



**MINATO TOKYO**

# Bulletin

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MINATO UNESCO ASSOCIATION NEWS & CALENDAR

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## Those Days, These Days

Gunji Shimizu, Director, Minato UNESCO Association

I met an accordion back in 1952 when I entered a university. I was fascinated by the beautiful sound of the instrument, and started to teach myself until I mastered it. For 60 years since then, I have not been able to be a professional player till today.

In those days, when neon started to glitter, I played popular songs accepting drunken people's request in a small pub in Ginza. I remember a beautiful bar hostess who gave me, in the back stage of a glamorous cabaret, the gratuity she just received from her customer telling me to buy a cup of ramen noodle for myself. I fell in love with her when I slurped the noodle. I also appeared on stage of "Cachucha" or "Tomoshihi", coffee shops at which customers could sing in chorus.



After a while, as an electronic organ started to appear, many professional accordion players lost their jobs. Should I have been a professional player, I must have experienced the gutter of life.

In those days, I was requested by the education board of Minato City to join the preparation for establishing Minato UNESCO Association (MUA). Though I participated in the preparation committee, I seriously wondered if it was the right place for me to be in surrounded by such prominent figures as late Mr. Kenzo Tange and Mr. Kimitada Miwa, the former President and current Honorary President of MUA. I have not been able to participate in Diplomats' Lecture or International Symposium where English was the main language used. On the contrary, I enjoyed myself the World Cooking Workshop, Welcome Party for New Members, Minato City Festival, MUA Salon, UNESCO Youth Forum.

It was my first job as the Vice President of MUA when I was given a responsibility as a chairperson of the planning committee for "Circling the Globe with Songs and Dances" the special event commemorating 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MUA. Eight groups participated in the event. They were International Secondary School, Tokyo International School, Father and Son's Bagpipe, Temple University, Bulgarian Folklore and Musical Instrument Performance, Korean Traditional Dance, Latin American Songs and Dances, Male Choir of Hakumon Glee Club.

Four years have passed since then. However, I still clearly recall those songs and dances in my mind. I am thankful for those who kindly introduced those groups for the committee or those who participated in the event.

We have long been discussing that it is easier said than done in the Standing Directors Meetings. I think back fondly on those days, but it is getting distant as well.

Among many voluntary organizations and international exchange groups, MUA needs to carry out distinctive activities honoring the UNESCO spirits. I do not think it is easy to do so as the time flies and things change so quickly. I sincerely hope that the President, board members and each individual member would do their best to lead MUA to the right direction.

In these days, I mostly spend my time for visiting aged persons at nursing homes or playing an accordion to the songs at the gatherings called "Utagoe Kissa," where people enjoy songs in chorus. **(To be continued on P. 7)**

# Welcome Meeting for MUA New Members

Date: June 9, 2015

Place: Minato City Life-long Learning Center

We at MUA hold a welcome meeting for new comers once a year, to provide a comprehensive orientation on our activities and promote friendship between new and old members. This time we were pleased to welcome the following five new members: Mr. Ryo Kashiwagi, Ms. Saori Kondo, Ms. Naoko Sakamoto, Mr. Takumi Udo, and Mr. Hiroshi Yoshihara.



## Part I. MUA activities orientation

President Takai's welcome speech:

Thank you very much for joining MUA. Our activities are promoted along two major initiatives. First, we try to develop cross-cultural exchange programs, capitalizing on the international nature of Minato City. Secondly, we aim at building a peaceful community and realizing happiness of mankind, based on the UNESCO Charter mission. The recruitment of new members is indispensable for us to maintain our association as a vibrant and interesting organization. I trust that your experience to meet with different people and work together for the betterment of the local and international communities will help expand your horizons.

Vice President Matsumoto's speech:

First and foremost, take part and help with any of MUA's extensive programs. Please casually visit the MUA's office, expand your friendship and find proactively any role you can undertake in MUA.

Next, each representative from the eight MUA committees gave a brief orientation on the outline of their respective activities:

### • **Hands-on Cultural Workshop Committee** (K. Hirakata, Standing Director)

Our committee was organized three years ago. Capitalizing on the international constituencies of Minato City, we provide workshops of traditional Japanese culture where non-Japanese participants can enjoy DIY experiences. For example, we have held workshops of Yukata dressing, tea ceremony and calligraphy, which were very popular. We plan to include new workshops in folktales and regional dance series. As a starter, we are preparing for an Okinawan folktale and dance workshop. These programs are generally held on Saturday afternoon at Minato City Life-long Learning Center or Akasaka Civic Center facilities.

