



**MINATO TOKYO**

# Bulletin

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MINATO UNESCO ASSOCIATION NEWS & CALENDAR

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No. 142: March 1, 2016

## Minato UNESCO, a Place for New Encounters

Akemi Suzuki, Director, Minato UNESCO Association

The inauguration ceremony of the Minato UNESCO Association was held on October 17, 1981 at the Geihinkan (presently the Tokyo Garden Museum) in Shirokane, Minato City. I attended the event at the invitation of a friend. During the following 34 years, I wonder how many encounters with new friends I have had through MUA activities, and how much positive influences I have received from them.

At the time of MUA's inception, there was no platform for our activities. Therefore, we started by engaging in different works and interacting with various people to build one. For example, we secured a corner space inside the Minato City office, with their approval, and worked together to publish and mail out the initial issues of MUA bulletins. During the first three years, we organized a committee to introduce to resident foreigners the culture of Japan's New Year practices. We asked the Minato kindergarten management to let us use their facility where we used to demonstrate "Mochi-tsuki" and other New Year special activities to foreigner guests. We also served them "Ozohni" and perhaps it was the start of MUA's World Cooking Workshop.



The New Year event developed into a well-established New Year Party. It was held annually at either Aoi Kaikan or Yayoi Kaika in Shibaura. Many ordinary citizens started to join the event, including high school student volunteers. We wanted to make the gathering even more enjoyable in a cross-cultural environment. I trust that the pleasure of sharing food is one of the best ways to promote friendship and mutual understanding.

I am currently a member of MUA's World Cooking Workshop Committee. Most of our instructors are natives of selected foreign countries. I take a great pleasure in making close friends with these instructors. Sometimes their mother countries are those which we come to know for the first time when TV broadcasts the marching scenes of athlete delegations from faraway countries in the opening ceremony of Olympic Games.

We are always very excited during the preparations for a few months before the workshop date finally comes. We learn not only the recipe and cooking of foreign home dishes but also unexpected interesting knowledge

(To be continued on P. 19)

# UNESCO Youth Forum in Minato 2015

## - Connection Our New World -

**Date:** Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 13:00~16:40

**Venue:** Minato City Gender Equality Center, LIBRA HALL ("Minato Park Shibaura" 1F)



**Sponsor** :Minato UNESCO Association  
**Co-sponsor** :Minato City, Tokyo  
**Cooperators** :National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan  
:Inter-Cultural Community life Association  
:Keio University, UNESCO Club  
:Tamagawa University, UNESCO Club  
:Shinjuku UNESCO Association  
:Utsunomiya UNESCO Association

《Language : Japanese》

The 5<sup>th</sup> UNESCO YOUTH FORUM was conducted under the collaboration of two separate regional cities, Minato and Utsunomiya, as the 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> Forum was conducted once a year.

The purpose of the Forum is to provide the foreign students coming from all over the world with the opportunity to communicate with Japanese people and realize mutual understanding.

As the foreign student guests, seven from Utsunomiya University, three from Sakushin Gakuin University and one from Seikei University, altogether eleven foreign students attended the Forum.

The event committee consisted of the students from Keio University and Tamagawa University and youths from Shinjuku UNESCO and Minato UNESCO Associations. They have cooperated and conducted all the planning and executive works.

**Opening: 13:00**

Chairpersons:

Jun Imai (Keio University, Faculty of Law)

Kento Takahashi (Keio University, Faculty of Law)



Chairpersons explained the purpose, program contents and schedule of the UNESCO Youth Forum

Session 1: 13:10~ Explanation of foreign students' mother countries (6 Countries)

Session 2: 14:10~ Group talking(all members)

Session 3: 15:20~ Group work(all members)

Session 4: 16:25~ Mongolian folk dancing

Ending: 16:30~

Closing: 16:40

**Opening:**

1) **Sponsor Greetings:** Ms. Mitsuko Takai, President of the Minato UNESCO Association

We are very grateful that this 5<sup>th</sup> Forum could be held today, thanks to the cooperation and support by the guest foreign students, the committee members and all the attendants. We hope that not only young people but everybody will spend an enjoyable and memorable time together with foreign students.

2) **Supporter Greetings:** Ms. Yoshiko Nagato, Director of the Minato UNESCO association, President of the Inter-Cultural Community Life Association and the Utsunomiya UNESCO Association

As we have received invitation to this Forum for seven foreign students from Utsunomiya University and three from Sakushin Gakuin University, we have been looking forward to attending this Forum and here we are today. For foreign students studying in local cities, it is a very useful opportunity to come to Minato City by Shinkansen Train and attend the event together with people of Tokyo, especially with University students. I hope this Forum will be successful.

### 3) Self-introduction of guest foreign students

Eleven foreign students stood up on the stage and introduced themselves by disclosing their names and mother countries.



(From left to right)

Mr. Besar Dida (Albania)  
 Mr. Kou Sho Tou (China)  
 Mr. Rony Vargas Villalobos (Costa Rica)  
 Mr. Pyae Phyoe Naing (Myanmar)  
 Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Khoung (Viet Nam)  
 Ms. Nur Babila Binti Mohad Makhtar (Malaysia)  
 Ms. Jin Ling (China)  
 Ms. Bayarsaikhan Munkhod (Mongolia)  
 Ms. Shirendv Oyun Erdene (Mongolia)  
 Mr. Davaasambuu Ganuul (Mongolia)  
 Mr. Chamara Sasanka Salgad (Sri Lanka)

### Part 1 Introduction of Mother Countries by Foreign Students :

6 countries in ABC order: 5 minutes for each person

In spite of 5 short minutes available for presentation, all the presenters made it very nicely, using power point, to make their countries well understood. It was very impressive. The audience may have wished to visit the countries.



