



MINATO TOKYO

Bulletin

みなと
ユネスコ

MINATO UNESCO ASSOCIATION NEWS & CALENDAR

ISSUED BY / MINATO UNESCO ASSN. 16-3, SHIMBASHI 3-CHOME MINATO-KU TOKYO 105-0004 / HIROSHI NAGANO PRES.
発行所 / 港ユネスコ協会 〒105-0004 東京都港区新橋3-16-3 TEL・FAX 03(3434)2233 発行人 / 永野博
Mail: info@minatounesco.jp http://minato-unesco.jp

No. 148: September 1, 2017

Toward the Achievement of SDGs

Hiroshi Nagano, MUA President

After 70 years since the end of WWII, the world seems to be at a turning point where it may turn away from the international peace-oriented solidarity movement to a disintegrating direction. This trend seems to be visible in the recent developments in industrialized countries, such as the Brexit in the U. K. and President Trump's "America First" policy, as well as in incidents elsewhere including the acceleration of power shift to the president in Turkey.

Nevertheless we still have a philosophy today which can drive the whole world toward a shared single goal. It is the concept of "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" which was adopted at the United Nations summit convened in the fall of 2015. The SDGs are being sought after during the 2016 – 2030 time frame.



Once into the 21st century, the U. N. put into action two major initiatives which should be addressed as shared goals internationally. One is the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which addressed primarily the eradication of poverty in the developing countries during the 2001 – 2015 period. The other is the "Decade for the Education of Sustainable Development (ESD)" which was originally advocated by Japan, and which was undertaken internationally from 2005 to 2014.

The SDGs were formulated based on the outcome of the said two initiatives. As the action plans to be implemented over the 15-year time frame, a total of 17 specific goals were formulated, including "Eradication of Poverty," "Attainment of both Decent Work and Economic Growth" and "Work out Concrete Actions to Tackle the Climate Change." In addition, a total of 169 targets were also set up.

As an example of major differences between the SDGs and the MDGs, we can point out that the former requires actions not only from developing countries but also from industrialized countries. Because the SDGs advocate so many targets, each country is required to work out ideas of its own in the achievement of listed goals.

Education plays a vital role here. Indeed, education is listed as the fourth goal of the SDGs, with an advocacy phrase that goes, "Quality Education to All." However, the contents of the education initiative should accommodate all of the 17 goals comprehensively.

Japan has tied up with UNESCO and demonstrated its successful leadership in the promotion of ESD in the world. During the process, Japan has designated as the UNESCO schools more than 1,000 pivotal schools throughout Japan, comprising elementary, junior high and senior high schools, in order to promote ESD nationwide.

(To be continued on P. 7)

The 2016 MUA Symposium

International Cities and Infectious Diseases

Date: January 27, 2017

Place: Minato Libra Gender-equality Center

In recent years, we have observed abrupt mass outbreak of infectious diseases such as the Ebola hemorrhagic fever. Indeed Tokyo has experienced the dengue fever while, in Brazil, the Zika fever caught worldwide attention during the Rio Olympic Games. The distribution of the outbreaks of infectious diseases, transmitted by mosquito, is undergoing changes on a global basis. During this symposium, our speakers gave illuminating presentations on the familiar issue of infectious diseases, referring to the countermeasures taken by Japan, and to the influence from the global warming.

We had the pleasure of having the following distinguished experts on the symposium subject:

• **Dr. Aikichi Iwamoto, Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Iwamoto is professor emeritus, the University of Tokyo, and a science & technology advisor to the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED). He has been engaged for over 20 years in the research and clinical study of infectious diseases, centering on the HIV infection at the Institute of Medical Science, the University of Tokyo.



• **Dr. Kensuke Nakajima, Panelist**

Dr. Nakajima is a senior researcher at AMED's strategic promotion division. He was responsible for working out domestic countermeasures to cope with the outbreak of the dengue fever in Yoyogi Park and elsewhere in Japan in 2014. He also worked for the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare and the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, undertaking preventive measures against infectious diseases from the standpoint of both administration and research.