### • **PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee** (S. Tanahashi, Standing Director)

Our committee publishes Japanese and English quarterly bulletins in order to share, internally and externally, information on MUA's activities as well as to record them. We also maintain MUA's website where we upload these bulletins and provide flyers on coming-soon events. If you are interested in editorial work, please join us.

### • **International Science & Culture Committee** (Y. Miyashita, Standing Director)

Our committee holds the following three major programs:

#### ① Cross-cultural Awareness Lectures

We generally hold these lectures three times a year. Most recently held lectures include one on June 28, concerning the review on Japan's 70 post-war years and another held last November concerning Japan's historical presence in the Micronesian islands.

#### ② Diplomats Lectures

This program is held once a year, inviting foreign ambassadors and embassy staff in Tokyo, as an exclusive event. Invited Japanese speakers give lectures in English on different diplomatic aspects of Japan today.

#### ③ International Symposium

This program is MUA's flagship event held once a year. The most recent symposium was held on February 28 this year, concerning Japan's future from the perspective of matured city.

### • **Foreign Language Study Committee** (M. Tomogane, Director)

MUA holds an elementary English conversation course, three semesters per year, at a very reasonable fee. Our instructor is Mr. Mark Murdoch.

• **World Cooking Committee** (T. Imamura, Standing Director)

We hold this workshop to introduce food culture and home dishes in foreign countries around the world. We usually ask our foreign instructor to give a talk on his/her home country before cooking. The final part is to enjoy eating the cooked dishes. One of the best ways to promote mutual understanding with foreigners must be shared food experience. It is often the case that we ask foreign embassy staff who either came to Japan recently or has lived here long. The workshop is held three times a year at the cooking room in Minato City's Libra building located close to JR Tamachi Station.

• **Minato Citizens Festival Committee** (O. Kitaoka, Chairman)

MUA has been a regular participant in the annual Minato Citizen's Festival. The Minato City Preparation Committee is always held in advance to select the year's theme and work out measure to demonstrate the city's attraction to visitors. This event provides a good opportunity for us to present MUA activities to the participating citizens and whenever possible recruit new members. At our exhibition tent, we also hold a mini-bazar to raise relief fund for people in disaster areas. The 34<sup>th</sup> festival this year will be held on the weekend of October 10 & 11.

• **Youth Activities Committee** (M. Takai, President)

This committee comprises university students and other young people. As a way of activating the committee, we started the "UNESCO Youth Forum in Minato" since six years ago. Ms. Y. Nagato, an MUA director, has been taking care of foreign students who live in Utsunomiya City. We asked her to cooperate with the said forum, by taking wit her to Tokyo about ten foreign students who study at Utsunomiya University or Sakushin Gakuin University. On our side, we ask youths from the UNESCO clubs of both Keio University and Tamagawa University along with those from the Shinjuku UNESCO Association, to get together and plan implementation programs. At this forum, we typically ask foreign students to join panel discussions where they introduce their home countries, talk about their life in Japan, and describe their future dreams. They also interact with Japanese attendees on the floor, by sharing games and attractions. This year we plan to hold this event on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at Minato City Libra Hall. We will welcome anyone who can attend it.

Additional comments from H. Yoshihara, Vice Chairman of the committee:

I joined MUA last June and immediately took part in the preparation for the 2014 UNESCO Youth Forum. This year I will cooperate again with other university students and young people to work out viable plans in the preparations. It's a pleasure for me to play a rewarding role in the event.

## **Part II. Welcome Reception**

The reception was held in MUA's secretariat office as usual. Director M. Tomogane gave a welcome speech to the new members. In turn they introduced themselves, touching on their motivations to join MUA and their desire on how to contribute to MUA activities in the future. It was followed by a session of active Q&A with old members. The meeting turned out to be a most amicable and informative event for all attendees.



*(Written by T. Kobayashi, Chairman, the Membership Committee, and translated by S. Tanahashi, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)*

## 70 years after the end of WWII – How to work out a historical reconciliation

Date: Friday, June 26, 2015

Place: Minato City Life-long Learning Center

We had the pleasure of having Mr. Fumio Matsuo, a seasoned journalist, to talk about the subject. At the beginning, Mr. Hiroshi Matsumoto, vice president of Minato UNESCO Association, introduced briefly Mr. Matsuo's biography as follows:

Born in 1933 in Tokyo. Graduated from Gakushuin University. After entering Kyodo News Service, he was assigned to be an expat correspondent in New York and Washington, became the branch head in Bangkok and Washington, and then became an editorial writer. After that, he became the president of Kyodo News Markets. He re-started his non-managerial journalist career in 2002. His major publications include: *"Ju wo motsu minshushugi – America toiu kunino naritachi"* (Shogakukan bunko), which won the 52<sup>nd</sup> Japan Essayist Club Award, and *"Obama daitouryou ga Hiroshima ni kenkasuru hi – sougo kenkagaikou ga rekishiwakai no michiwo hiraku"* (Shogakukan shinsho).