#### 1) Republic of Albania : Mr. Besar Dida (Seikei University, Faculty of Science and Technology)



The formal name of the nation is Shqiperise. It means the Country of Eagle. English name is Republic of Albania, just as Japan is called differently from Japanese name. Albania is facing the Adriatic Sea on the west, Montenegro on the north, Macedonia and Kosovo on the east and Greece on the south. The area of the country is about 1.5 times that of Shikoku. It is not so large, but it has old history. Mother Teresa is from northern part of the country.

Geographically, 77% of the country consists of mountains, where many animals and plants are living. Mountain climbing and trekking are also popular. Three ruins of cities are registered as UNESCO's world cultural heritages. They are the historical regions, preserved as the cities of Osman Empire Era, where people are still living today.

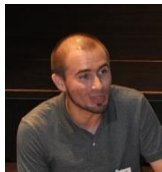
#### 2) The People's Republic of China : Mr. Kou Sho Tou (Sakushin Gakuin University, Graduate School)

China has a history of 5,000 years and has population of 1.3 billion. The area is 9.6 million km<sup>2</sup>. The population of the people born after 1990's now reached 200 million. They are the generation without experience of living hardship and are obtaining world information thru internet. They like to attract attention and tend to choose designs or versatilities to make themselves outstanding. I came to Japan 14 and a half years ago and studied Japanese. While I am writing a doctoral thesis at Sakushin Gakuin University now, I founded a Chinese restaurant in December, 2013 and am now managing it. After I came to Japan, I have learned the importance of



relationship among people, regardless of nationality, economical or political matters. Hereafter, I would like to become a communication bridge between Japan and China and do whatever I can together with all of you.

### 3) Republic of Costa Rica : Mr. Rony (Utsunomiya University Graduate School)



Costa Rica means Rich Coast. It is located in the southern part of Middle America. It is a small country with the area  $\frac{1}{7}$  of Japan and the population of 4,870,000, which is  $\frac{1}{26}$  of Japan. It is a democratic country, having relatively stable government for Latin America. It is famous for not having army, using the money for other purposes. The area of national parks and nature conservation districts amounts more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of that of the country. The area of the country is only 0.03% of the earth, but it is said that there are about 4% of living creatures of the earth in this country.

### 4) Malaysia : Ms. Nabila (Utsunomiya University, Graduate School)

The area of the country is 330,000 km<sup>2</sup>, which is about 0.9 times that of Japan. The population is 29,950,000. It has a shape similar to mango. As it is a tropical country, all the fruits are tropical. As we do not have four seasons, we import strawberries and grapes. The popular sport is soccer. It is a multi-ethnic group country (Malaysian about 67%, Chinese about 25%, Indian about 7% and others.) Religions are also divided among Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Confucianism and Taoism. While various ethnic groups are harmonizing and respecting other cultures, we are living peacefully together.



### 5) Republic of the Union of Myanmar : Mr. Naing (Utsunomiya University)



Myanmar is located between China and India. The area is 680,000 km<sup>2</sup>, which is about 1.8 times that of Japan. The population is 51,410,000, which is half that of Japan. It is a multi-ethnic group country, where Bamar People consist about 70% and 135 minor ethnic people inhabit. The language is Burmese.

My home town Mandalay is located about in the middle of the country and is famous for sightseeing. It is the hottest town in Myanmar. In summer, the temperature exceeds 40 centigrade every day. Whole mountainous areas are sacred places, where Mandalay's oldest Buddha heads are placed at the summit. From there, one can enjoy paramount view of the vast former palace and old cities. The sunset is particularly beautiful. There is a world longest wooden bridge. Water sprinkling festival during the New Year is very famous. I wish you will enjoy traditional foods on the street stalls. Please also try bicycle taxi, horse carriage, ox carriage, and street bus. As shown on the picture, men are supposed to keep standing on the bus (laugh).

### 6) Socialist Republic of Viet Nam : Mr. Nguyen (Sakushin Gakuin University)



The area is 329,241 km<sup>2</sup>. The population is 92,500,000. There are 55 ethnic groups living in the country, each having different language, ethnic cloth and dancing. Among them, the Kinh group is the largest group and comprises 87% of the population.

Since I came to Japan, I am often asked about the war, such as if the war is still continuing. We had long war with France, Japan and America in the past with remaining scars, but we are now in peace, thanks to Mr. Ho Chi Minh. We respect him as the nation's pride. In 1995, we normalized the relations with America and joined ASEAN. In 1998, we formally joined APEC. We are very grateful to everybody for the present peace and economical development of our country.

## 14 : 10 Part 2: Group Talk

All the attendants were separated in three groups and moved chairs to sit in a round position. Three to four foreign students formed one group and had conversation with each other for 15 minutes. Then each of them had a talk with Japanese people.



We had asked foreign students beforehand to prepare for ” How did I change after I came to Japan ? ”  
 “Unexpected difference between mother country and Japan” “ What I was absorbed in Japan” “ My dream in future.”

Members of each group were very cooperative with care and assistance to the committee leaders to make the talks progress smoothly. All the members could have very free and relaxed talking. Many questions were raised from Japanese and cheerful sounds of laughter were heard here and there in the hall.

- A Team Leaders : Ms. Saki Ikeda, Ms. Miyu Yoshizawa (Keio University)  
 B Team Leaders : Mr. Mamoru Tonegawa, Ms. Chie Murohisa, Mr. Naoya Ryu (Tamagawa University)  
 C Team Leaders : Ms. Mai Iwata, Mr. Tomoya Seki, Mr. Hiromasa Yoshihara (Minato UNESCO Assoc.)



### 15 : 20 Part 3: Group Work



Chairpersons: Ms. Kyoko Gomaibashi (Tamagawa University)  
 Ms. Saki Hoshino (Tamagawa University)

\* Quiz regarding world geography — It was played as a group match.

\* Making labels---Each group made one label expressing the theme. The theme is disclosed to each group in secret and the label is made with finger using a B4 paper, a folding paper set, paste and Scotch tape to express the theme.

If a person who does not know the theme can tell the theme from the label, the team was considered successful. The themes used are: Tokyo, Sea, Breakfast and Cat.





