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My trip style focused on “hot springs and Shinto shrines”

Kazuyo Hirakata, MUA Vice President

I started the New Year 2018 by paying a “Mikakiuchi” formal visit to the Ise Shrine. The place was filled with a refreshing air. I felt tense in the solemn atmosphere as we walked on the pea gravel toward the Mikakiuchi led by a Shinto priest.



Because my hobby is travelling, I have made quite a few trips to different places in Japan. More recently I take pleasure in making an immediate petit trip once I hit upon a good place to visit. If the weather is fine when I woke up, I look for hot springs or shrines which are accessible within one or two hours by car. In most cases, the destinations end up in places in Hakone or Atami areas. If I choose Hakone, I first pay worship to the Hakone Shrine and then enjoy bathing in a nearby hot spring. If I choose Atami, I make it a rule to visit the Kinomiya Shrine, enjoy sea-food and bathe in the hot spring.

Extending my trip style in Japan, I also try to look for and visit hot springs located close to the destination cities, whenever I make trips overseas. The destinations of my first overseas trip were Paris and Budapest. That's when I visited the internationally renowned Szechenyi spa. In the following years, I visited Terme dei Papi, located in the suburb of Rome, where it is said that the Popes have traditionally bathed in the spa. On another trip to Italy, I visited the Merano spa which was shaped like a large resort swimming pool. It was a memorable experience to see the grand view of the Alps as I bathed in the spa.

Once I visited Lourdes in France and had an unforgettable experience to bathe in a tub filled with the water from a spring that wells up. Lourdes is regarded as a sacred place where miracles happen. Many people from all over the world visit this place because they believe that the spring water heals all sorts of illness. I joined other visitors in purifying ourselves in the tub filled with the spring water to share a miracle. Sure enough I felt as if my physical condition had improved after the bathing.

I look for hot springs during trip stays but other people are interested in different activities while on a trip. In the future I'd like to visit more hot springs located in Japan and overseas, including those in Taiwan, Iceland and the U. S. When you receive kindness from local people, whether in Japan or overseas, the memory will last for years. I sincerely hope that the “Omotenashi” hospitality we extend to inbound foreign tourists to Japan will help work out a way to world peace.

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

The Second 2018 Cross-cultural Awareness Workshop

How to Cross “San-Zu-No-Kawa” (Styx)

- Real Meaning of Smile -

Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Place: Minato City Life-long Learning Center

We had the pleasure of having Dr. Hiroaki Nakajima, a medical doctor, as a speaker. His brief profile is as shown below:

Graduated from Medical Faculty, Showa University

1986 - 1988 : Studied at Immunity & Allergy Section of Mayo Clinic

2000 : Deputy Director, Showa University Yokohama Northern Hospital.

2012 – present : Director, Setagaya Health Center

2016 - : participates in the JICA's assistive project of medical education called for by Mongolian Ministry of National Health

Following the opening remarks of Mr. H. Nagano, President of MUA, Dr. Nakajima started his lecture posing a question: “Have you ever crossed the Styx?” According to Dr. Nakajima, stories told by his patients who have “near-death experience” are all similar.

Summary of the Lecture

A river that forms the boundary between this world and the other world is called “San-Zu-No-Kawa (Styx)” here in Japan. Folk beliefs define that people cross the Styx within 7 days of their death. There are two demons called “Datsue-ba” and “Keie-ba”. They take off the clothes of dead people who came to cross the Styx. Fee to get on a boat which crosses the Styx is 6-mon, however, the image of the 6-mon coin is printed on a paper currently, as the real coins are too heavy to sink a boat.

According to their experiences, those who died before and whom you want to see are waiting for you in the afterlife. The afterlife is warmly colored, and you can see flower gardens and hear the murmur of a brook. However, they return to this world as they were told by dead people not to cross the Styx yet.



Excerpts from a book titled “Does Life Continue After Death?” written by Ms. Eriko Rowe:

- a period of transition from life to death is too short
- you can overlook your own body from outside of yourself
- you become aware of your own death
- you see a sight full of dazzling light
- you meet a deceased person again
- you see divine light
- you look back and think over your life
- you never forget what you saw; different from a dream seen before

Those who they met in the afterlife were all kind-hearted. They never accused us. Dr. Nakajima saw off many patients. Some of them passed away happily, but some did not. When a person passes away, the muscle of his/her face completely extends and that make his/her facial expression very mild. This is why a person passing away looks as if smiling by which those who see that person off are consoled and comforted. Such facial expression is quite similar to that of the Buddha or Maitreya Bodhisattva.

