

No. 153: December 1, 2018

A Recollection in August

Kazuko Matsuzaki, Standing Director, MUA

TV stations broadcast many WWII-related programs in August every year. On August 12 this year, NHK-BS aired a program titled “How did the evil weapon come into being? – the anguish of the scientists who developed the atomic bomb.” The program showed several photographs of the groups of scientists who were engaged in the Manhattan Project which sought the development of A-bombs. That’s when I noticed Dr. Louis H. Hempelmann (1914 – 1993) among such scientists. He looked like a typical American youth, decent and slender, in contrast with other physically dumpy physics and chemistry scientists. He was the boss of my deceased father during his young researcher days in the U. S.



My father graduated from a medical department in 1949 and chose as his future career the field of basic medical science, working for a bio-chemical laboratory. Although I don’t know any details concerning how he was invited by the U. S. Atomic Power Commission, he accepted the offer to work under the guidance of Dr. Hempelmann who was presiding the radiation faculty in the Rochester University in New York. My father opted to be accompanied by his family. In those days the U. S. dollar vs Yen exchange rate was at ¥360 for one dollar. Also the amount of foreign currency, granted to an outbound Japanese traveler, was strictly controlled. Because I was only a child then, I did not have any idea how my parents worked out the home economy of our family while in the U. S.

Rochester, New York was then a community which had flourished in parallel with the growth of Eastman Kodak Company. As a child, I enjoyed very much the local environment in Rochester. We could see squirrels in the garden and we had tons of snow each winter. Our stay in Rochester was only about a decade after the end of the WWII but I don’t recall any memory of being exposed to hateful “Jap” calls. I guess the U. S. society then had a reasonable level of generosity as a victor nation.

Incidentally, I heard from my mother that Mrs. Hempelmann came from the Pulitzer family who established the famous award, and that she was a very intelligent person who had read many books, including a Japanese novel titled “Kani-koh-sen.” It was decades later that I heard about the rumor that Dr. Hempelmann had been involved in the Manhattan Project in one way or another. I don’t know whether or not my father was aware of Dr. H’s involvement when he decided to work for him in the U. S. The historical fact remains that many talented American scientists were engaged in the development of the A-bomb – a truly devilish weapon.

Those recollection activated my curiosity to find out how Dr. Hempelmann got involved in the A-bomb development and what kind of mentality he had maintained about it. Years back, this kind of historical research would have necessitated visits libraries. Today we can use the Internet instead. I logged Dr. Hempelmann’s full name into the net. Instantly I found the website of an organization called the Atomic Heritage Foundation which provided the following information: Dr. Hempelmann became acquainted with a physicist, who was engaged in the Manhattan Project, when he was resea-

(To be continued on P.17)

The 2018 MUA Symposium
The UNESCO World Heritages at Risk

Date: Friday, June 8, 2018

Place: Minato City Life-long Learning Center

This year's symposium was organized at the suggestion of Mr. Kazuhiko Togo, an MUA Director and former diplomat, who has delivered stimulating lectures for us in the past. Mr. Togo hit upon an idea to invite Professor Takayoshi Igarashi as the keynote speaker for the symposium when he found that Prof. Igarashi had published a book titled "World Heritage and UNESCO Spirit." Prof. Igarashi generously accepted our request so we decided to ask for the participation as panelists of Ambassador Togo along with Mr. Hiroya Sato who had worked as the editor of the said book. As usual, Mr. Hiroshi Nagano, President of the Minato UNESCO Association, worked as the moderator. First, let us introduce brief profiles of the three speakers:

Prof. Takayoshi Igarashi (keynote speaker): Professor emeritus at Hosei University; former President of the Japanese Society of Landscape Designs; Lawyer; Former advisor to the Cabinet Secretariat; Advocated the citizens-centric city planning based on the "Beautiful City" as the key concept; Made contributions in registering Japan's landmark sites, including Hiraizumi, Kumano Kodo, and Nagasaki (related to crypto-Christians) into the UNESCO World Heritages.

Ambassador Kazuhiko Togo (Panelist):

Director of the Institute of World Affairs at Kyoto Sangyo University; Director of the Minato UNESCO Association; formerly Ambassador Plenipotentiary to the Netherlands.