#### **16:20 Part 4 : Mongolian Ethnic Dance**

Ms. Shirendev Oyun Erdene and Ms. Bayarsakhan Munkhod showed Mongolian ethnic dance. The title of dance was “Mongolian Lady.” The dance elegantly showed daily life of Mongolian ladies from morning till evening.



#### **16:30 Ending**

#### **Words of Thanks representing Foreign Students** Mr. Sasanka (Sri Lanka)

We are very grateful that such a good opportunity has been provided. We think studying in a foreign country is the battle with time and money. We study every day while doing part-time job. Today, making ourselves free from daily works, we came here by Shinkansen train and could communicate with Japanese students. We could have many useful experiences and could spend a very enjoyable day. We do not have many occasions to tell how we foreign students are living, what we are thinking, how we are feeling, etc. Today we could have such an opportunity with you. This is my third participation to this Forum and yet this time was one of my most enjoyable events. I will become a working member of society next year and would like to come here to see what foreign students will do. I hope this Forum will be continued next year and thereafter. Let's make our best efforts to make this Forum even better. You could count on our best cooperation.



#### **Closing Words** Mr. Masato Tsuruoka (Meriro University, Faculty of Studies on Contemporary Society)



Dear everybody, did you enjoy the Forum ? (Big applause from audience)

There is one thing I have confirmed from today's Forum. That is, nationality has nothing to do when we enjoy the event together. Today I was really surprised and pleased to see such an enjoyable Forum was realized by the participants gathered from various universities and organizations. I would like to thank you very much to all the participants including foreign students for making the Forum so successful.



Committee Members:  
13 Youths from Tokyo



### Words of Thanks to Committee Members from Deputy Committee Chairperson :

Ms. Mai Iwata (Minato UNESCO Association)

I believe today's wonderful and enjoyable Forum could be realized, because we could obtain cooperation not only by youths of MUA but also by youths of Keio University UNESCO club and Tamagawa University UNESCO club as well as those of Shinjuku UNESCO club. We are very grateful to all these committee members.

### Closing Greeting from Chairpersons:

Mr. Jun Imai and Mr. Kento Takahashi

We would like to sincerely thank all the foreign students who participated in today's Forum and the committee members who prepared for and managed this Forum.

We would also like to thank MUA and Minato Board of Education, which greatly supported this Forum.

We would be very pleased if everybody here could feel that this Forum provided a very enjoyable afternoon and would remain as very fruitful and memorable day hereafter. We thank you again to everybody who has participated and cooperated for this Forum.



**Closing 16 : 40**

All the attendants and participants broke up wistfully.

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***Some days after the Forum, we received comments and impressions of the foreign students and committee members as follows:***

#### University of Utsunomiya

**Mr. Chamara Sasanka Salgado (Sri Lanka)** Graduate School, Engineering

This was my third participation to this Forum. I could speak my opinion as a foreign student and as a mother country's representative. This is an event in which I could work together with Japanese youths, which was not possible in other events. I could participate in this Forum three times in a row because it is interesting and significant. I could learn what the leadership and team work mean before I become a working member of society. This was my last participation as a foreign student, but I would like to continue to participate hereafter as a working person.

**Mr. Rony Vargas Villarobos (Costa Rica)** Graduate School, International Studies

Thanks to the cooperation offered by many people, I could participate to the memorable event. I know very little about Asia but could learn many things. Every generation of Japanese people talked to me with much interest in foreign students. I think this is very important for the future of Japan. This event taught me wide range world cultures through the introduction of mother countries and games. I am very glad that I could make so many new friends. It was a great success !

**Ms. Nur Nabila Binti Makhtar (Malaysia)** Graduate School, Engineering

I am very grateful for having provided me the opportunity to introduce my country to other people. In addition, I have learned from other students' speech how to make the introduction of my country interesting and easy to understand. Through the games, it was very good that I could communicate with not only foreigners but also with Japanese students and citizens. In the questions of games, I could learn other

countries' unusual interesting things. It was very useful that I could experience many things. I would like to participate in the next UNESCO Youth Forum, too.

**Mr. Pyae Phyo Naing (Myanmar)** Faculty of Agriculture

I was very glad to have the opportunity to introduce my country to everybody. By hearing other foreign students' introduction of their countries and through communication with them, I could closely understand other countries' cultures and feel my view of the world has widened. Furthermore, I could learn many things by questioning to Japanese students what I did not understand about Japan and talked with them. I believe my first participation in this Forum has been useful to deepen my international communication and understanding.

**Ms. Bayarsaikhan Munkhod (Mongolia)** Faculty of Engineering

This time I have for the first time participated in this Forum and could communicate with foreigners and Japanese people having various back ground. I am very glad to have had such an opportunity. In the panel talk, we talked with each other about < The gap between my mother country and Japan that I realized in Japan> < My change after coming to Japan >. While I was talking about those themes, I found a number of things that I have never noticed before. I hope this kind of events will continually be planned in future. Thank you very much.



**Ms. Shirendev Oyun Erdene (Mongolia)** Faculty of Engineering

I was very glad to have participated in this Forum. I could make friends of people from various countries. Through the talk with them about our experiences, I could think about where I am now and how much I have grown. I am eagerly wishing to inform other people about Mongolia as much as possible while I am in Japan. For this purpose, I have danced Mongolian traditional dance together with the seniors and tried hard to inform other people about the Mongolian cultures. Until today, I used to see only what I could see, but now I have noticed something exists that I cannot see. In this sense, I think I have broadened my outlook. I thank Ms. Takai and Ms. Nagato for having provided me with such a precious opportunity.



**Mr. Davaasambuu Ganuul (Mongolia)** Faculty of Engineering

The participation in the Youth Forum 2015 was one of my most precious experiences. Everybody was split into group and talked with each other about such subjects as mother country, studying abroad, impression of Japan before and after coming to Japan. We could also hear foreign students' experience of making friends in Japan. Panel talk covering all of them was very useful. I could also enjoy the game with Japanese students very much. Speeches by presenters of each country and Mongolian ethnic dance played by our two friends were very impressive. I am very glad that I could participate in this Forum. I would like to have another chance of attending this Forum.