Dr. Nakajima displayed some pictures taken with his friends or families during his stay in the United States. (Most of the people pictured smiled, as he made it a rule to smile when pictured.) On the other hand, most of his colleagues of a hospital in Mongol pictured were not smiling, as they were nervous.

Mayo Clinic where Dr. Nakajima studied was located in the rural area of Minnesota, which was a

safe place and people there were very friendly. As much as 50 million dollars were donated to the Clinic when he studied there almost 30 years ago. As the state law regulates that 70% of the donation should be used for personnel expenses, a plenty of staffs was hired there and provided almost a one-on-one services to the patients. The entire Clinic as well as the laboratory he belonged were full of friendliness, and, thus he felt pretty much at home though his English communication ability was very poor. As the building of the Clinic was built in the shape of the cross, every hospital room was lit very brightly by the sun, and, thus, doctors could easily observe the complexion of patients. A doctor there was able to see as many as 40 patients a day, while it was usually as few as 6 patients at other hospitals. Because the number of doctors are not quite enough in Japan, they cannot spend sufficient time for communicating with their patients.

While vast land of Mongol is green meadow, not much grass grows there, as there is not much precipitation and the air is dry. Under such circumstances, people move around with livestock in order to avoid the shortage of enticement feed. They live in gers (or yurts) made of huge sheet having one entrance facing toward south. A head of a family sits in the northernmost place in the ger looking toward the south focusing his attention to the entrance in order to maintain safety of his family. As China is located in the south, from which they were often attacked, Mongolian people always focused their attention toward the south. Korean people enters Mongol with huge capital, but they bring all the profit generated in Mongol back to Korea. Thus, Mongolian people do not have a good impression with Koreans. While Mongolians are pro-Japanese, they actually expect to receive human resources from Japan instead of Japanese funds or goods. Mongolians do not exchange greetings with other families as they are nomadic tribes and are not in need of mutual aid with other families. They do not say hello to Japanese at first, but they eventually smile as they become familiar.



Can a doctor foresee the life expectancy of his/her patients? No, they cannot. It is hard to do so, as the life expectancy varies depending on the frame of their mind. Dr. Nakajima informs his patient of the name of the disease he/she suffers if the patient wants him to do so, even if it was cancer. He tells the patient that he/she suffers from cancer and explain the planned treatment. He makes it a rule to responds to his patient that he does not know his/her life expectancy when asked. The reason to do so is that the patient's life expectancy could well vary depending on how he/she lives the life left. What he feels from his long experience in seeing off his patients is that the other world should not be quite bad. He became to believe that as a people live his life to the fullest, he would be invited to the other world at the best time in his life.

As natural killer cells work, cancer cells are either weakened or killed. In what cases do natural killer cells work best?

- when a people is moved
- when a people feels enjoyable
- when a people laughs a lot
- when a people is filled with the sense of deepest gratitude

What people have cherished are honesty, fairness, courage, frankness, humbleness, dedication, wisdom, kindness and smile.

The most important purposes of human life which Dr. Nakajima thinks;

- Pull out the utmost ability a person has in him/her
- Intentionally establish a good relationship with other people
- Contribute to other peoples' lives

Questions & Answers with the audience

Q: What do we need to do to live a healthy life when we become old?

A: Live a vigorous life where you exercise moderately, have well balanced meals, and do not worry

(To be continued on P. 10)

The 35th Diplomats Lecture for Fiscal 2017

Health crisis on the globe and Japanese-style health crisis management

Date: Friday, February 9, 2018

Place: International House of Japan



We had the pleasure of having Mr. Kento Hayashi as the speaker for this flagship MUA event which has been held annually since soon after the MUA inception. The objective is to give English presentations on major topics and help deepen the understanding of Japan by foreign diplomat audience. A total of 16 diplomats, including one ambassador, participated this time. President Nagano of MUA (left photo) gave a welcome speech and introduced the speaker as follows:

Mr. Hayashi (right photo) graduated from the University of the Ryukyus (School of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine Science) and started his career in humanitarian aid fields, including participation in the Medecins sans Frontieres activities and in the foundation of the Barefoot Doctors Group. He has been engaged in diversified areas, including visiting professorship at National Institute of Public Health; Chiba University (Faculty of Laws, Politics and Economics), and the University of the Ryukyus (School of Global Health Science, Faculty of Medicine). Currently Mr. Hayashi is Executive Director of the Institute of Star Anise Peace Project and Secretary General of the NGO Barefoot Doctors Myanmar which is a Myanmar-government-registered entity. In this capacity, he is busily engaged in activities, involving Japan and Myanmar.



At first a 20-minute video was shown to introduce Mr. Hayashi's latest activities, including Star Anise agricultural programs. During his speech, Mr. Hayashi warned us that we are undergoing health crisis on the global level, and addressed the issue of the increase in natural disasters, caused by the climate change, as well as the spread of terrorism, pandemics, drug addiction, lifestyle-related disease against the backdrop of globalization. In this connection, he emphasized the importance of continued efforts toward achieving the SDGs (sustainable development goals). We could see from his presentation that Mr. Hayashi has been making committed efforts to build a cooperative network to introduce internationally Japan's high-quality medicines and medical care systems into nearby countries in Asia, Middle East and Africa.

Because Mr. Hayashi's schedule called for his immediate departure to Myanmar after the lecture, he left the room in a hasty manner. We sincerely hope that the Star Anise activities will progress successfully in the country, and that Mr. Hayashi will continue to pursue his goals in good health.

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

The 2018 MUA General Meeting

Date: Thursday April 26, 2018

Place: Minato City Life-Long Learning Center

The 2018 annual 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. Takei gave the following speech as the prominent guest:

It has always been the goal of Minato City since its establishment, to create an environment under which people can live safely and securely, and all the people honor each other. Population of the city will shortly reach 256,000, the highest ever, and foreign nationals has steadily occupied 8%. In other words, the number of foreign nationals has been increasing. Thus, it is definitely required to further promote internationalization of the city so that these foreign nationals can also live comfortably with us Japanese. We would strongly expect that MUA could continuously provide us with a great support in the promotion of internationalization of Minato City.



Then, Mr. H. Nagano, President of MUA, gave the following speech:



We at MUA challenged some new projects last year. One of them was “The 1st Japanese Speech Contest”. We were able to close the contest very successfully owing greatly to the dedicated efforts provided by Ms. K. Hirakata, Vice President. We plan to create a special report on this project later on to keep a good record and to utilize as an advertising media. We successfully held “Zazen Practice” thanks to a great effort extended by Mr. K. Kikuchi, as well as the great cooperation and support provided by Seishoji Temple in Atago which is one of the most historic temples in Tokyo.

In the meantime, the acquisition of the younger members has always been one of the biggest issues for MUA, which is most likely the issue for many other UNESCO organizations as well. In order to cope with this issue, we received the visit of UNESCO committee members of Tokyo Metropolitan Mita High School and Mr. G. Shimizu, a member of MUA, talked to them on his harsh experience during the World War II; we visited Tokyo Metropolitan Roppongi High School to present a memorial plate on behalf of National Federation of UNESCO Associations of Japan commemorating its acknowledgement as the UNESCO High School; and we started the discussions with Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology on the possible coordination in the promotion of ESD activities through better understanding of water. At the beginning of the new fiscal year, we are most grateful that Keio University UNESCO Club took the membership of MUA. We plan to start discussions with them shortly on the development of new projects for youth.

We are committed to continue our utmost efforts on the fiscal consolidation. Just for your information, the gross deficit of our last fiscal year was JPY75,000, but the net deficit after taking contributions and donations into account was only JPY5,000.

After the speech, Mr. Nagano was elected as the chairperson, and activity report and settlement report of 2017 was approved, followed by the approval of activity plan and annual budget for 2018. At the end of the meeting, Mr. Nagano announced that Mr. Y. Suda steps down as Secretary General, and Mr. J. Inoue assumes the position as the successor.