• **Dr. Kyoko Sawabe, Panelist**

She is heading the Department of Medical Entomology at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases. She was engaged in working out the countermeasures for infectious diseases, focusing on the comprehensive areas of arthropods such as mosquito, ixodid tick, fly, lice and certain spiders. During the outbreaks of the dengue fever, she played an active role in the extermination of mosquito at different places in Tokyo.



President Hiroshi Nagano of MUA acted as the moderator. The following is a summary of presentations by our three guest speakers.

• **Keynote speech by Dr. Aikichi Iwamoto**

“Why do infectious diseases multiply?”

About 50 thousand years ago, the human race left Africa and migrated to Australia and Eurasia. The merit of their departure from Africa included less vulnerability to fierce animals and infectious diseases. It is estimated that major infectious diseases, which broke out in the ancient times, included fever diseases such as malaria, gastrointestinal infection such as dysentery as well as respiratory and skin infectious diseases. In the initial stage, humans lived in a group, comprising a small number of members. However, onward from about 10 thousand years ago, especially after the formation of an agricultural society, the human population started to show an accelerated expansion in Mesopotamia and other places.

During the process, infectious diseases, including smallpox, measles, influenza, polio and mumps, also expanded their presence. For example, scientists discovered the trace of smallpox in the mummy of the King Ramses V of the ancient Egyptian dynasty.

About 4,000 years ago, among many pox viruses, the one hosted by camels infected a human. During the process of domesticating animals, the contact between animals and humans increased and resulted not only in the infection of animals' pathogens to humans but also in the human to human infection. In addition, during the process of the increase in human population, the infection route diversified, including droplet, water-borne and physical contact infections.

Major natural hosts of virus include bats (causing SARS, Ebola hemorrhagic fever, Nipah, etc.), birds (bird flu), and rats (Lassa fever, etc.). Those animals share the characteristic of high population and quick alteration of generations. Also, the hosts themselves rarely fall sick and, even if they fall sick, their suffering is not serious.

New types of infectious disease

When we keep different animals of similar nature in a co-existing environment, the virus from the natural host is likely to jump to other animals. If a chicken, kept in a market yard, gets infected by virus, there is a possibility that the virus may jump to other chickens inside the yard.

In densely populated cities, viruses are likely multiply. The prion disease, alternately known as mad cow disease, was originally found in sheep. It has been present in the natural world from old days. In the U. K., young people fell victims to the disease because dairy farmers started to feed the mutton-based meat and bone meals to their herbivorous animals.



The availability of inexpensive popular models of microwave ovens, along with the change in meat cooking such as the availability of mincemeat or molded steak, started to cause food poisoning due to the enterohemorrhagic escherichia coli O157 because the initial microwave ovens did not meet the expected performance level. In the U. S., mincemeat-based hamburgers caused many cases of food poisoning. We should be careful when there was an innovation in the food processing technology.

Spread of infectious diseases

The infectious disease has geographically spread in proportion to the progress in the transportation means of humans. For example, pest spread from Asia to Europe due to the growing traffic on the Silk Road. Likewise, smallpox and measles spread from Europe to North & South America and to the southern region of Africa. In contrast, syphilis spread from America to Europe. Also, SARS spread from China to other places, especially the communities with high Chinese population, due to the increase in airborne trips. The acceleration in the distribution speed of food has also contributed to the spread of infectious diseases.

There are some pathogenic microorganism which were first discovered in Japan. However, we should be aware that the discovery of new infectious disease in Japan is overwhelmed by the possibility of where such disease jumps into Japan from overseas.

• Presentation by Dr. Kensuke Nakajima

“How we should formulate the countermeasures against the spread of new infectious disease.”

First, let me cite chronologically examples of the spread of infectious disease in international cities, including London, Paris, New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Singapore:

- During the first half of the 19th century, cholera broke out in India and travelled to Europe and caused a serious spread in Paris and London. In Japan, cholera started to spread from Nagasaki

during the second half of the 19th century. It is estimated that 100 thousand people died of cholera in Edo.

- In 1999, West Nile fever broke out in New York and spread nationwide. Because no remedy medicine or vaccine were available, people took different anti-mosquito countermeasures, including pesticide sprinkling.