**Sakushin Gakuin University**

**Mr. Kou Sho Tou (China)** Graduate School, Business Administration

I could have a very precious experience from the participation in the UNESCO Youth Forum. I would like to thank Chairpersons Ms. Takai of MUA, Ms. Nagato and Mr. Kobayashi of the Inter-Cultural Community Life Association, and all the cooperators. In this Forum, I could meet many foreign students and Japanese students and exchange opinions. By that, I was strongly stimulated and had motivation to cooperate with foreigners to create good future.

**Ms. Jin Ling (China)** Faculty of Business Administration

I took for the first time Shinkansen Bullet Train to Tokyo. It was very fast. Thanks to MUA and the Inter-Cultural Community Life Association, I could communicate with many Japanese people and university students, and brilliant foreign students. While understanding other





international cultures, I could spend a very enjoyable day. It would become a good memorable day. Particularly, it was very impressive to see that everybody, regardless of nationality, worked hard together on labels. This would be the mutual bond to be understood as the target of this Forum. As I was not so sure until today, I regret that I could not make the introduction of my country. If I could have another chance next year, I would strongly wish to participate again and make the introduction of my country. Thank you very much for allowing me to participate. I would like to send you my heartfelt thanks to everybody.

### 《Impressions by Committee Members》

#### Minato UNESCO Association

##### **Head of Committee Mr. Hiromasa Yoshihara**



During the preparation of this Forum, we have decided to make < communication > one of the most important themes this time. In order to let attendants and foreign students talk with each other easily, we asked to split them into three groups. While I joined in the group as one of chairpersons for the talk, I found that there was very good communication in the active conversation with foreign students and in the cooperation between attendants and foreign students during label making and quiz. I thought the atmosphere was very good and both participants were satisfied. I would like to make efforts further to realize even better communication in the future Forums to come.

##### **Deputy Head of Committee Ms. Mai Iwata**

This was my third participation in this Forum. This time, we planned the Forum with particular attention to minimize the sense of distance from foreign students and as the result, I feel foreign students were intimately with us. I was particularly impressed and moved to see that everybody was cooperating in the labeling game, regardless of nationality or age, to make the whole stage one. I am very glad that I could engage in the planning of such a wonderful Forum. I strongly hope that this Forum will be continually implemented as the friendship bridge between the nations of foreign students and Japan.



##### **Member Mr. Tomoya Seki**

I participated in the second UNESCO FORUM in 2012 when I was a university student. This was after three years since then. I am glad to see more and more students are participating and the Forum is getting bigger and bigger.

#### Keio University, UNESCO Club

##### **Mr. Jun Imai (Faculty of Law)**

It was very significant, above all, to be able to communicate with people of various nationalities as last year. It was even more enjoyable than last year that we could play the game with foreign students frankly and open-mindedly. In addition, I was very impressed by sincere attitude of foreign students and had a renewed feeling that I should study hard as a university student. By studying hard, I would like to become a man to be able to contribute internationally.

##### **Mr. Kento Takahashi (Faculty of Law)**

In this Forum, I assumed a chairperson for the first time. Although there must have been a lot of inconveniences, it was a very precious experience for me. Thank you very much. While this was my second time to participate in this Forum, I could communicate with foreign students to exchange mutual information more deeply than last time. I think the program was much more enriched, thanks to the committee members. I would like to join the next Forum again.

**Ms. Miyu Yoshizawa** (Faculty of Letters)

I have participated in this Forum as a committee member for the first time. It was a very good experience for me. We have discussed and investigated with each other how to make this Forum enjoyable for all the attendants, how to make this Forum useful for meaningful communication and how to make the games interesting. As a result of such preparation, we could actually realize enjoyable communication. In addition, I was really impressed by the foreign students' speeches about Japan and have come to wish to visit their countries. I was really happy to attend this Forum.

**Mr. Saki Ikeda** (Faculty of Business and Commerce)

This was my second participation in this Forum. In order to improve the communication with foreign students over that of last year, we made it more of direct communication. The group discussion and group competition games were livelier than expected and we could understand foreign students better. As this Forum provides the opportunity to realize international communication easily, it should be continued to next year and after.

### **Tamagawa University, UNESCO Club**

**Mr. Mamoru Tonegawa** (College of Business Administration)

This was my second participation in this Forum. In order to make it better than last year, we have conducted a trial and error planning. Through this Forum, I have realized that while it is difficult to implement an event together with people of other organization, it is at the same time enjoyable. As we made everybody actively participate in the program, every attendant in the event hall, including foreign students, seemed enjoying the Forum. As a result, I believe this year's Forum was better than that of last year.

**Ms. Chie Murohisa** (College of Business Administration)

Following last year, this was my second participation in this Forum. This year, I believe we could realize the Forum with positive communication, about which we had most concerned. While I had no chance of talking with foreign students last year, I could talk with many foreign students this year and feel sense of fulfilment. I would be pleased if everybody attended this Forum had enjoyed it.

**Ms. Saki Hoshino** (College of Humanities)

I have engaged in the planning of this Forum for the first time. It was very interesting for me to hear foreign students' explanation of their countries and come to know the difference from Japan. Furthermore, it was also good that not only hearing the speeches but also playing the game together, we could deepen the communication. As this was my first time, there were many difficult things, but I could enjoy the Forum. I hope to join this Forum again and make it even more enjoyable Forum.

**Ms. Kyoko Gomaibashi** (College of Humanities)

I have assumed a chairperson of group work in this Forum and could observe that Japanese students, people of this district and foreign students were communicating with each other in an at-home atmosphere. We were very glad that the group work was more actively conducted than we expected. Showing the pictures made by group works with each other, the audience were smiling with each other. That was the scene I felt very happy to see. I am very grateful to have had such a precious opportunity.