Mr. Matsumoto emphasized the fact that Mr. Matsuo, who is still an active journalist at the age of over 80, predicted the rapprochement between the United States and China. Why was Mr. Matsuo able to predict Richard Nixon's visit to China and his handshake with Mao Zedong, which stunned the whole Japan? At this comment, all the attendees expressed their heightened expectation.

The following is a summary of Mr. Matsuo's lecture:

### (1) Japan-US alliance

Maybe Japan has not precisely learned about the United States. In the Meiji restoration, Japan mainly modeled upon the European nations. Although the introduction of baseball from the U. S. was early (e.g. the Waseda vs Keio match was held in 1903), the University of Tokyo started its official class about the United States only in 1923. Believe it or not, Japan started the war against the U. S. while relying 80 percent on the enemy nation in the supply of oil. Japan did not try to understand the United States, a nation which had battled with their guns ever since their independence. Japan simple-mindedly thought that its logic would be accepted by the United States if it gave the enemy a successful initial blow because the U.S. seemed like "no more than a rabble".

Today Japan and the United States are allied nations but there are still challenges to the establishment of satisfactory mutual understanding. A historical reconciliation is yet to be realized. I was shocked when I heard the news about the "Reconciliation in Dresden" on February 14, 1995. Dresden is the German city which was attacked by indiscriminate midnight air raids by the allied forces of the Great Britain and the United States. Here, a hospitable ceremony was held commemorating the 50th anniversary of the bombing. Military top officers and ambassadors of the Great Britain and the United States participated in the ceremony as Germany's foe-turned friends. The German chancellor delivered a high-toned speech declaring "reconciliation". I have been proposing a Japanese version of the "Reconciliation in Dresden" since 2005. It is a proposal for a mutual-trust building diplomacy by mutual floral tributes.

There has not been a war-responsibility trial in Japan. There is a system in Germany which pursues the Nazi war crimes, and the pursuit still continues today. It does not mean that there was



not any movement in Japan to pursue war-responsibilities by the Japanese themselves. Indeed there was a movement for beginning an independent court during the Higashikuninomiya and the Shidehara cabinet years, However it was not realized due to the opposition from the general headquarters led by General MacArthur.

The occupation forces of the United States were called “*Shinchu-Gun*” in Japan. When I tell this story to people in the United States who are knowledgeable about Japan, even those who speak Japanese fairly well reply “I did not know that.” When my respected teacher Mr. Shigeharu Matsumoto (a former Minato UNESCO Association advisor) once proposed in an article that “*Shinchu-Gun*” should be replaced by “*Senryo-Gun*,” the portion was cut under GHQ’s censorship. That’s what I heard.

## **(2) Relations with China and South Korea**

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe delivered a speech in English at the joint session of the United States Congress and demonstrated his diplomatic enthusiasm. However he left behind the “historical issues.” In retrospect the trigger of the United States independence was a tax issue, in other words a tax revolt. The United States is a multiracial nation. Among the ethnic makeup of the citizens, the largest share is accounted for by the white Americans, followed by the Hispanic, the African Americans, and the Asian Pacific constituencies. The Asian Americans, including Japanese descendants, have substantially increased over the past 10 years. Especially, there are many Chinese and South Korean Americans who have succeeded in business. They also participate actively in politics. The erection of the statues of the Korean women, who had worked in military brothels, is one example of political activities by the South Korean American citizens.

When I was a sixth grader in elementary school, I experienced a B29 bombing in Fukui. On the evening of July 19<sup>th</sup>, my life was narrowly saved because the parent munition of the cluster munitions did not explode due to a faulty component. It is said that a total of 510,000 civilians were killed nationwide, including those who perished in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In May 2015 a conference was held in New York on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons treaty (NPT). Japan’s foreign minister Fumio Kishida proposed a “Visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki” but China’s ambassador expressly opposed it. Thus the NPT conference ended without submitting a final document.

South Korea is opposing the “Meiji Japan's industrial revolution heritage” application. Japan opened its door in 1854 due to the Perry Expedition. That’s the start of its relations with the United States. But China began trading with the United States much earlier in 1784, and maintained a longer relationship than Japan’s with the United States. For example, the Illustrated Treatise on the Marine Kingdoms which gave impact to Japan toward the end of the Edo period, was imported from China.

When you think of Japan’s relations with China and South Korea, how about thinking what if I were born in China, or what if I were born in South Korea?