At last, but not the least, we had the honor of the presence of Ms. Noriko Kinoshita, a new Manager, Mr. Kenji Shoji, Assistant Manager, and Mr. Sugio Kokuyama, a staff, of Minato City Education Board. Mr. Kokuyama, who kindly stayed till the end of the meeting, stated at the end, that he is committed to firmly support MUA on behalf of the Board.

(Written by Secretariat Office, and translated by Y. Suda, the PR & Internet Committee Associate)

MUA Visit to the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

Date: Thursday, March 8, 2018

Place: Minami-Azabu, Minato City

This time we visited the embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany which is located at Nambu Zaka, adjacent to the Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park, not far from the subway Hiroo station, and surrounded by a quiet environment. Mr. Kohei Sudo, Press & Public Relations officer, was the host for our 14-member group and guided us into the modern building. The architecture was characterized by a grand entrance hall which has a four-floor height stairwell, and which has large-size flags of FRG and EU installed on the floor. As we looked up, we noticed corridors with asymmetric openings on each floor which looked beautiful in simplicity.

The diplomatic relation between Japan and FRG started in Yokohama back in 1881. FRG's diplomatic house relocated a few times and ended up in the current location in Minami Azabu. The two countries observed the 150th anniversary of the bilateral relationship in 2011. The year marked the outbreak of the Great East Japan Earthquake and we expressed hearty thanks for the generous assistance offered from FRG as we listened to the detailed account of FRG's response on that occasion. Incidentally, when the FRG embassy building was remodeled in 2005, it was designed to have aseismatic strength, second only to the Japanese prime minister's official residence. We enjoyed Mr. Sudo's interesting explanations as we walked along the corridors.



After the building tour, we were invited into a reception room where we had a Q&A time. First, we introduced ourselves in turn, touching upon our personal experience of interacting with FRG in different ways. During the dialog, we learned many interesting stories, including the fact that the Baumkuchen was originally created by Karl Juchheim in Hiroshima. This year marks the centennial anniversary of the orchestra performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in Japan. It was really interesting to know that the first performance of the symphony in Japan and also in whole Asia was given by the German soldiers detained in the Bando POW camp in Tokushima Prefecture. We renewed our awareness of the long bilateral history.

Mr. Robert von Rimscha, Minister for Cultural Affairs & Public Relations, responded to each of our questions in an elaborate manner. His speech was interpreted by Mr. Sachio Howoldt, responsible for cultural affairs, and Ms. Kaoru Kokubu, responsible for press & public relations. The following is a summary of major Q&A's:

Q: What's the generic status of FRG's society after the collapse of the Berlin Wall?

A: We see growing disparity between cities and local areas. It's solely ascribable to the concentration of population into cities, whether it's in former East Germany or West Germany. During the past 28 years, major investments addressed the strengthening of social infrastructure, especially in former East Germany, and this helped the region to attain more visible economic growth. The reconstruction tax is paid by all workers. Today's agenda for FRG is how to activate local areas,

-by well-planned measures for encouraging higher birthrate and more medical doctors.

Q: How about disparity between north and south regions?

A: This issue is also ascribable to the disparity between large cities and local regions, and not a so-called North vs. South problem. In historical retrospect, we notice that the northern region flourished as commercial towns and accumulated wealth, whereas the western region gained strength after the industrial revolution. Meantime, the Bavaria-centered south region used to develop as an agricultural community until high technology turned the region into a rich state. Thus, a variety of industries have developed in different regions along the long history but the common challenge in recent years is the disparity between cities and local regions.

Q: How about women's professional presence in Germany?

A: It's a timely question as we are observing the International Women's Day today. We are aware that Japanese women have established their presence in politics, ministries and large cities like Tokyo and Yokohama. When we compare our two countries in terms of women's presence in politics, it's 9% in Japan and 36% in FRG. We expect the percentage in FRG will rise up to 50% in the near future. In terms of the number of artists or professors, German women also account for a larger share than Japanese counterparts. However, women in both countries share the same challenge that their presence in the CEO or COO positions in business corporations are still few.

Q: What is the current status of FRG's tax and pension systems?

A: We share with Japan the same perception about those systems that they represent the "payment the next generations." Because of the acceleration in ageing society, we need a solution to the fact that the share of the recipient generations is growing larger than that of paying generations. The total pension consists of public pension, corporate pension and private pension. Of these the relative share of the public pension has been shrinking to our concern. On the average, we feel that elderly people in FRG today are leading a comfortable daily life but that they are trying to work out measures to get rid of future concerns.