**Mr. Naoya Ryu** (College of Humanities)

I have participated in the Forum for the first time. It was somewhat different scene from what we see in our daily life that people from various countries gathered and tried to work together on various themes. I could enjoy such a rare experience. It was a wonderful opportunity to understand foreign cultures, if I may say so. I hope such co-relation among various people will be more extended.

*(Written by M. Takai, MUA President, and translated by K. Tanabe, the Hands-on Cultural Workshop Committee)*

## World Cooking Workshop Home Dishes in Lithuania

Date: November 3, 2015

Place: Minato City Gender Equality Center LIBRA



For this workshop, we had the pleasure of having Ms. Galina Meiluniene, spouse of the Lithuanian ambassador to Japan. Let me introduce Galina-san's bio briefly. She originally comes from Vilnius the capital of the republic. She came to Japan two years ago with her bassador husband. We were all impressed with her fluent Japanese. She told us that when she saw Kanji characters for the first time, she was fascinated by their charm. This experience motivated her to study Japanese during her student years. Ten years ago, she participated in a Japanese language study program held at the Kansai Kokusai Center of Japan Fund.

Part I: Galina-san gave a mini-lecture on her mother country. Lithuania is a republic which has a population of 2.54 million. It is surrounded by the Baltic Sea, Belarus, Latvia, Poland and Russia. In historical retrospect, Lithuania was once the largest dukedom in Europe during the medieval era and was later merged into the republic of Poland Lithuania. During WWII, the country was invaded by and annexed into the Soviet Union. The current Lithuanian republic was born with the March 1990 declaration of independence.

Part II: Galina-san explained the traditional home dishes in Lithuania, a country which has a long and cold winter season. Major food supplies include black rye bread, potato, beet, berry, mushroom and lots of dairy products. Christmas eve is an important family occasion when all members get together and share happy dinner. It is customary to prepare twelve different dishes and abstain from meat altogether throughout the day. After the explanation, Galina-san demonstrated how to cook each of the day's menu, shown below:

- **Deviled eggs with mushrooms**

Cut a hard-boiled egg, from top to bottom, into halves. Add to the yolk a combination of butter-saute'd eryngii and minced onion, mixed with our cream, and place the whole stuff on to the egg white. Mix it with dill, too.

- **Twisters**

Make a mixed texture of flour, butter, egg, sugar, sour cream and bourbon, and leave it for some time. Fry it in sunflower oil and put powder sugar over it.

- **Seasoned potato pancakes**

Grate potato and onion, and mix it with egg, flour, salt and black pepper. Bake it in a frying pan until the color changes to crispy blown. Place sour cream alongside and pour fine-minced dill over it.

- **Vegetable salad**

Boil potato and beet, and cut them into small dices. Put them into a bowl, along with roughly chopped red onion. Add salad oil, salt and black pepper, and mix them up in the bowl. Decorate it with dill.





## Japanese Spirit of Beauty Photographing Shikinen Sengu of Ise-Jingu Shrine

Speaker: Mr. Sanjiro Minamikawa, Photographer  
Winner of the 2015 Photographic Society of Japan  
Award  
Date: Friday, October 28, 2015  
Place: Azabu Civic Center

Shikinen Sengu (transfer of a diety to a new shrine building once in every 20 years) at Ise-Jingu Shrine has been carried out since approximately 1300 years ago. The ritual of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Shikinen Sengu started back in 2005 and the transfer of a diety was completed in October of 2013. Mr. Minamikawa talked about Japanese Spirit of Beauty, which values Japanese tradition and succession of culture as well as coexistence with the nature, based on his experience in photo-shooting the Shikinen Sengu. The following is a summary of his audio-visual presentation:

### (1) 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Photographer



I was in the first batch of students at “Oya Soichi Tokyo Mass Communication Academy.” I studied there while working for a publisher of magazines in Shibuya. I asked a big favor of my parents and realized a one year stay in Paris. I lived in a room in the attic without a bath. After that, I continued to stay in Paris more than half of a year and flew back and forth between France and Japan.

My style as a photographer is to set a theme and do the shooting along the lines of the theme. It took me almost 20 years to complete one of my books titled “100 Giants in Atelier.” I took up about 30 authors in my book “Idea Atelier of Mystery Writer.” They are those mystery writers as Graham Greene, Frederick Forsyth, John le Carre, and so forth.

I wrote a series of books on young ladies as I was interested in the way of life of European aristocracy. Paris was a good place for my activities to satisfy my interest centered around Europe.

I photographed Kumano Kodo Road in Kii Mountains after Santiago de Compostela of Spain, and ran an exhibition at Fuji Film Square. A man from Mie Prefecture came to view the exhibition, and enthusiastically requested me to photograph Shikinen Sengu at Ise-Jingu Shrine. He even offered that he would provide me with utmost cooperation. I eventually accepted it as my fate since I came up with the ritual called “Okihiki,” i.e., transportation of lumbers by human hands to Ise-jingu for building new shrine. I might have wanted to spiritually return to my home due to my old age.

It took me 8 years to finish shooting Shikinen Sengu at Ise-jingu Shrine. During this period of time, the technology evolved camera from film to digital. I experienced quite a difficulty in handling digital camera at first.

I was able to exhibit my photographs at Mie Museum, but nowhere else. This is why I decided to depart from Japan and ran exhibitions at Rome, New York, Los Angeles, and Kern. I was happy that those exhibitions offered opportunities for those people there to understand the origin of Japanese culture.

### (2) Shikinen Sengu

(Many pictures were shown to audience. Three shown hereunder are those taken by Mr. Minamikawa.)

- Why Sengu takes place in every 20 years?

One reason is that Ise-jingu Shrine is a wooden building and therefore it goes rotten. Another reason is to maintain traditional craft. The same technique laid out in the ancient document has been adhered for years.

- Uji-bridge was rebuilt 7 years ago because of the flood. This is why it does not synchronize with the Sengu.