Mr. Hiroya Sato (Panelist): Photo journalist; Researcher of the Japanese culture; Engaged actively in the campaign for entering Hiraizumi into the UNESCO World Heritage registration

The followings are the summaries of the three speakers' presentations, moderator's dialog with them, and the Q&A with the floor:

Keynote speech by Prof. Takayoshi Igarashi:

I started my career as a lawyer. At the time of my graduation, Japanese university campuses were totally in chaos, due to students' riots and strikes. When I started to work as a rookie lawyer after passing the bar exam, I was assigned to respond to citizens' claim concerning a case where the neighboring community of an elementary school was opposing to the construction of a bowling alley at an adjoining location. To handle this case, I studied Japan's Building Standard Act for the first time. I found that the act has a fatal shortcoming in its basic stance to allow the "Free to build" principle. I understood that we would not be able to design good city plans until this defect is corrected.



Once into the 1970's, Japan continued to thrive at a high economic growth rate and an increasing number of condominiums were built in Tokyo. In addition to the bowling alley issues, I started to handle the "Right to the sunshine" cases by organizing a citizens union to prevent problematic constructions. However the pace of the increase in the number of such cases was too explosive for us to tackle in a case by case approach. The underlying problems included the said "Free to build" principle endorsed by the Building Standard Act, as well as the unawareness of architects who do not have any doubt about the issue. Thus I started to ask myself "What is the true nature of architecture?" In this connection, I visited Barcelona, Spain to see the Saint Cathedral, designed by Gaudi, which has been built step by step over a long period of time, based on funds raised from the citizens.

I also invited Professor Christopher Alexander from the UC Berkeley to Japan during a school building project where I cooperated with a friend of mine. Prof. Alexander is known in Japan as the architect who advocated the “Pattern Language” concept. By putting his idea into practice, he designed and built the Higashino Senior High School located in Iruma City, Saitama Prefecture.

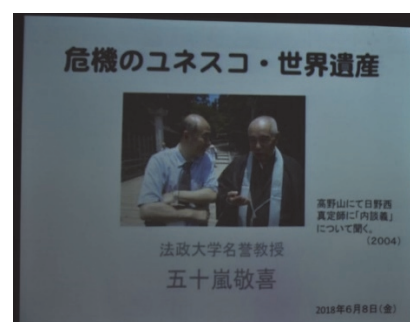
Those were the days when the development rush invaded every corner of Japan. Indeed a total of about one million buildings were constructed each year. For example, a small town called Manazuru in Kanagawa Prefecture was faced with plans to build tens of new condominiums. The mayor had a headache and turned to the City Planning Institute of Japan, asking for advice to solve this problem. The institute was aware that the situation would call for a professional who is well versed in both land regulations and architecture & city planning issues. Thus, I was tapped for this job and started to work with Manazuru town people.

After extensive discussions, we worked out a “Beautiful City” ordinance to prevent uncontrolled developments and create a beautiful city environment. The core definition of the “Standard for Architecture,” as stipulated in the ordinance, came to be cited not just in Japan but also internationally. Still, frankly speaking, I could not define persuasively what constitutes architectural beauty.

That’s the time when I became aware of the UNESCO World Heritage. I researched related information, expecting that the heritage selection process would provide an “Objective Standard” to define beauty. What I found out was the fact that about 70 – 80 percent of the registered World Heritages in those days concerned religion. This means you cannot understand the true nature of beauty unless you understand religion. Therefore, utilizing my university’s sabbatical leave, I studied as a student at the Koyasan University, located in Mt. Koyasan premises. The Koyasan site had been just registered as a World Heritage before my student enlistment.

It was a blessing that I could receive a precious lecture from Reverend Hinonishi Shinjo. He was a respected religious ethnology expert while also occupying an important “Yuina” position in the Koyasan inner circle. In particular, I appreciated being enlightened about precious teachings regarding the secret of the esoteric Shingon religion. While acquiring lots of religious learning, I also got in direct touch with the “risk” factors involved in maintaining beauty. Of course, the beauty in Mt. Koyasan is constituted from faith and religion but it cannot be preserved without the support of local citizens.