Q: How is FRG responding to the immigration work force?

A: The jobless rate in FRG has been maintained low. We can conclude that the risk of joblessness for immigrants is none. The challenge for them is more in the competition for securing inexpensive housing. Meantime, we are aware that one out of 14 newborn babies in Japan are not purely Japanese. Today the immigration into Japan of students and workers from Vietnam and other Asian Countries is growing, causing ethnic diversity in the society. We presume that Japan just like FRG will undergo the process of hybrid ethnic composition in its population in the near future.

Q: How about the issue of working hours in FRG?

A: Generally speaking, the average annual working hours for OECD countries is 1,393 vis-à-vis 1,800 in Japan. In terms of work efficiency, FRG is 20% ahead of Japan. We'd like to recommend Japanese companies and workers to "Reduce working hours by achieving more efficiency through intensive work processing" in order to join your families who wait for you.

We highly appreciated Minister Rimscha's in-depth answers, spending for more time for us than originally expected. Then Mr. Sachio Howoldt gave us follow-up explanations on related issues as follows:

- Number of paid holidays, how German workers spend them, and business hours

According to statistics published by an FRG institute, German workers receive an average of 26 to 30 paid holidays per year. About half of them spend a consecutive 11 to 15-day holiday. German people work 40 hours per week. On Friday, about 94% of them leave office at 4pm to join families early and enjoy drinking red wine leisurely. That's when they give a traditional cheer of "Feyerabend" as a way of blessing the job done and the free time at home, often with the company of invited friends.

It depends on the policy of different German states but, when compared, the total number of holidays and weekends in Japan is greater than in FRG. Still, due to the paid holiday system and

(To be continued on P. 10)

The 2018 World's Cooking Workshop Home Dishes in Romania

Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018
Place: Minato City Gender-free Center "Libra"

We had the pleasure of having Ms. Silvia Cercheaza, secretary to the Romanian Ambassador to Japan and public relations officer, as the instructor for this workshop. The reason why she is so fluent in Japanese is because she studied Japanese while back in Romania. She came to Japan on a Japan Foundation program and, while in Japan, she took the secretary job. She has been in Japan for over eight years. As her assistant, we had the company of Ms. Risa Sugawara, food coordinator, who has been active in introducing different cooking culture to Japan.



In the first part of the workshop, Silvia-san introduced her home country Romania in fluent Japanese. The country has a population of about 20 million on a territory surrounded by Bulgaria, Hungary, Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine and the Black Sea. The Danube flows into the Black Sea there. People speak Romanian and a majority of them believe in the Romanian Orthodox. The Romanian cooking has been influenced by Austrian and Hungarian culture and is characterized by tasty food materials thanks to its fertile farming environment.

During the second half, we engaged in cooking the following four dishes as the day's menu:

- ① Assortment of olive and cheese:
Place on a plate black and green olives, cheese and salami, pierced by tiny sticks, and sided by tomato and cucumber.
- ② Cheese bread (Saleuri):
Mix the baking powder –based bread with wheat flour, cream cheese, butter and yogurt to make the basic material. Extend it with a rolling pin and cut it in a stick shape. Bake the sticks in an oven.
- ③ Potato salad (Salata bouef):
Mix potato salad with carrots, pickles, fried & sliced beef and soybean milk. Decorate the surface with red & yellow paprika, boiled eggs and parsley.
- ④ Salad de vinete (Salata de vinete)*
Baked eggplants seasoned with olive oil.



The plates, shown in the photos above (from left ① to ④), are of Horezu pottery which Silvia-san brought. These pottery pieces have been produced over generations near the Horezu monastery which is a world heritage in Rumania. It is males' job to collect soil, make clay and bake the ceramics. Females undertake the picture drawing. The pottery expertise was registered in 2012 as a UNESCO intangible cultural heritage.

A total of 30 attendees, including MUA staff, enjoyed the cooking workshop in a vibrant atmosphere. Ms. Sugawara was very helpful in facilitating the program. We were impressed with the beautiful dish-up by Silvia-san. We also enjoyed the tasty herb tea presented by the Romanian Music Association. Let us reiterate our hearty thanks to Silvia-san, Sugawara-san and all the attendees for their cooperation.