- During the first half of 2003, SARS raged in Hong Kong and Singapore. 8,000 people were infected and 800 died. Somehow SARS did not spread to Japan. Some ascribed it to the fact that the Japanese have traditionally not settled in the Chinese communities.

- In 2014, Japan saw the outbreak of dengue fever after 70 years. Our memory is still fresh of the scenes where experts took preventive actions to exterminate mosquito in central-Tokyo parks.

Infectious disease break out when the following three factors become concurrently problematic:

(1) Pathogen

Pathogen includes bacteria, virus and parasitic worms. Virus cannot multiply by themselves and do so inside the cells of humans or animals. Different viruses choose different organs, cells and animal species. For example, hepatitis virus multiplies in liver; noro virus in digestive organs; measles and rubella in humans; and distemper in dogs. On the other hand, bacteria can multiply by themselves if provided with water and nutrition.

(2) Infectious routes

Infection routes include cough and sneezing (nose and eyes), eating (mouth), physical contact (mucous membrane and skin), mosquito or tick bites, etc. When an infected person sneezes close by, you will be showered with virus in the head, face and clothes. A worn mask alone cannot prevent the virus onslaught.

(3) **The last-resort measure** toward the resistivity is vaccine. This is quite effective. As it has intrinsic risk, however, careful consideration needs to be given from the viewpoint of risk of infection.

Measures against infectious diseases

The first step needs to be taken is to monitor. While it is relatively easy to find out critically ill or deadly ill patients, it is not possible to find out all the infected patients as is usually expressed as “tip of the iceberg”. Some people have minor symptoms and others have none. The method of searching undersurface is called surveillance. There exists a law concerning the Prevention of Infections and Medical Care for Patients of Infections. A system for various organizations’ research and report is developed under this law. As an example, the surveillance on the influenza has been continuously performed for the past 30 years and the warnings are issued for citizens as the need occurs. It is widely known that the epidemic period of seasonal flu is between December and March every winter. A new strain of influenza in 2009, however, prevailed between September and December.

Dengue Fever

Taking the prevalence of dengue fever three years ago as an example, it was reported in a TV program that a person bitten by a mosquito got infected with dengue fever, and that Yoyogi Park was immediately closed and a sequence of extermination work of mosquito was done there. Minato City posted the information on the countermeasures against dengue fever on its homepage and conducted an investigation on mosquito at 41 parks in the city. After a round of PR activities on countermeasures not to be bitten by a mosquito or on response measures for persons bitten by mosquitos, the epidemic period came to an end with the decrease in the activities of mosquito as the season turned to autumn. Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry handed out a guideline for medical examination, hosted countermeasure conferences and conducted search of mosquito carrying virus. During that period, I was very busy as a manager in charge of the Ministry. We in fact were informed by EU that a German traveler got infected with dengue fever during his stay in Japan a year before a person was infected in Yoyogi Park. Then, we issued alert notification nationwide and formulated guidelines for countermeasures assuming the outbreak of infections in the country.



Risk Management System against Infectious Disease

- (1) While it is important to establish countermeasures in advance, it can never be complete.
- (2) Once infectious disease breaks out, it causes a big fuss among people and gathers people's attention. Thus, it is quite important to take an appropriate measure immediately.
- (3) Need to take measures suited to the occasion upon occurrence.
- (4) Need to satisfy the right to know of citizens as well as the duty of the government to let citizens know. It is necessary to communicate the fact situation, countermeasure taken by the government, request for citizens at the press conference.

• Presentation by Dr. Kyoko Sawabe

“Epidemic spread of infectious diseases carried by mosquitos or ixodid ticks and infectious risks in Japan”