## **(3) A diplomatic chance for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe**

There was an article in the June 23<sup>rd</sup> morning edition of the Asahi Shimbun, based on an interview with the former United States ambassador Michael Armacost. He said “The presence of the U. S. air force in Kadena is important but I cannot fully endorse the base relocation to Henoko.” I would like to note that there is such an opinion leader in the United States.

I would like to find a way to utilize Okinawa’s “Bankoku Shinryo Spirit.” It means “Trading by using ships as international bridges.” Okinawa flourished by trading, as a country without armament. The monument of Perry, who came to Okinawa commanding the black ship fleet, is built in Okinawa. The sentence “The United States and Okinawa are friends forever” is engraved on the monument.

### Q & A Session:

Q1: There are people who insist that while “Japan has apologized and compensated through the San Francisco Peace Treaty, Germany has not done so as a country.”

A: I have not heard of that opinion, but I believe Germany has compensated as a country. For example, Japan has not compensated the injured civilians or the bereaved families who suffered the Great Tokyo Air Raid. But in Germany the government has provided compensation to the civilians who were injured if they had submitted required applications. At Guernica, I saw a letter of apology with a written signature by the president. Because China and South Korea did not participate in the San Francisco Peace Treaty, there are such scholars who demand a reinterpretation of the treaty which was concluded during the Cold War years.



Q2: Can we, the Japanese, hold a war trial by ourselves? Do we have any intention to do that?

A: As a matter of fact, there was once a movement pursuing such a trial. Basically I believe we can.

Q3: I am worried about the political situations right now.

A: Instead of answering your question I would like to call your attention to an article. On the June 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Yomiuri newspaper, there was an article interviewing Mr. Nakasone. Please read it. By the way, China, South Korea, and North Korea do not oppose the presence of the US forces in Okinawa. That's because they believe this arrangement will prevent the emergence of Japan's militarism. I regard this as the greatest irony.

Q4: Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress have been making journeys to former battle grounds, in memory of the war victims. It eases my heart.

A: Me too.

Q5: People worry about the revival of Japan's militarism. What do you think is the characteristic of Japanese people when observed from outside?

A: The importance of news from Japan have been diluted and there has not been many news transmitted from Japan. When you live in the United States today, you will notice that news after news are about China. I also feel that there are worries about the revisionist sentiment in Japan. Especially I want young people to read newspapers, not totally depending on what the Internet offers, and make more efforts to identify facts from extensive viewpoints.

*(Written by Y. Miyashita, the International Science & Culture Committee, and translated by Y. Kiribuchi, the Bulletin, PR & Internet Committee)*

## MUA Hands-on Culture Workshop Let's Learn How to Wear Yukata

Date: July 4, 2015

Place: Minato Azabu Civic Center

In this workshop, we had the pleasure of having a total of 16 resident foreigner attendees from seven countries – Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Poland, South Korea and Vietnam. Also present were four Japanese attendees and ten MUA staff.

The program proceeded in the following manner:

- ① Brief lecture on the history of Yukata
- ② Exercise in Yukata dressing
- ③ Self-dressing of Yukata and photo shooting
- ④ Self-introduction of each attendee

The Yukata's worn by the attendees had a wide variety of patterns, from traditional to ultra-modern, and were combined with cloth belts in different matching colors. The attendees had a most enjoyable time, learning how to wear Yukata by themselves, taking photos of one another and feeling the atmosphere of traditional Japanese culture.

Let me share with you major comments received from the attendees:

- It was totally a great fun.
- I'd like to walk on the Ginza clad in Yukata.
- Now that I've learned how to wear Yukata, I'll let my child wear it tomorrow.
- I was happy to have the company of so many foreigner participants in the workshop.



*(Written by K. Hirakata, Standing Director, the Hands-on Culture Workshop Committee, and translated by S. Tanahashi, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)*

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### **(Continued from P.1) Those Days, These Days**

I still enjoy vigorous health at the age of 80, and am thankful that I can share the joy of playing accordion and singing out loud together with many people around 70 years of age. I wish to continue this for the rest of my life. "Song is universal language." Let sing out loud!

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

## The 19<sup>th</sup> MUA Salon

### Narrow Escape from Atomic Bomb in Hiroshima and University Life in America

Speaker: Mr. Kiichiro Tanabe (MUA member)

Date: July 14<sup>th</sup> (Tue) 18:00~20:00

Place: MUA office in Lifelong Learning Center



The speaker Mr. Tanabe is a member of MUA and is currently acting as an interpreter in the events offered by MUA's Hands-on Culture Workshop Committee.