At the ceremony of crossing the newly built bridge, 3 generations of a family led by a designated young female cross the bridge. The photograph shown here is the last one taken by the traditional camera. After crossing the bridge, you enter the holy precinct. I felt my heart was warmed there.



A Shinto ceremony for purifying a building site at Toyoukeno-Oomikami (Outer Shrine of Ise Jingu Shrine)

- Self-sufficiency in principle

Ise-jingu Shrine owns its own field, and rice planting and mowing are done by hand. As long as a week is spent on producing salt during hot season. People at Hatadono-jinja Shrine in Matsuzaka weave clothes for Shinto priest of Ise-jingu Shrine as well as cloth to be presented before god. Red sea bream and abalone are caught off the nearby divine waters. Articles of tributes are transported by trucks to a nearby site, but beyond that point they are conveyed by boats to the inner shrine and by carriages to the outer shrine of Ise-jingu Shrine.

- Shinto priests have a lot to do: It is an important observance in the morning to go to the water well and get some water.

When a message drum is beaten, about 60 priests serve God either on a rainy or windy day. Monthly festival is held twice a year. Mrs. Sayako Kuroda served as the master of the festival in June 2012 on behalf of Mrs. Atsuko Ikeda who was advanced in age. Taking photos of the festival was allowed, but no explanation was given on what was going on in the festival. Even if I asked what was going on, the only response given was “just as you observed.”

Oharai-Norito by priests was held twice a year as well. Priests get down on their knees for 30 minutes on a rush mat spread on gravels. I told them that it must be very hard to do so. They responded that it was a part of ascetic practices.

As I heard that the foods served for God were same as those served back in Heian Era, I asked them if it was true. They responded surprisingly how dare I could ask such an embarrassing question.

- Superb selection of land: It is said that Amaterasu Oomikami (Sun Goddess) ultimately selected Ise as the place to live in after walking all over Japan looking for a good place to live.

The distance that a human can walk in a day is said to be about 50 kilometers, and food, clothing, and shelter are all furnished within that range. Flat land as well as rice fields exist. The land is blessed with abundant seafood as well as mountain products. Furthermore, landform surrounded by mountains in the back and ocean in front is hardly attacked by foreign enemy. She surely found a superb land in Ise.

- Sengu is a very large event: Lumber plenty enough for building a new shrine cannot be sufficiently supplied from Ise alone so they are also sourced from Kiso.

These lumbars are called sacred trees and are smoothed by planer blade. They are hinoki cypress that smell good. They are used as the core column. It is same as churches in Europe, which is quite interesting. The event of transporting sacred trees is called “Okihiki.”

### (3) Miraculous experience

The central event of Sengu is “Sengyo Ritual” where Goshintai, object of worship believed to contain the spirit of deity, typically housed in a shrine, as well as sacred trees are quietly transported to a newly built shrine. Goshinpo are such treasures as necklaces, crowns and rings which are used by God. At the time of Sengu of the Inner Shrine of Ise, I set my digital camera right in front of the shrine and waited for a good opportunity for a photograph. I wondered if a photograph could be taken in the complete darkness without any light. All of a sudden, a pale light was lit to my left and a warm wind softly blew. I decided that it was the time I had to take photographs and, therefore, I clicked shutter



Monthly festival where Mrs. Sayako Kuroda served as the master of the festival

repeatedly in the darkness. I was told later by my acquaintance that I had an exceptionally blessed experience. He said that he also had a similar experience. He also said that some people could feel the pale light and the ward wind but others could not.

### Question and Answer Session

Q: By looking at the photographs, I felt as if Mr. Minamikawa became a part of Ise Shrine.

A: As you cross Uji Bridge, you step away the everyday world and feel like your mind is cleansed.

Q: I have been using film cameras for over 50 years. I believe that I only could take a good photograph when a photographer and an object of shooting are integrated with.

A: I click the shutter when I am convinced. God makes me click the shutter, not me.

Q: I really want to visit Ise. Which season you recommend most? Can I smell hinoki cypress?

A: You can have different experiences at any time of the year you visit there. It is regrettable that the smell of hinoki cypress diminishes through the passage of time. It is completely gone in three years. If they are granted to smaller shrines, they are smoothed by planer blade again there and they start to smell again.

Q: I was listening to your talk while wondering where you took photographs when you lived in Paris.

A: The place I liked to take photographs was the alley on Montmartre as I long lived there. However, I did not photograph views in Paris, as I took photographs under a set theme. When I was producing “100 Giants in Atelier”, it was troublesome to make appointments for shooting with them. Once I obtained an OK from them, I immediately flew to wherever designated by them. In this regard, Paris was located in the center of Europe and was very convenient.

Q: I am looking forward to walk Santiago de Compostela.

A: You have to wake up at 5 o'clock in the morning and start walking at 6. You walk 40 to 50 kilometers a day and check in at a lodging at around 3 pm and, then, go out to a market to do some shopping. You continue this for a full month and lose 10 kilograms.

Q: Who was the most impressive artist among “100 Giants”?

A: If I talk about my impression on each and every one of them, it should take a month to finish. But, Marc Chagall was very interesting. He was under his wife's control.

Q: Is the status of those people involved in Sengu which takes place every twenty years guaranteed?

A: I am not sure of their status. They are classified into each area of work, like smoothing sacred trees by planer blade or deforestation, and inherit the tradition from their ancestors.

Q: Do you have any plan after having completed your work associated with Sengu of Ise Jingu Shrine?

A: I spent 8 years on this work. I am not planning anything new right now. I am concentrating on the exhibition of my photographs toward Ise-Shima Summit held next year.



Kawabiki at Isuzugawa River; transport of white stones to the Inner Shrine by wooden sledge

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



Hands-on Cultural Workshop  
**Folk Tale and Eisa Dance of Okinawa**

Date: November 7, 2015

Place: Minato Life-long Learning Center

A total of 20 people, including four foreigners and one child, participated in this workshop. Eisa is one of the traditional performing arts in Okinawa. In the prefecture, there are youth committees, organized in different regions, which strive to preserve their local dancing styles. On the evening of the “Kyu Bon” season, people in all communities participate in the Eisa dancing march.