Mt. Koyasan was no exception from the realistic demographic change which had caused a growing trend in the citizen deficiency, due to the low-birthrate and ageing society. In an effort to tackle this problem, Koyasan people contacted Professor Nishimura of the University of Tokyo who had played active roles at UNESCO. With his cooperation, a grassroots initiative titled “World Heritage of Our Own” was launched. The first convention of this initiative was held very successfully with the participation of Mr. Alex Kerr; Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, well known as the UNESCO Secretary-General in those days; and Professor Iwatsuki who had won a “Person of Cultural Merits” recognition. As a result of this convention, an organization, headed by Mr. Matsuura, was established by the name of “Association to Create Persistent Culture.” This is the brief history of my involvement in the UNESCO World Heritage.



The creation of UNESCO is closely connected with wars. As you know, the United Nations and UNESCO were born out of international remorse of what happened during the two world wars. Among the variety of activities promoted by UNESCO, the most visible one is the World Heritage. Unfortunately, however, this program is currently facing an unprecedented risk.

For one thing, it faces political interventions. The U. S. withdrew from UNESCO, insisting that UNESCO had been politically biased. Because the amount paid by the U. S. as a signatory nation was so large that UNESCO fell into a serious financial difficulty. In the area of the Memorial Heritage, tension among related East Asian countries has arisen from political issues, involving the comfort women and the Nanjing incident. The Japanese government expressed discomfort over UNESCO's handling of these issue and threatened to stop its signatory payment, following the suit of the U. S. Also in view is the controversy over the compensation for the Korean workers mobilized by Japan during the last war.

Even with the Mt. Fuji area, already registered into the World Heritage, voices have been raised that it's totally inappropriate that a site for the military maneuvers by Japan's self-defense forces, the exact opposite symbol vis-a-vis peace, exists inside the heritage area. With an aim to deepen the discussion of the "World Heritage and Peace" issue, I published a book titled "World Heritage and UNESCO Spirit - Hiraizumi, Kamakura and Shikoku Pilgrimage" (from the Kojin no Tomo sha) co-authored by Mr. Hiroya Sato, who will speak later as a panelist. I'd like to make a special mention of the "Kuyo-ganmon," or a memorial service solicitation letter, which has been among the traditional practices maintained in Hiraizumi. What's expressed in the document synchronizes completely with what's pursued in the UNESCO Constitution.

Regrettably, Japan did not succeed in registering Kamakura into the World Heritage. Perhaps, the presentation, characterizing the site as the "Capital of Warriors" was not favorably received. I'd like to suggest that more emphasis be placed on the section which describes Minamoto-no Yoritomo's future plans to establish a "Capital of Peace," succeeding to the spirit expressed in the Hiraizumi's Kuyo-ganmon.

The "Osettai" entertainment practice, traditionally extended to the pilgrimage travelers in Shikoku, has no counterpart elsewhere in the world. We should bear in mind that this is a very unique Japanese culture, reflecting ordinary citizens' handed-down perception that religion or Odaishi-sama always treats people equally and never discriminates them.

We should also consider other issues, including "Tourism Hazzard" and "Uncontrolled Development." For example, 40 percent of the residents in the Iriomote Jima island objected to the planned World Heritage registration, in fear of the possibility that "Our peaceful daily life may be disturbed" by the increase of tourists after a successful registration. Another example concerns an issue of "Condominium Constructions" at a location within the buffer zone of the Shimogamo Shrine site in Kyoto. Such constructions would not be desirable from the viewpoint of presenting any negative image to the World Heritage. However the developer has a logic to justify the project, saying that their objective is to secure the fund needed for conducting the periodical "Removal to the New Shrine" ritual. Therefore this is an issue where the "Preservation Comes First" attitude alone will not produce a good solution. In the future it would be necessary to work out "Burden on the Beneficiary" schemes which may include requirements for tourists to pay due fees.