Infectious disease carried by mosquitos

While mosquitos are insects, ixodid ticks are not. Mosquitos and ixodid ticks are called arthropod. Malaria carried by anopheles stephensi is one of the three major infectious diseases (other two are HIV and tuberculosis). 429,000 people died in 91 countries in 2005, while the number of patients is decreasing in Japan. 68,000 people are infected with Japanese encephalitis carried by culex tritaeniorhynchus in the world and more than 30% of those died. Prevalence of Japanese encephalitis is almost avoided in Japan, Korea and Taiwan due to periodic vaccination. Approximately 400 million people develop dengue fever carried by aedes aegypti or aedes albopictus every year. The number of patients are increasing in Japan. It was back in 2013 when the imported Zika virus infection was first reported in Japan, thereafter the number of patients is increasing. It was in 2015 when Zika virus infection started to prevail in Brazil. Slight fever, skin rash and conjunctival injection are the symptoms. Almost 80 percent of people infected do not show any symptoms. Jikarusu infection is said to be somewhat related with microcephaly and Guillain-Barre syndrome. Countermeasures against Jikarusu infection taken in Brazil are adult insect extermination, larva extermination or biological control.

Infectious disease carried by ixodid ticks in Japan

Severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome (SFTS), Japanese spotted fever, Lyme disease and tsutsugamushi disease are the ones carried by ixodid ticks. 228 SFTS patients are reported to exist mainly in western part of Japan, as high as 30% of them are caused to death. The number of patients increases in May every year. Investigation of ixodid ticks is mostly done by way of sliding flannel cloth on the surface of ground to capture ticks and count the number of individuals of each kinds captured.

Domestic risk of infection

Aedes albopictus inhabits in the area where annual average temperature is above 11 degrees Celcius. As the temperature goes up, they expand their habitat. There are many groups of aedes aegypti in Japan. In addition to these, many more are brought into the country by airplanes from foreign countries. They have been found in the international flights or in the ground of international airports every year since 2012. As the foreign tourists increase, summer days good for the growth of pathogenic organism also increase and the huge outbreak of mosquito is anticipated, the domestic risk of infection carried by mosquito will be continuously heightened.

How to avoid damage by mosquito and ixodid ticks

As the larva of aedes albopictus occurs in the small water reservoir (the bottom of flower pot, waste tires, drain, etc.), it is important to be careful not to choke the drain, or take care not to be bitten by a mosquito. When you are bitten by a tick, do not crush it but carefully take away the mouthpart of a tick by tweezers instead. It is effective to put on Vaseline or hand cream. I taught a class in a primary school on mosquitos and diseases last year as a new experiment. The reaction by the fifth graders was quite good. It is strongly expected that parents and guardians become aware as well and, thus, contribute to the generation of protective movement in the community.

Questions and Answers Session with Audience:

Q: Mosquitos need to suck the blood to breed?

A: Female mosquitos suck the blood to lay eggs. Most of them need to suck the blood to lay eggs.

Q: I once saw huge numbers of mosquitos in Siberian woods. How can they live in such a cold area?

A: I am not sure about mosquitos in Siberia. There are groups of mosquitos which live through the winter as adult mosquitos (culicosis or anopheles), or as eggs (aedes).

Q: When I lived in Taiwan, I contracted malaria. I was saved by quinine. I heard in Ishigakijima Island that many people died of “war malaria” there. How far north is the habitat of mosquito expands under the current global warming? Is quinine right medicine for malaria?

A: Anopheles tends to live in the area where the water is comparatively clear and the air is cold. I do not expect that the habitat of mosquito expands toward north due to the global warming and, thus, the infected area of malaria is not expected to expand either. Time has passed since the age of quinine, and we now have new and more effective medicines in hand. However, we use quinine when a patient is deadly infected.

Q: I was quite shocked when I was told that while sanitary masks are effective when used by patients, it is not quite effective in protecting a person who is exposed to sneeze or cough. I am quite worried as I have a person in my family who has weak resistance to diseases. What can be done?

A: It is a minimum manner that a patient puts a sanitary mask on. As far as a person exposed to sneeze or cough is concerned, it is no good to worry excessively. It is effective to wash your hands or gargle as soon as you are back home. Please do not expect a sanitary mask close to perfection, though it is an effective way to protect yourself. When you take care of a sick person in a small room, you need to wear a sanitary mask. But as it is densely woven, you may not be able to keep wearing it over an hour.

Q: I get a flu shot every year. Is it possible that vaccine develops a flu?

A: You need not worry as the virus in flu shot is dead. In case of measles or mumps, virus in vaccine is not dead, thus, occasionally causes problems.