The day’s program proceeded in the following manner:

1. Mini-lecture on Okinawa and Eisa dance
2. Folk tale “Oka no ippon-matsu,” narrated by Mr. A. Oshiro
3. Demonstration of Sosaku (newly created) Eisa dance, performed by three Shoryu Matsuri-Daiko players
4. Exercise of Eisa dance by all attendees, coached by Mr. J. Mizuno (International Eisa Ambassador)

During the exercise period, we learned how to dance a Sosaku Eisa dance created for stage performance. Because Eisa includes Karate actions and sharp movements, it was not easy to follow the complicated flow of movements. Still it was a very worthwhile experience for us to try the attractive Eisa.



Some comments from the participants:

Most enjoyable/ It was difficult to synchronize the hand and leg movements while dancing/ I enjoyed the program with my son/ Dancing was a challenge but stimulated my interest, thanks to our instructors’ skillful orientation.

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

A UNESCO 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event  
The 2015 Kanto-Block UNESCO Study Forum in Tochigi

Date: October 24 & 25, 2015

Place: Sano City, Tochigi Prefecture

This annual event was co-hosted by the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ), the Kanto-Block UNESCO Council, and the Tochigi Prefectural UNESCO Council, and was held at the campus of Sano College. At the beginning the audience was welcomed by the live performance of a chorus by the “Dolce” boys & girls choir group, followed by powerful sounds of Japanese drums produced by a club troupe of Sano Nihon Daigaku Secondary School students.



During the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary keynote speech, Mr. Yuji Suzuki, Deputy Director General of JFUAJ, talked about “UNESCO pursues Proactive Pacifism; Let us start ESD activities from our regional communities.”

Attendees engaged in discussions, participating in their choice from the following subcommittee meetings:

- I. World Heritages and Regional Heritages  
Major topics: Nikko temples & shrines, Karasawa Yamajiro in Sano, Preservation of Tenmyo foundry and natural heritages
- II. The roles which should be undertaken by UNESCO schools and grassroots UNESCO associations
- III. UNESCO and youth activities
- IV. How to make UNESCO activities invigorated and ICT-driven

In Subcommittee I meeting, presentations were made by Nikko UNESCO Association members. Major initiatives they promote are the following three periodical activities: (1) Environmental monitoring undertaken by local high school students, focused on the vicinity of the Nikko temples and shrines, (2) UNESCO Association friendship & study meetings organized by high school students, and (3) Participation by UNESCO Association members in the cultural festivals of local high schools where they demonstrate to teachers and students major activities under way at their association. Our readers may be aware that the autonomous governments, which administer world heritages in their communities, are required to submit periodic reports to the Agency for Cultural Affairs, concerning the latest status of their heritage preservation. The Nikko UNESCO Association's monitoring work is entrusted by Nikko City. We could see the important roles played by the Nikko UNESCO Association in the community. (Reported by R. Sato, MUA steering committee member)

In Subcommittee III meeting, Two Utsunomiya UNESCO Association members, namely Professor Kazuhiro Yoshida and a Sri Lankan student Ms. Sasanka (enrolled in the doctorate course of Utsunomiya University, presented a proposal titled “How to realize UNESCO ideals through interactions with ordinary citizens.” It was followed by a presentation by President Takai of Minato UNESCO Association titled “UNESCO Youth Forum in Minato.” The last presentation was made by a teacher and ten odd UNESCO Club students of Ohtawara Women's Senior High School. They reported how they have linked up with the students of six other schools in Tochigi Prefecture and how they have promoted mutual betterment through UNESCO activities.

On Day 2, Ms. Sato and I participated in the excursion program. Major places our group visited include: the Tenmyo Foundry site which have a history of 1,000 years; the relic site of the Karasawa Yamajiro which was one of the largest castles built in the mountains; and the old private house of Shozo Tanaka, the legendary pioneer activist who advocated strongly the importance of human rights protection and the preservation of nature. Through these visits, we could learn the history and

culture of Sano, along with the way UNESCO activities have contributed to the local community. It was a most stimulating experience for me because my daily activities have been confined to MUA. During the two-day forum, I could expand my network, engaged in stimulating conversation with attendees from other UNESCO associations in Kanto Area (Tokyo and five other prefectures). In particular I appreciated the opportunity to hear directly from local UNESCOs about the current status of their respective local heritages. (Reported by T. Kobayashi, MUA steering committee member)

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

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## Congratulations, Ms. Nagato, MUA Director!



Ms. Yoshiko Nagato recently received from Mongolia a state award of the highest recognition, the Altan Cadas medal (Order of the Polar Star). The award ceremony was held on September 14, 2015, at the Mongolian Embassy in Tokyo. She received the medal and a certificate from His Excellency Mr. SODOVIAMS Khurelbaatar, the Mongolian Ambassador.

Over the past 24 years, Ms. Nagato has made tireless efforts to establish Japan-Mongolia friendship, ranging from the accommodation and care of Mongolian trainees and university students to the publication of folk tale books edited in bilingual format. The Mongolian government has greatly appreciated her dedication in promoting grass-root cross-cultural interactions between the two countries for many years.

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

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## Minato Citizens Festival

Date: October 10 & 11, 2015

Place: Shiba Park, Minato City

MUA participated in this annual Minato City event which was held in the Shiba Park as usual. Our tent was erected at the same location as before. Fortunately the weather was generally fine during the weekend event.

We set up publicity panels of each MUA committee and also held a mini-bazar for fund raising. All of the bazar items were sold and we donated the proceeds to a scholarship fund via the National Federation of UNESCO Association in Japan.



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



## MUA Visit to the Embassy of Azerbaijan Republic

Date: November 11, 2015

Place: Meguro-ku, Tokyo

The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan is located in a quiet residential area at Higashi-ga-oka 2-chome, Meguro-ku, which is close to the National Hospital Organization Tokyo Medical Center. It was opened ten years ago in October 2005.

