



MINATO TOKYO

Bulletin

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MINATO UNESCO ASSOCIATION NEWS & CALENDAR

ISSUED BY / MINATO UNESCO ASSN. 16-3, SHIMBASHI 3-CHOME MINATO-KU TOKYO 105-0004 / HIROSHI NAGANO PRES.
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Inaugural Address

Hiroshi Nagano, President

I was elected at the last general meeting as the new president of Minato UNESCO Association (MUA) succeeding Mr. Kenzo Tange, the first president, Dr. Kimitada Miwa, the second, and Ms. Mitsuko Takai, the third and immediate past president. I am determined to contribute to the further advancement of MUA, building upon the groundwork laid by these past respectable presidents.

I have long been involved with science and technology-related issues of the government, but have not had as much association with UNESCO activities. I happened, though, to have assumed the office of secretary-general of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO after the merger of the two ministries, which established the current Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. Upon assuming that role, I at once recognized the importance of the grass-roots activities of UNESCO societies all over Japan, and made it my urgent mission to connect these movements with the Japanese National Commission and with UNESCO's headquarters in Paris. As part of my efforts, I had the pleasure of directly communicating with the front-line staff of this grass-roots movement, although such interactions were rather unusual in the government where the top-down system still prevailed. In those days, I had an opportunity to participate in the Kanto-Block UNESCO Study Forum in Tochigi where I met Ms. Yoshiko Nagato, Director of MUA. Such experiences influenced my interest to take part in MUA.



I am sure that the UNESCO Constitution, which begins with the well-known phrase - "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed", moved the hearts of exhausted Japanese people right after the war. The fact that Japan acceded to UNESCO in June of 1951, 5 years before entering the United Nations, and even prior to signing the San Francisco Peace Treaty, clearly demonstrated the firm will of the Japanese people, who were encouraged by the UNESCO Constitution, to build a new country in peace.

However, the times have changed. Contrary to the original expectation of the people about the peace dividend after the end of the cold war, we are now facing emerging uncertainties all over the world, not to mention the terrorist attacks caused by people influenced by IS. Meanwhile, Minato City should play a critical role in supporting the international city of Metropolitan Tokyo as it prepares to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games in the year 2020. Minato City should also strive to build a pleasant environment for the people, where they can live and work comfortably and vivaciously.

It appears that we at MUA face various challenges, one of which is to encourage greater involvement of young people in activities related to "peace." As I commit myself to take on such challenging issues, I sincerely expect to receive your utmost cooperation and assistance.

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

The 2016 MUA General Meeting

Date: April 26, 2016

Place: Minato City Lifelong Learning Center

The annual general meeting was kicked off by Mr. Hiroshi Matsumoto, Vice President of MUA. We had the pleasure of having Mr. Masaaki Takei, Mayor of Minato City.

Mr. Takei gave the following speech as the prominent guest:

MUA has continued the activities for promoting cross-cultural communications as well as realizing the philosophy of peace advocated in the UNESCO constitution. Minato City made the Declaration as a City of Peace back in 1985. The spirit contained in the declaration to look for the lasting peace in the world, to observe culture and tradition, and to make every effort to build a city full of something worth living for has an unseen commonality with the concept of UNESCO. Ms. Takai has deeply devoted herself in the activities of MUA since its establishment. She has led MUA for the past 6 years as the president. I would express my sincere appreciation for her devotion and energy. Minato City is expected to play more and more important roles toward Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics 2020. I hope that MUA develop further under the leadership of Mr. Nagano, the new president.



Then, Ms. Takai gave the following speech:



Thanks to the great guidance and support extended by Mayor Takei and staffs of Education Board, MUA has been able to continue activities along with the spirit of making everyone on earth happy in peaceful world as stipulated in the UNESCO Constitution. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for all the support I received. I accepted the presidency of MUA 6 years ago. As of today's general meeting, I pass the torch to the new president. It was in fact too much demanding for me to follow in the footsteps of 10 years presidency by Mr. K. Tange, the first president and 18 years by Dr. K. Miwa, the second. Thanking for the given opportunity, I tried my best for these 6 years. I again would express my heartfelt thanks for all the support extended to me. Now, Mr. H. Nagano will be the new president of MUA. He held prominent positions such as

Director-General for International Affairs and Secretary-general of Japanese National Commission for UNESCO of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Professor of National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies. I am confident that he should lead the way for MUA in broader activities. Please give him every support in attaining his responsibilities.

After the speech of Ms. Takai, activity report and settlement report of 2015 were approved, followed by the approval of activity plan and budget for 2016. Proposed revisions on the bylaw were approved as well. Then, the replacement of president, nomination of four vice-presidents and alteration in the board members were also approved.