He spoke about his most exciting periods of childhood during the war and narrow escape from atomic bomb in Hiroshima, his American university life and his business career in Japan's chemical industry through its growth and maturity periods. The following is a summary of his speech:

◇ From Tokyo to Hiroshima : I was born in 1938 in Hiroshima and will soon become 77 years old. When I was five years old, we were living in Setagaya, Tokyo and it was during the war. As the air-raid became harder day after day, my mother, my sister and I moved from Tokyo to Hiroshima to take shelter from the air-raid and stayed at my mother's parent's home.

◇ Moving to Manchuria (current north east region of China) : In May 1945, my father was appointed to work in Manchuria. At first, he was planning to go to Manchuria by himself, but towards the last days before his departure my mother started insisting "The whole family should go there together."

At that time, no air flight was available and we had to use ship. But ships were very dangerous and in fact two out of three ships that left Japan on the same day got sunk by torpedoes. Thank God, we arrived in Manchuria safely. We lived in Dalian for a while and moved to Hsinking (now Changchun).

◇ The end of war : We were in Hsinking on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1945. I remember to have heard the message by the Showa Emperor on radio. As I was in the first grade of elementary school, I could not clearly understand the meaning of 'the end of war.' But after that day, I felt everything around us had changed. The people on the street who used to be friendly turned severe. Here and there plunders occurred. The school for Japanese children was closed.

Soon after, the communist army under Mao Zedong and China's national army under Chiang Kai-shek started fighting. The soldiers came in our house and began shooting the enemies across the road. We moved to basement to avoid the danger. When my mother went out of the basement to take some foods from the house, she was "narrowly shot. I was very scared to hear it.

After Chiang Kai-shek withdrew to Taiwan, Russian soldiers came in and forced to take one Japanese man out of three to labor works in Siberia. One man was chosen by lot. Fortunately, my father was not chosen, but the man, chosen by lot was sent to Siberia and had never come back. He was the father of a family, having the same age children with us. Most women had to cut their hair so that they look like men.

Repatriation journey was realized in September, 1946 after about one year of waiting. We moved from Hsinking to Dalian on a freight train without top ceiling, which took two to three days. We had to eat dry biscuit (kanpan) and weeds like 'Akaza' as daily meal.



◇ Repatriation ship arriving at Sasebo and journey to Hiroshima : We could finally get on the repatriation ship after long waiting and arrived at Sasebo. We thanked God for our whole family safely arriving in Japan. After landing at Sasebo, everybody had to be sprinkled with DDT (insecticide) over head and in clothes. From the port to the train station, we had to walk over the hill carrying heavy luggages. I felt the distance was quite long because it was very hot and humid.

From Sasebo station, we moved to Hiroshima on a freight train without windows, very dark and couldn't see anything. At Hiroshima station, my father's elder brother waited for us. As the uncle's house was located at the foot of a mountain called Hijiyama, it did not suffer from the atomic bomb. We stayed there for some months and could enjoy quiet life, very quiet if compared with the life in Manchuria. I remember the main dish boiled rice contained very little rice and a lot of sweet potatoes.

◇ Elementary school, middle and high school : After several months stay in Hiroshima, my father called us to Hayama in Kanagawa prefecture where I started going to elementary school. I remember the teacher worried about my scholastic level visited my mother and talked about what to do.

Thereafter, we moved to Zushi, where I swam every day during summer and recovered my health which I had lost until that time. I recall my memories such as how delicious banana was, how interesting paper card stories (kamishibai) of Murasaki Zukin and Ougon Bat, and that we watched Sumo match on TV together with many spectators which was placed in front of Zushi station.



In January 1957, when I was a senior student of Eiko Gakuen High School, Roman Catholic school in Kanagawa prefecture, my father was appointed as Head of American subsidiary of his company. Again, our whole family moved to America together and I have changed my mind to go to university in America instead of going to university in Japan.

◇ Arrival in America and entering New York University(NYU) : In March 1957, we left Haneda airport by propeller plane and arrived at New York via San Francisco. As American universities began new semester in September, I entered prep-school of Fordham University in New York, which was Roman Catholic, to get used to English lectures. In September, I entered New York University. I was confident of English, because I had learned English from foreign priests in Japan and had won English speech contest in Kanagawa. But English in English speaking country was not so easy and took me more than one year to get used to lectures in the University. On the other hand, I had advantage in mathematics, because I had already learned differential and integral calculus in Japan, while American students had to learn them in universities. I was once the only student in class who got 100 mark of math examination.