On the other hand, we are aware of the tendency that the number of candidate sites for the World Heritage has been decreasing. I'm afraid that, not just in Japan but internationally, the number of sites which can meet the World Heritage requirements, including universal value, availability for public access and viewing, and genuine & perfect substance, and which can also present a direct and impactful association with peace, has been tapering off. I believe that peace should be something eternal, and that the nature of the UNESCO World Heritage requirements should be also eternal. I hope that you will always associate the World Heritages with peace, and that you will spread this perception.

Kazuhiko Togo (Panelist):

I was truly impressed to know that Professor Igarashi, even in his 20's, detected the "Free to build"

principle, as stipulated in the Building Standard Act, to be the root cause of problematic buildings.

During the immediate post-war years, Japan has tackled the challenge to secure food, clothing and shelter, and succeeded finally in enhancing the quality of clothing and food to the first-rate level. Unfortunately, the level of our shelter condition still remains poor. I have been an external relations aide to Shizuoka Prefecture since 2011. When Governor Kawakatsu of the prefecture initially tapped me for help, I could not understand why I was selected. I read books authored by the governor and found that he advocates a concept named “Fukoku Yutoku” or a wealthy nation with virtuous mind. When we think of the true meaning of richness, we cannot exclude the quality of our shelter. I think that we may call the richness in housing quality as the “Cultural Landscape.” Can’t we create a harmonious living space, combining both “Nature” and “Tradition & Culture”? It is after all the human beings who create such a space. Therefore, the said governor’s concept can be realized only by embedding in citizens’ minds the mental richness, consideration for others, and the spirit to create with joined hands. I was impressed with the governor’s way of thinking and accepted the offer. Thus, I’m still wearing this hat.

Shizuoka Prefecture has two registered UNESCO World Heritages – Mt. Fuji and the Nirayama reverberatory furnace. In addition Governor Kawakatsu has listed up a total of 73 candidates, involving world-class natural and human resources. Today I’d like to talk about Mishima City which is included in the list as a world-class water heritage as well as a world-class irrigation facility heritage. When I visited Mishima for local inspection, I was surprised. Trees were planted on both banks of the Genbei River which accommodates a beautiful water flow. During my career with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I have lived in Europe for a long time. I have seen how cities in the Netherlands or Venice, for example, have successfully introduced the presence of water flow in their city landscape.



My initial impression about Mishima was that it could be turned into an Oriental Amsterdam or Oriental Venice. To our great regret, however, an unexpected development occurred since about the year before last. The mayor of Mishima endorsed the project to “Build a 100 meter high condominium at the open space located facing the south exit of the Mishima Station.” I joined a citizens’ group which opposed the development. Due among others to the insufficient disclosure of information from the city administration, we cannot clearly predict the future course. What can we do to facilitate the creation of a city while also preserving the Japanese cultural landscape? I’d like to invite your wisdom to tackle this problem.

Hiroya Sato (Panelist):

Last year I visited South Korea and had an interesting experience. At the time I left Japan, I felt as if the bilateral relation was so aggravated that a war might erupt at any moment. However, once there, I could not observe any sense of crisis among the Korean people I saw. I remembered the famous phrase included in the preamble of the UNESCO Constitution that goes “Since wars begin in the minds of men.”



It is said that 2.6 million people perished in WWI and 5,355 thousand in WWII. According to the book titled “Hitowa naze senso wo surunoka” (Why humans wage wars) (Kodansha Gakujutsu Bunko), the genius physicist Einstein once sent an open letter to Freud the psychologist, asking “Could human beings be ever liberated from the yoke of wars?” (p.16) Freud answered “By promoting the cultural growth, we can take positive steps toward the termination of wars” (P.55) but humans ended up failing in the avoidance of wars. I recommend you to read this

book carefully. While WWI produced an increased number of PTSD victims, it facilitated drastical-

ly the progress in psychiatric medical science

Since my youth, I have been obsessed with the following question; “Why did human beings tolerate the emergence of Nazism?” To this question, I found the most persuasive answer in the viewpoint of Carl G. Jung, a Swiss psychologist, that goes “In 1918 I was already aware of the presence of a unique disability, different from their individual psychological function, in the unconscious tier of German patients’ mind.” (P.116 in the “Present and Past” authored by C. G. Jung)

The World Heritage addresses the preservation of not just beautiful sites but also the sites of tragic legacy. The latter includes the massacre sites in Cambodia; Hiroshima where the atomic bomb was dropped for the first time; and the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland, for example. The objective is to always remind human beings of the war-driven atrocity and ravages.