Q: It looks that westerners do not have a habit of wearing sanitary masks. Do they have some other measures of protection in place of sanitary masks?

A: No, nothing. They believe that sanitary masks are worn by sick persons. They are surprised to see that many people wear sanitary masks here in Japan. We recommend you to wear sanitary masks in any case.

Q: I once heard that mad cow disease is a new infectious disease which agent is originated in sheep. People in Hokkaido eat mutton. Is there a possibility that infectious disease breaks out in the future?

A: People have been eating mutton for hundreds of years. It is widely known that there exists a disease which makes the brain of sheep like a sponge. However, we human being is not infected. We have not ever heard that mad cow disease prevailed in the area where people eat mutton a lot. In case of mad cow disease, the virus moved from sheep to cow, and then, invaded into human being. We cannot flatly deny the possibility, but should not worry too much that we may be directly infected by sheep.

Q: Mosquito and ixodid ticks exist anywhere around the world. Is it possible that they carry similar pathogenic bacteria?

A: There are approximately 3,500 kinds of mosquitos in the world. About 110 kinds live here in Japan. But only a few of them actually carry pathogenic bacteria.

Anopheles that carry falciparum malaria and aedes aegypti that carry dengue fever live in the tropical regions, while aedes albopictus in Japan live in the temperate region. It has gradually been found out that the frequency that aedes albopictus carry dengue fever differs depending on such regions as Tokyo, Osaka and Kyushu.

Q: Is it quite unlikely that a disease once soared to epidemic level in a country becomes widespread also in Japan?

A: If there exists the equivalent kind of mosquito, if not exactly same, that carried the same disease elsewhere, it is possible the virus from tropical regions is carried to Japan as well. In case a virus enters in a country, it is most probable that it was carried by a traveler. A risk of getting ill for Japanese individuals is increasing as they go on safari in Africa or eat the meat of crocodile or lion. It is a different story, however, if an infection grows in Japan.

Q: Most people go through quarantine station without being stopped at all at the airport, while people are requested to come to the aid station when he or she feels physically sick. How effective is this system?

A: The skin temperature is checked through cameras. A system is established here in Japan so that any people feeling sick can consult at the aid station of the airport. A perfect protection cannot be expected, but this system is utilized as one of many protective methods.

(Written by Y. Miyashita, MUA Vice President, and translated by S. Tanahashi and Y. Suda of the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

The 34th Diplomats Lecture
A Japanese Perspective from Geneva, the Humanitarian Capital

Date: March 1, 2017

Place: International House of Japan

For the 34th of MUA's flagship annual lecture, we had the pleasure of having Ambassador Ms. Misako Kaji as our speaker. She was formerly Deputy Representative of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva.



We asked Ambassador Kaji to speak mainly from the viewpoint of “How we should reduce the risk of vulnerability to disasters,” while also touching upon Japan's role in Geneva. Ambassador Kaji introduced her extensive experiences during her career at international organizations in Geneva, strictly from her personal viewpoint. The following is a summary of her speech:

In Geneva, there are a total of 176 governmental representative missions on residential duty. Also there are headquarters or offices of more than 20 international organizations and over 200 NGO's. They are tackling all sorts of world issues. Japan's permanent mission has a team of about 50 professionals and staff.

What are the international organizations up to? They place importance on the following three areas; “Human rights and humanity,” “Peace and security,” and “Development and progress.” If any one of these factors fails, then the other two cannot be achieved. To be more specific, the international organizations are dealing with the “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).” Major challenges facing the world today include poverty, conflicts and climate changes.

The year 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the United Nations. In this connection, quite a few international conferences were held, including the one titled “International Conference on Disaster Prevention,” which was held in Sendai City, Japan. Sendai is still in the process of recovery from the damages caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake which hit the region in March 2011. It was very meaningful to hold such a conference at the symbolic place of disaster recovery. Many related events were held at vicinity areas which were also hit by the big disaster. All the world is closely watching how Japan is making progress in its restoration efforts.