Upon our arrival, Mr. Rovshan Mirzayev, First Secretary, escorted us into the chic reception room. There he gave in fluent Japanese a very comprehensive powerpoint presentation on the outline of the republic, including geography, history, tourism, education and economy.

After the presentation, we were escorted to another room where the embassy staff held a welcome party for us. We were treated the internationally renowned Azerbaijan wine as well as cake called “Bacrava” and fully entertained by the friendly staff. We were told that the Bacrava was prepared by Mrs. Mirzayev on the previous day. It tasted very elegant and we enjoyed it with wine.



The Azerbaijan Republic is located in the southeast portion of the Caucasus region and is at the crossroad of Asia and Europe. In terms of geographical environment, the republic was once an intermediary post along the Silk Road and is entirely different from Japan, an island country. It is surrounded by powerful big states, namely Russia to the north; Iran to the south; Armenia, Georgia and Turkey to the west; and also faces the Caspian Sea to the east.

Records show that humans had lived in this region since the Stone Age. Throughout its long history, different cultures have co-existed in Azerbaijan and left the marks of their presence in the form of cultural heritages. Azerbaijan has a territory of 86,600 square kilometers (slightly larger than Hokkaido) and a population of 9.5 million, of which Muslims account for 95 percent. It is a secular state.

Following its independence in 1991, the country has achieved a remarkable economic growth, capitalizing on rich oil and natural gas resources. According to the 2013 statistics, the country marked GDP of 73.54 billion dollars which translates to per-capita GDP of 7,900 dollars (quadruple growth over the latest ten years).

Our readers may remember the MUA lecture, delivered in Japanese by Ambassador Gursel Qudrat ogulu Ismayilzada in February 2014. He talked on the theme of “The 23-year history of the Azerbaijan Republic as an independent state.” We tapped the ambassador as our speaker because he was mentored by Dr. Miwa, MUA’s president emeritus, while enrolled in a doctorate course at Sophia University.

The ambassador introduced Azerbaijan as a country of fire during the lecture. His presentation was very interesting and impressive. We learned that “Azer” means fire, and that it is related to the oil fields present in Baku the capital which also accommodates the holy place for the fire-worshipping Zoroastrianism.

Over the country’s long history, Azerbaijan underwent hardships, dominated by different ruling states. However, the people worked closely together to maintain balance of power and have strived

to achieve national growth. That's what I understood. All of us are thankful for the generous hospitality extended by First Secretary Mirzayev with his spouse, Third Secretary Bagirov, and all other embassy staff. Last but not least, our whole-hearted thanks to the Ambassador's generosity.

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

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#### **(Continued from P.1) Minato UNESCO, a Place for New Encounters**

I have an unforgettable memory of a particular workshop where the instructor was a Greek young lady studying in Japan. She was expected to teach us home dishes she had inherited from her mother. She was a bit nervous because she was not confident enough and also did not know where in Japan she could obtain necessary food materials. We MUA staff did not know how we could assist her.

There was a pleasant surprise to us on the day of the workshop. The instructor's mother, a school teacher, came to the cooking class with her daughter. She chanced to have a semester break at that time and visited her daughter in Japan. Needless to say, the workshop proceeded quite successfully thanks to the mother's participation. Even after the home return of the Greek student, I stayed in touch with her, remembering the day's excitement.

People seem to be busy all the time these days. So much so that we seldom have chances to make a heart-to-heart communication. I believe that, whether in Japan or elsewhere, the mindset to place more importance on new encounters with other people is the key to enriching our personality.

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

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#### **(Continued from P. 11) Home dishes in Lithuania**

All of us enjoyed tasting the cooked four dishes, with a cup of herb tea. The twisters were delicious without adding powder sugar. In my opinion the seasoned potato pancakes tasted like "Oyaki" in Japan. The red color of beet highlighted the vegetable salad. We had a most enjoyable time throughout the 3.5-hour-long workshop, listening to Galina-san's mini-lecture on Lithuania and cooking the day's menu within the limited time.



*(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

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## UNESCO presents new finance model that could triple the availability of textbooks



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**Paris, 19 January—A new study by UNESCO’s Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM)\* to be issued on 19 January proposes an economic model that would help reduce the cost of textbooks and increase their availability to students in schools around the world.**

According to the paper, *Every Child Should Have a Textbook*, centralized financing mechanisms could allow for a US\$3 reduction in the price of each textbook and save almost US\$1 billion a year from the cost of learning materials in sub-Saharan Africa alone. Kenya, for example, could save \$US64 million from its textbook bill, Malawi US\$33 million.

The report argues that improved financial models could help triple the number of textbooks available for children worldwide, thereby improving educational achievements, particularly in poor countries hampered by the high cost of textbooks today. According to the study, providing textbooks to all students could increase literacy scores by 5-20%.

The business model presented in the report recommends that countries centralize textbook procurement and pool demand to facilitate long-term financing, and help increase their availability. A survey of primary schools in 11 developing countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, India, Malaysia, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, and Uruguay) shows that, on average, up to 20% of fourth grade pupils do not have any textbooks or have to share. In Cameroon, there is only one reading textbook per 12 students and only one mathematics textbook per 14 students in second grade.

Aaron Benavot, Director of the GEM Report said “*Next to a good teacher, well-designed textbooks in sufficient quantities are the most effective way to improve students’ learning. This has been recognized by some countries – notably Swaziland, Guatemala and Nicaragua – but many others have yet to follow.*”

But governments are not investing enough in textbooks, according to data collected by UNESCO’s Institute for Statistics (UIS). It shows that in 2012, 36 countries in all regions spent an average of less than 2% of their primary education budget on teaching and learning materials. Sixteen of those countries spend less than 1% and two (Kuwait and Malawi) spend more.

Low government investment means that parents often have to pay for learning materials for their children, creating further barriers to learning for the poorest. Learning materials average over a third of total household spending on education in 12 African countries, and over half of spending on education among the poorest households. (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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