takai)
(Donation of a total of 79 clothes items to the Mindanao Children's Library)

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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