I wanted to enter MIT to become an engineer, but the admission registration was already finished in October of previous year. So I entered New York University and studied there for freshman and sophomore. During these two years, I had to take non-technical subjects such as literature and history. These two subjects were really tough for me, because I had to read many pages of books before each class for discussion in the class. Discussion was also hard for me.

After the two years, I made transfer registration to MIT which required my grades report at NYU and a recommendation letter from one of the professors of NYU. Fortunately, they were accepted and I was admitted as a senior of MIT.

◇ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) : From the senior year at MIT, I could concentrate on my major subject of chemical engineering. At that time, there were very few Japanese at MIT, but I could find a Japanese friend Mr. 'M'. From time to time, we met each other to talk, eat and drive

together. It was not the time for Japanese to hold our head high, because Japanese goods were in general “cheap but bad” and had little competitiveness. On the other hand, America was prospering in many fields so that Americans appeared to me shiny and glorious. I felt the only way to exceed Americans would be by “nothing but study.” So I studied very hard. American universities have summer vacation of as long as 4 months. During such long summer vacation, I enjoyed playing golf, which cost me 1\$50 cent, driving to Florida with Mr. M, etc. etc.

◇ University graduation, working in chemical company, growth and maturity of Japan’s chemical industry : When I graduated from MIT in 1961, I had offer of 600\$/month from American chemical company, which amounted to about 210,000yen/month with the exchange rate of 360yen/\$. But since I wanted to go back to Japan so much, I rejected the offer and joined a Japanese chemical company. The salary I got from the Japanese company was 20,100 yen/month, about one tenth of the amount offered by the American company. At that time, Japan’s economy was growing like a rising sun, and in chemical industry as well, many plants were being built, mostly using foreign licensed technologies. Since getting license from foreign companies requires a lot of English, I was very busy writing English letters, attending meetings with foreigners and learning foreign technologies, using my English capability.

Through such growth period, Japan’s chemical industry gradually matured and many domestic technologies were developed. Today, Japan’s chemical industry has to specialize in high valued fine chemicals and move out of bulk chemicals, because oil producing countries such as Saudi Arabia started producing bulk chemicals with large advantage of feedstock price. I feel my business career was along with the rise and maturity of Japan’s chemical industry.

◇ English education in Japan : Now I am going to middle schools and high schools in Japan to support schools’ career education. On such occasions, I tell students it is very effective to improve their English level to read books or newspapers written in English with much perseverance to look up dictionary every time they find words they do not understand. In addition, I recommend them to see foreign countries by studying in foreign schools or even by travelling overseas.

I believe it is desirable to start studying English as early as possible and therefore English should be taught in elementary school. I think English lessons of twice a week in elementary schools will not disturb learning Japanese language.

◇ Closing words for thanks : I would like to thank you very much for giving me such an opportunity to speak about my experiences during last war in this memorable year of 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of last war.

Today I am engaged in the events offered by MUA’s Culture Hands-on Workshop Committee as an interpreter. I am also visiting various middle schools or high schools to tell them my experiences of business career and give them advice on such problems as how they could improve their English, how they should prepare for future engagement in global activities, what is the importance of working, etc. etc.

I would also like to tell young people my experiences during the war so that they could realize how seriously our life is affected by war. Last but not least, I hope to be able to continue my little contribution to MUA from now on. Thank you very much for hearing my speech. (End of his speech summary)

The listeners applauded and the salon was closed. When Mr. Tanabe was four to six years old, he has had so many life-threatening experiences as frequent air-raid, move to Manchuria by ship in the menace of torpedo attack, gun-shooting in their house, and repatriation after Japan’s defeat. Though his parents were with him, he must have been scared to death, which could not be expressed in words. He talked about his eventful life quite calmly, but I am sure I was not the only person who felt deeply

the “miseries caused by war.” I have reconfirmed that so many tragedies would be caused by war.

Through his rare fortune, he could study in American universities and use what he has learned there for development of Japan’s chemical industry in the course of Japan’s recovery from the post-war. From his speech on his valuable experiences, we could hear such stimulating suggestions as English education, necessity of knowing the world, etc. We’d like to extend many thanks to Mr. Tanabe.

*(Written by Takayuki Kobayashi, Chairperson of the Membership Committee, and translated by Keiichiro Tanabe the speaker)*

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## **(Continued from P.12) Establishment of UNESCO after the World War II**

Miss Hinako Tamura, second year student:

The most impressive story I heard during my visit to MUA this time was that of World War II. I strongly felt that we should never have a war as the result of hearing the real story about the war which I seldom had a chance to listen to. I also strongly felt that many people have a bitter experience no matter whether they win or lose the war. As there are many countries which are in the state of war, I sincerely hope that the situation in those countries improve even a little. I will make the most use of what I learned this time to the activities of UNESCO committee of Mita Senior High School.