(Written by K. Matsuzaki, Standing Director, and translated by S. Tanahashi, the PR & Internet Committee)

The Tokyo Council of UNESCO Associations 2018 Workshop
- In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of Japan's UNESCO activities -

Date: Sunday, February 11, 2018
Place: Meguro City Sogo-Chosha Bldg.

A total of 83 people attended this workshop, including six members from MUA. The following programs were held to mark the 70th anniversary of Japan's grassroots UNESCO activities.

- **Opening address** by Chairman Kentaro Hirai of TCUA.

- **Keynote speech: "UNESCO and its challenges in the world"**

The speaker was Mr. Yuji Suzuki who is Professor Emeritus of Hosei University, Visiting Professor of the Advanced Research Institute of the United Nations University, and Director of the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan. The following is the summary of his speech:



The world is challenged by the aggravating friction between globalism and nationalism. In Japan we are facing structural issues, including low birthrate, expanding aged population, concentration of resources into Tokyo, and the inward-looking attitude of citizens. What should we grassroots UNESCOans do to offer corrective solutions?

First we should watch our step. No matter how the shrinking birthrate may accelerate, the basic importance to maintain organized integrity among schools, homes and local communities will stay the same. Also important is the values to be perceived in the linkage and solidarity for peace among citizens across national borders. It will be equally important to hand down to younger generations the culture and traditions based on regional communities, including Tokyo. I don't think the local communities can survive without invigorating the local culture.

- **Lecture: Agricultural seeds are in crisis.**

The speaker was Mr. Keisuke Amagasa, journalist and representative of the Citizen's Biotechnology Information Center. The following is a summary of his presentation:

It is very important to develop regional farming and facilitate diversity in food culture as a way of protecting bio-diversity and food safety. We should expand GMO-free areas to protect Japan's traditional seeds and expand organic farming.

- **Report by young members on "SDGs and our UNESCO activities."**

The presentation was followed by group discussions, participated by all attendees, on selected SDGs. The results of each group's discussions were presented in turn.

(Written by T. Kobayashi, Standing Director, and translated by S. Tanahashi, the PR & Internet Committee)

(Continued from P. 3) Cross-cultural Awareness Workshop
about the small stuffs.

Q: It is hard for people to pretend as if he did not recognize what he actually was aware.

A: Leave everything to the mercy of God's mind. Do not be bound by what is correct nor what is wrong. Try to be free from prejudice in seeing other people or objects.

Q: How could people live with diseases?

A: Most of doctors are not educated enough to ease the patients' hardship caused by their diseases, while they learn and acquire much knowledge and technique associated with diseases. Doctors need to listen directly from patients to feel the hardship patients are facing, and, eventually, make most use of the information thus acquired in the treatment. This is not easy at all.

Postscript

Many of the audience responded to the questionnaire that they were very impressed not only by the gentle way the speaker talked but the contents of the speech as well. His observation on the subtle difference in smiles between the Americans' and the Mongolians' was also very interesting.

(Written by K. Okumura, Vice President, and translated by Y. Suda, the PR & Internet Committee Associate)

(Continued from P. 7) MUA visit to the FRG Embassy

the carry-forward of unused paid holidays, German workers have shorter working hours per year. In German working places, there's an established system which enables colleagues to take over jobs whenever any of their peers takes a holiday.

- Child-care leave for males

People in FRG have been aware of the shrinking birthrate and ageing of their society. With this background, they perceived as an imminent challenge to work out an environment where young married couples would not feel hesitant to have children. Thus, the child-care leave law was revised to provide parental hours for male workers so that they can take necessary child-care leave. This revision has helped improve the family environment before and after baby delivery.

Conclusion:

Through the intensive Q&A dialog mentioned above, we came to realize that our two countries share common challenges. We were impressed with FRG's all-out efforts to solve the impending challenges. We thanked for the warmest hospitality extended from the Minister and embassy staff, and left the place where the mascot Berlin Bear saw us off. When I returned home, I shouted "Feyerabend" and enjoyed tasting the pretzel which we received as one of the nice souvenirs at the FRG embassy.

(Written by T. Kobayashi, Standing Director, and translated by S. Tanahashi, the PR & 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:

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