We were all impressed with Ambassador Kaji's presentation. The year 2017 marks the 70th anniversary of the grassroots UNESCO activities in Japan. We hope that MUA will successfully step up its UNESCO activities, based on the aforementioned “Human rights & humanity,” “Peace & security,” and “Development & Progress” initiatives shared by international organizations.

(Written by Noriko Kaneta, Vice Chairperson, the International Science & Culture Committee, and translated by S. Tanahashi, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

(Continued from P. 1) Toward the Achievement of SDGs

This means that Japan has established the platform to promote the realization of SDGs in a grassroots bottom-up manner. It also means that Japan today has highly motivated young generations who can give a thought to sustainability not only from Japan's viewpoint but also from the entire global viewpoint.

I hope that Japan can combine successfully the expansion of sustainability-oriented grassroots activities with the governmental initiatives so that it can develop world-leading ideas and action programs concerning SDGs. Last but not least, we at MUA should also discuss what we can do toward the achievement of SDGs.

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

The World Cooking Workshop
Home dishes in the Kyrgyz Republic

Date: February 26, 2017

Place: Minato Libra Gender-equality Center

We had the pleasure of having Ms. Janyl Tynystanova as the instructor for this workshop. First let me introduce Janyl-san's bio briefly:

Graduated from the Tomsk State University of Russia and the graduate school of the Kyrgyz Academy of Science. Came to Japan for the first time as a JICA trainee in 2004. Later, while staying in Japan as a Japan's MOFA trainee, she studied Japanese culture and other subjects at the ICCLA in Utsunomiya City. In 2012, she majored in the science of design & media as well as information systems at the Iwate University graduate school of engineering. Thus she attained master's and doctor's degrees. From 2015 to March 2017, she worked for IHI Corporation (formerly known as the Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Co., Ltd.) in its global marketing headquarters and marketing division. She feels rewarded in her current job to develop new businesses in collaboration with business partners in Russia and countries in the East Asia region. She continues to promote even closer the partnership between Japan and her home country Kyrgyz.



Janyl-san kicked off the workshop by introducing the profile of her home country as follows: The Kyrgyz republic is a mountainous country located in the central Asian region of the Eurasia continent. The country was once a republic belonging to the former U.S.S.R. It has a territory about half the size of Japan, with a population of about six million. The capital is Bishkek. The country has been geographically located at an important intersection along the Silk Road where nomadic tribes crossed. Today about 80 different races coexist in the country, weaving a diversified cultural fabric in the society.

Next, Janyl-san outlined the characteristics of Kyrgyz dishes. Because Kyrgyz has been a country of nomadic culture, meat has been the staple food. Everyday dishes have been influenced not only by the Russian cooking but also by culinary traditions of other neighboring countries. For example, people eat the traditional nomadic mutton dishes which have been handed down from the western part of China or Mongolia. Due to the high ratio of Islamic population, pork has not been popular.

Day's Menu

1. Shorpo (Soup)

Put water, lamb and chicken's bare bones (substitutes for lamb's bone with meat) in a pot, and boil it well. Remove the floating scums on the surface and add carrots, onions and sweet potatoes. Boil it further for one hour and give a salt seasoning. Hash dill and small onion, and sprinkle them over the soup.



2. Manty (Mantou)

Mince ground beef, leek and small onion, and mix them well to be coated later. Knead the skin (made of wheat flour and water), spread it maintaining the thickness of gyoza dumpling skin. Cut it into squares, place an adequate portion of the aforementioned mixed ingredient on each square, and mold it into a dumpling shape. Mince scalded and peeled tomatoes into tiny pieces and pour garlic soy over it. It will make a good sauce for the mantou dumplings.



3. Boorsok (Fried dough) for dessert

Put wheat flour (500g), milk (250g), yeast and salt into a pot. Mix and knead it. Spread it into a thin layer, cut it in lozenge shapes, and fry them. Use a fork to make holes when frying them in salad oil. Eat the fried dough after putting some honey.



We were very pleased to have a young and vibrant instructor like Janyl-san. Among the day's menu, Manty was familiar to us as the shape looked very much like gyoza, a popular home-made item in Japan. The honey, used for Boorsok, was actually procured from the apiary which is managed by Janyl-san's relatives. The honey tasted very good. The Russian medicinal liquor called "Balsam" was very effective in highlighting the fragrance of the tea.