Miss Wakana Deguchi, first year student:

I would like to first express my appreciation for the kind preparation made for our visit. I heard various valuable stories. I heard for the first time that UNESCO was established based on the afterthought to the World War II. I became sad after hearing that there are as many as 67 million children in the world who cannot study at a school while it is quite normal for us to go to school in Japan. I heard for the first time about the war directly from a person who experienced the war. Each individual word of Ms. Takai carried weight and I was moved to think deeply. “Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.” I would like to start with letting people know of this UNESCO constitution.

Mr. Yushi Kumagai, first year student:

I would first like to thank you for telling us of valuable stories today. I learned that we surely have to avoid a war from the story Ms. Takai told us based on her real experience. First year students of UNESCO committee plan to do a fund raising program. We decided to make a donation to “World Terakoya Activities,” as we were shocked by the tragic situation where children with no education ends up with illiterate and absence of stable job and eventually thrown into poverty. I would continue our activities with an expectation that our donation would help even one child in receiving education.

Note: UNESCO School

Japan joined UNESCO back in 1951. Two years later, UNESCO School project started. On the occasion of inaugurating “United Nation Ten Years of Education for Sustainable Development” in 2005, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Science of Japan at that time positioned the UNESCO Schools as the promotion center for ESD (Education for Sustainable Development). This resulted in the dramatic increase in the number of UNESCO Schools from the mere 24 schools in 2008 to as many as 939 schools in May of 2015. There exist approximately 10,000 UNESCO Schools in 182 countries.

*(Written by M. Takai, President, and translated by Y. Suda, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)*

## “Establishment of UNESCO after the World War II and 70 Years after the War”

Talk with the UNESCO committee students of Tokyo Metropolitan Mita Senior High School

Date: June 11<sup>th</sup> (Thu) & 16<sup>th</sup> (Tue)

Place: MUA's secretariat office

A total of thirty students of the UNESCO committee of Tokyo Metropolitan Mita Senior High School, led by Ms. Yuka Fujimura and Mr. Naohiro Kawaguchi, visited Minato UNESCO Association secretariat office in two groups on two different days in June. Mita Senior High School is one of the six UNESCO senior high schools in Tokyo. I decided to talk to them about the war since this year was 70<sup>th</sup> year after the World War II.



In the first part, I explained about how and why of the establishment of UNESCO based on the small textbook titled “What needs to be done by each individual for tomorrow” published by National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan:

UNESCO was established on November 11, 1946 with the determination never to have a war again based on the afterthought to the World War II. In 1947 when Japan was not allowed to join the United Nations, people in the City of Sendai and Kyoto who were moved by the UNESCO spirit autonomously started the UNESCO activities and it expanded throughout Japan. These civil activities were highly valued and, as the result, Japan was accepted to join UNESCO in July of 1951, which built a momentum for Japan to make a return to the international society. Five years later, in December of 1956, Japan was accepted to join United Nations.

Current world society is filled with problems associated with environment, human rights, peaceful living, development, etc. Resolution of these problems and creation of sustainable world are desperately expected to be attained by younger generation. There exist many children in the world who are not provided with any opportunity to study even though they wish to do so. Education is a firm basis for realizing peace and happiness. UNESCO conducts “World Terakoya Movement” and support the expansion of educational opportunities throughout the world.

In the second part, I talked about my personal experience of war for visitors who may not have any thought on “70 years after the World War II.” I tried to tell them that the reason why people of Japan enjoyed the period without war for 70 years was because they strongly committed to peace. My father was called to active duty in Manchuria in 1943 leaving three children in Japan when I was three years old. He was caught by the Soviet Union and moved to Siberia where he was detained and eventually died.

City of Wakayama, my home, was burnt by indiscriminate attack by B-29 bombers in July of 1945. The war ended in August of the same year. It was miserable that only a little food was available for children then. Crazy war that involved many countries of the world. More than three million of Japanese died and many other people suffered the anguish of despair. Furthermore, even many more people in Asia were inflicted tremendous damage and suffering. We should never ever forget the history and horror of war.

In the end of June, two weeks after our meeting, some of the students kindly sent written description of their impressions. I would like to exhibit them below with the due approval of Ms. Yuka Fujimura.