At last, but not the least, we appreciate the presence of Ms. Eriko Yokoo, Manager, Ms. Tomoko Takefuji, Assistant Manager and Miss Hiroko Terasaki of Minato City Education Board who are all supportive of MUA.

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

(Continued from P. 3): Committee and Activity Plans for 2016

Hands-on Cultural Workshop Committee: Yukata Workshop
Cha-no-yu (Tea Ceremony) Workshop
Japanese Calligraphy Workshop

Foreign Language Study Committee: Practical English Conversation Course for Beginners

(Written by M. Takai, Counselor-Director, and translated by Y. Suda, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

List of Board Members for 2016

(Underlined names are newly appointed.)

President:	<u>Hiroshi Nagano</u>
Vice President:	<u>Kazuko Okumura</u> ; <u>Kensuke Kikuchi</u> ; Hiroshi Matsumoto; <u>Yukari Miyashita</u>
Director:	<u>Takako Imamura</u> ; Hiroko Kako; Gunji Shimuzu; Harumi Suzuki, Ikuko Tsuboya; Kazuhiko Togo; Mamoru Tomokane; Yuki Nakamae; <u>Michiko Nagai</u> ; Yoshiko Nagato; Fujiko Hara; Shigekatsu Mineo; Emiko Miwa; Shunsuke Morimura; Setsuko Yamada; <u>Toshiko Watabe</u>
Standing Director:	Masayo Akiyama; <u>Toyoko Isobe</u> ; <u>Takayuki Kobayashi</u> ; Seiichi Tanahashi; Kazuyo Hirakata; <u>Kazuko Matsuzaki</u>
Auditor:	<u>Kiichiro Tanabe</u> ; <u>Norio Nakagawa</u>
Honorary President:	Kimitada Miwa
Counselor:	Isao Kiso
Counselor-Director:	Mitsuko Takai
Advisor:	Yasushi Akashi; Atsushi Seike; Masaaki Takei; Yoshiya Mikami; Kinhide Mushakoji

Committees and Activity Plans for 2016

Membership Committee: New Members Welcome Party
MUA Salon
MUA Visit to Embassies
New Year Party

Public Relations, Bulletin & Internet Committee:
Bulletin No. 144 – 147 (in Japanese)
Bulletin No. 143 – 146 (in English)
Renewal of MUA Web

International Science and Culture Committee:
Diplomats Lecture
Symposium
Cross-cultural Awareness Lecture (two to three times a year)
Fund-raising Activities for; the Great East Japan Earthquake and the 2016
Kumamoto Earthquake
Children's Library of Mindanao

World Cooking Committee: World Cooking Workshops (two to three times a year)

Minato Citizens Festival Committee: Participation in the Festival (Bazar, Exhibition of Panels)

Youth Activities Committee: UNESCO Youth Forum in Minato

(To be continued on P. 2)

The 33rd MUA Diplomats Lecture
Asia Pacific: Challenges and Chances

Date: Monday, February 2016
Place: Kabayama Room at IHJ

We had the pleasure of having the former Japanese Ambassador to the U. S. Ichiro Fujisaki as the speaker for the 33rd lecture of this program which was held at the Kabayama Room of the International House of Japan.



Let us introduce first a brief bio of Ambassador Fujisaki. Born in 1947. Joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in 1969. Assumed different positions, including Director-General of the North American Affairs Bureau, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the International Organization in Geneva. From 2008 to 2012 he was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the U. S. Since 2013, he has been President of the America-Japan Society, Inc. He teaches as guest professor at Sophia University and Keio University.

MUA holds the diplomats lecture once a year, inviting foreign ambassadors and diplomats based mainly in Tokyo. Our objective is to provide an opportunity for those professionals to understand Japan's diplomatic policy better, by inviting qualified speakers from MOFA and other organizations. This program started soon after MUA's inception and has continued as a flagship annual event.

For the 33rd lecture, five foreign diplomats and many embassy staff attended to listen to Ambassador Fujisaki's talk. At the beginning, MUA's president Takai gave an opening address, followed by Vice President Nagano who introduced the speaker's profile.

Ambassador Fujisaki's lecture covered extensive topics, including Prime Minister Abe's anniversary statement last year, new security-related legislation, Okinawa, North Korea and China. He cautioned the audience that the stated viewpoints are strictly of his own, not of the government's.



During the Q&A session, questions were raised from two ambassadors, one about Japan's stance toward dictator nations and the other about the war-time comfort women issue between Japan and South Korea. I was impressed with Ambassador Fujisaki's insightful viewpoints based on years of his diplomatic experiences. In particular, I was moved by his statement that Japan must not forget the relief aid and encouragements received from other countries following the unprecedented 3.11 triple disasters which hit Japan five years ago.

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

Resurgence of Manliness?