(Written by F. Ashikaga, the World Cooking Committee, and translated by S. Tanahashi, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)

From the UNESCO Press Release

Close of World Heritage Committee session in Krakow, after inscription of 21 new sites on UNESCO's World Heritage List



(The monumental gateway at Aphrodisias, Turkey: روديسيا (تركيا))

Krakow, Poland, 12 July, 2017—The World Heritage Committee, meeting in Krakow since 2 July, closed its annual session today. During the session, the Committee inscribed 21 new sites on UNESCO's World Heritage List. It also extended or modified the boundaries of five sites already on the List.

The new inscriptions bring to 1,073 the total number of sites on the World Heritage List. Angola and Eritrea saw their first sites join the List during the present session. The Committee furthermore added one site to the List of World Heritage in Danger, from which it removed three other sites.

The new cultural sites are:

- Mbanza Kongo, Vestiges of the Capital of the former Kingdom of Kongo (Angola)
- Valongo Wharf Archaeological Site (Brazil)
- Temple Zone of Sambor Prei Kuk, Archaeological Site of Ancient Ishanapura (Cambodia)
- Kulangsu, a Historic International Settlement (China)
- Venetian Works of Defence between the 16th and 17th Centuries: Stato da Terra – Western Stato da Mar (Croatia, Italy, Montenegro)
- Kujataa Greenland: Norse and Inuit Farming at the Edge of the Ice Cap (Denmark)
- Asmara: a Modernist City of Africa (Eritrea)
- Taputapuātea (France)
- Caves and Ice Age Art in the Swabian Jura (Germany)
- Historic City of Ahmadabad (India)
- Historic City of Yazd (Islamic Republic of Iran)
- **Sacred Island of Okinoshima and Associated Sites in the Munakata Region (Japan)**

(Excerpted)

The 2017 MUA General Meeting

Date: April 26, 2017

Place: Minato City Lifelong Learning Center

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



Mr. Hiroshi Nagano, President of MUA, gave the following opening remark:

This is the 70th anniversary of Non-governmental UNESCO Movement. Minato UNESCO Association has been conducting grass-root activities for a half of this period. After my installation as the president of MUA last year, I concentrated on the improvement of financial status as well as making our organization sustainable. I would like to continue our effort to increase younger members through providing new projects throughout the forthcoming fiscal year. UNESCO spirits increases its importance under the current circumstances where the international situation becomes increasingly unstable. It is the very significant role of local UNESCO organizations to promote grass-root activities toward the peace of the world. This eventually brings about a vital society. I would express heartfelt appreciation for the great support and help extended to us by Mayor Takei as well as his staffs. I would ask for the continuous support in the future as well. Finally, I also would like to request the great support from the members of MUA as always.

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

I am grateful for the valuable activities led by MUA centering around the international exchange for quite a long period of time. Population of Minato City is approximately 250,000, and 8 percent of which is foreign nationals. Minato City is putting quite large efforts in strengthening its international competitiveness making the most use of the given international environment. In this connection, MUA's activities are great help to us. I would like to take advantage of knowledge and experience MUA has been accumulating through its wide range of activities. I pray for the continued advancement of MUA.



After the speech of Mayor Takei, Mr. H. Nagano was appointed as the chairperson, and activity report and settlement report of 2016 were approved, followed by the approval of activity plan and budget for 2017.

The proposal on the personnel affairs was approved in which Mr. H. Matsumoto, Vice President, was appointed as Counselor, Ms. K. Hirakata, Standing Director, as Vice President, Ms. T. Watabe, Director, as Standing Director, and Ms. M. Kasahara as Standing Director.

At last, but not the least, we had the honor of the presence of Ms. Reiko Masuda, a new Manager, Mr. Kenji Shoji, a new Assistant Manager, and Miss Hiroko Terasaki of Minato City Education Board who are all supportive of MUA. *(Reported and translated by Y. Suda, the PR, Bulletin & Internet Committee)*

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

Tel: 03-3434-2300, Tel & Fax: 03-3434-2233, E-mail: info@minatounesco.jp

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