Miss Aya Kato, second year student:

I was able to rediscover the history of UNESCO thanks to the visit to MUA. As I joined the UNESCO committee, which is very unique among the Metropolitan Senior High Schools, I would like to continue activities at such opportunities as cultural festival and others that make people aware of UNESCO. I determined to be more active in said activities throughout my life. I appreciate this opportunity. **(To be continued on P.11)**



# World Cooking Workshop

## Albanian Home Dishes

Date: June 6, 2015

Place: Minato City Libra Center

As the instructor for this workshop, we had the pleasure of having Ms. Reco Dida, wife of the Albanian Ambassador Plenipotentiary to Japan. Let me provide a brief profile of Reco-san. She comes from Corcha in the Republic of Albania and is a graduate from Tirana University. In 1995 she accompanied her husband, a chemist, to Japan where he studied for 3.5 years at Tohoku University in Sendai, Fukushima Prefecture. Capitalizing on this opportunity, Reco-san studied the Japanese language. In 2009 she visited Japan again, this time as wife of the Albanian Ambassador. In 2012 she published a Japanese-Albanian dictionary.



### Albania at a glance:

The republic is located on the Balkan Peninsula in East Europe. It faces Montenegro to the north, Macedonia and Kosovo to the east, Greece to the south, and the Adrian Sea to the west. The country has a long history, dating back to the ancient Greek era. Toward the end of WWII, the country was forced into a socialist camp and remained in an isolated status until the collapse of the Berlin Wall. In 1991 the country was finally liberated and became a republic.

### The day's menu:

The Albanian dishes have been historically influenced by Italian and Turkish cuisines. Typically Albanian dishes feature the use of black pepper as spice and vegetables in large quantity.

- ① Specë magjizë: Saute cottage cheese and green pepper. Make the cheese from yogurt.
- ② Patëllxhane të mbushura: Saute onion, ground meat, tomato and garlic with olive oil. Stuff them into eggplants and bake them in the oven.
- ③ Tavë peshku: Mix salmon with sauteed onion and tomato and add black pepper and other spice to improve taste. Bake it in the oven.
- ④ Flija e Kosovës: Make a crepe. Paste fresh crème, butter and fetter cheese on top. Double deck two pasted crepes and bake them in the oven.
- ⑤ Sallatë: Use a large quantity of fetter cheese, baby leaves, tomato, green pepper, cucumbers, strawberry, etc. to fix the salad. Season it with olive oil, black pepper and garlic.



### My impression of Reco-san's personality:

I guess Albania and its people have experienced difficult times during the isolated years, followed by drastic changes in their socio-political systems. However, Reco-san did not show any sign of such experience in her attitude to us. She taught us Albanian cooking with her cheerful personality and in fluent Japanese. She told us that many Albanians are fluent in Italian because Albania faces Italy across the sea. I felt that Albanian dishes include Italian tastes.

*(Written by K. Matsuzaki, chairperson of the World Cooking Committee, and translated by S. Tanahashi, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)*

# From the UNESCO Press Release

12.12.2015 - UNESCOPRESS

## Director-General welcomes COP21 agreement and underlines the momentum in changing minds not the climate



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**Paris, 12 December — The Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, today welcomed the historic agreement reached by participants at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. “Beyond this ambitious and balanced agreement, COP21 has created a momentum in changing peoples’ minds and preparing them to embrace the economic and life-style adjustments we all need to make to preserve human life on the planet,” Ms Bokova said.**

“Changing minds, not the climate” has been UNESCO’s motto at COP21. The Organization’s programmes and expertise were showcased in a wide range of side events during the Conference, highlighting the potential of the natural and social sciences, ocean research, education and culture to foster new approaches to development with a view to reaching the goals of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, adopted by the General Assembly in September.

"The Paris Climate Change Conference has highlighted a new global awareness and unprecedented commitment to protecting the planet through solidarity and joint action," said Ms Bokova. "We must carry this spirit forward in implementing the 2030 Agenda. UNESCO's vision is clear: We need to change minds not the climate, using education, scientific cooperation, critical thinking and debate made possible through freedom of expression and information, which we promote worldwide. This is a single agenda for a better future for us all."

The Director-General however stressed that COP21 marked one step on the road to limiting the damage human activity has been causing to our environment and that UNESCO was looking forward to working with Member States to support concerted international action and laying the ground for more progress at next year’s COP22, which will be hosted by the government of Morocco.

During the Conference of Parties, UNESCO’s International Hydrological Programme (IHP) in cooperation with the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), highlighted ways to translate science into actionable policies and mobilize education to raise awareness and drive change

Through exhibitions and numerous events, UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) raised awareness of the need to include the ocean in policies concerning the climate, as it is the planet’s major supplier of oxygen, alongside forests, and a key regulator of the global climate system.

UNESCO’s World Heritage Centre and the Man and Biosphere program organized a UNESCO sites day to highlight the important actions taken at World Heritage sites, Biosphere reserves and Global Geoparks to address climate change. (excerpted)

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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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