Kimitada Miwa, Honorary President of MUA

Sometimes I see a truck running along the metropolitan street, with a visible slogan pasted on the window shield. It goes “Oh, Man! Here we go! Stalwart Samurai Japan!” Recently I feel as if the pacifist nation Japan were returning back to the prewar years when the society had a politically incorrect sentiment. Could the truck’s slogan be only a final cry of the collapsing masculine culture which has been shrinking in its presence in the prevalence of a gender-free society?



In the U. S, the drivers of large trucks on trans-continental delivery missions were once called the contemporary cowboys, against the backdrop of fading Great Plains in the Wild West. We see a secluded world of American guys who want to excel in machismo. Perhaps, the aforementioned attitude of Japanese truck drivers may represent a samurai-version of the similar mindset.

During the mid-1960’s I was studying in Princeton University and often referred to Japan as “Nihon” in Japanese pronunciation. Once Professor Jansen, a renowned scholar on Japan, asked me which I thought was the correct pronunciation of Japan in Kanji characters, “Nihon” or “Nippon.” I mused a moment upon Japan during the war years and responded as follows. “Partly because Nippon sounds more assertive and gallant, Japanese generally pronounced so during the years prevailed by militarism. However, for a pacifist nation Japan which declared farewell to wars, Nihon seems to be a more suitable pronunciation. Don’t you agree?”

It seems to me that the general sentiment in Japan under the Abe administration has been inclined toward “Nippon” with its clear and explosive sounds. For the aforementioned truck drivers, the wind shield slogan must have been identical with the “Nippon” mindset.

On another topic – water. The visual image of the 3.11 Big Tsunami taught us a lesson about the dynamics involving water, ground and ocean. First, water invaded and devastated ground. Then it made a reverse flow into the ocean. The sea surface sank as much as five meters and the reverse tidal waves flowed in great torrent into the collapsed sea bed.

I came up with a far-out analogy of the nature’s cause and effect when I read an article in the International New York Times. It reported that the New York Police Department decided recently not to waste their time in arresting urinaters regardless of the location within the city. This new policy applies not only to the traditional type who sprinkle behind trees in the park but also the new type who shamelessly pass water openly on downtown streets. The NYPD also decided to overlook alcohol drinking which often make them urinate in public. Maybe the NYPD started to sympathize with those who have no other thought but simply following the nature’s calling. The point is the NYPD leadership wants to encourage the police force to concentrate more on serious crimes.

Soon after opening up the country for the Western world decades ago, Japan as a nation state passed a law prohibiting urination in public places, in an effort to catch up with the Western norm. In the same token, tattoo was also banned. Tattoo was common among fire-fighters, palanquin bearers, carpenters, etc. and was regarded as a symbol of proud and dashing guys. In short, tattoo was demoted to the same rank as public urination.

It is amusing to know that Yukichi Fukuzawa, the legendary ideologue during the Meiji Restoration, expressed objection to the said prohibition. Fukuzawa, being an iconic rationalist, could not stand the absurdity to uniformly prohibit urination, regardless of whether it takes place on the street of the Ginza or the footpath of rice paddies. (May 8, 2016)

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

From the UNESCO Press Release

(09.08.2016 - Communication & Information Sector)

Media and humanitarians in crisis situations: Lessons learned from the Zika outbreak



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The current Zika outbreaks, which began in 2015, have caused increasing alarm in countries across the world, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean. Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed that “based on research, there is scientific consensus that Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and Guillain-Barré Syndrom” – intensifying even more its harmfulness and the need for preventive action. It continues to pose significant challenges in terms of populations’ access to the accurate preventive information and life-saving behaviors.

It is part of UNESCO’s initiative to promote and protect media’s principles, even in times of epidemic and crisis, to guarantee pluralism of sources and content, editorial independence, as well as to empower local populations with reliable information on how to stay safe.

From 14 to 15 July 2016, UNESCO held a workshop entitled “Inform, Engage, Investigate: Media and humanitarians in crisis situations – Lessons learned from the Zika outbreak” in Panama City, Panama with the participation of the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

This workshop represented the first regional initiative aimed to address the relationship and the issue of cooperation between media and humanitarian organizations in times of crisis. The large gathering of public, private and associative media outlets, major humanitarian organizations and numerous UN agencies ensured a great representation of regional actors involved in journalism, risk communication and emergency response.

The workshop reunited over 50 high-level participants from public, private and associative media organizations and associations (International Association of Broadcasting, TV Globo, Voice of America, World Association of Community Radios, World Federation of Science Journalists), leading NGOs (Caritas Internationalis, National Societies of Red Cross, Refugee Education Trust, Save the Children, World Vision), as well as numerous UN agencies (UNIDSR, UNICEF, OCHA, PAHO, WHO, World Bank), part of the UN Country Team and RedLAC Communication Group (www.redhum.org). More than 15 countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region were thus represented. (Excerpted)

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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