During the almost 20 years of my involvement, jointly with Professor Igarashi, in the Hiraizumi project, I became aware how wars have destroyed human minds as well as culture. Still, Hiraizumi has sustained its presence and never perished, even once. In contrast, the Angkor Wat in Cambodia, the Borobudur in Indonesia and the Bagan in Myanmar perished once and the remains were discovered later on. This is the reason why Donald Keene said, “Hiraizumi has never perished.” I think this exemplifies the characteristic of Japan’s culture.

In its prime days, Hiraizumi boasted a population of 50 to 100 thousand residents, second only to Kyoto. It is said that the prevailing presence of vibrant religion saved Hiraizumi from the possible destruction by Minamoto-no Yoritomo. The religious spirit was succeeded by the Kamakura shogunate and is even today noticeable in the “Osettai” reception culture in the Shikoku Henro pilgrimage. I’d like to suggest that Japan pursues the World Heritage registration of the Shikoku Henro, based on the legitimate spirit of the World Heritage.

Discussions between the moderator and the speakers:

Nagano: We tend to associate the World Heritage with tourism. How should we interpret the heritages from the viewpoint of the UNESCO’s mission?

Igarashi: We used to explain that the World Heritage should have a “Universal Value.” Such attitude has somehow highlighted something rare or precious. Maybe we should have placed more emphasis on the explanation of how those heritages relate to peace issues in our daily life. I’d like to suggest that we explain the relationship between World Heritage and peace in such a clear way as comprehensible even for children.

Nagano: Mr. Togo talked about the problem in Mishima. What about the Sengakuji Temple issue in which you were once involved?

Togo: In 2015, a project was launched to build an 8-story high condominium at the location adjacent to the Sengakuji. Local citizens started an opposition campaign, for about six months, in fear of the possible damage to the harmonious scenic environment. After all, the condo was built. The Tokyo Metropolitan government is in the process of re-developing the area facing the Takanawa-guchi of Shinagawa Station. I sincerely hope that the developer has a long-term view, along with sensibility for natural and cultural beauty, so that they thereby create a harmonious landscape in the community.

Igarashi: Sengakuji is renowned for the Chushingura warriors. This story is symbolic of the Bushido, or the path of the Samurai’s, which was introduced internationally by Dr. Inazo Nitobe. He was once Undersecretary-General of the League of Nations and contributed to the foundation of UNESCO and the promotion of world peace. What is expressed by the Chinese character “Do” means simply traffic when interpreted by the Westerners. In contrast, it means not just traffic but also the spiritual pursuit in Japan, as exemplified in the “Bushido,” “Chado,” and “Budo.” I feel that the said achievements by Nitobe should be evaluated much more highly in the area of the World Heritage.

Nagano: When Mr. Sato expressed his viewpoint on the emergence of Nazism, he touched upon a unique disability detected in the German patients. Did the disability exist only during the particular period of time or does it exist even today?

Sato: Jung called it a “collective unconsciousness.” I think that Japan today is not exempt from this type of unconsciousness. We should not forget the dire disaster Japan caused in the past, and instead should maintain a sense of crisis all the time.

Q&A with the floor:

Q: I’ve read news reporting that a certain region, where the construction for the linear train railway is underway, faced the exhaustion of the underground water artery. Would it be possible to perceive and put into explicit stipulations the negative side of developments so that we can share a lesson from the experienced problems?

A: High breakwater facilities are being built along the shoreline of the areas destroyed by the Great East Japan Earthquake. There is a concern that these facilities may block the back flow of underground water into the sea. Regrettably people are yet to appreciate the traditional knowledge that “The mountain is the lover of the sea.” In Mishima as well, there has been a dispute concerning the risk that the deep underground construction of high-rise building foundations might block the flow of the underground water running from Mt. Fuji. And yet reality is that it’s difficult to apply the brake on construction projects.



Q: I’ve been aware of proposals, recommending that the height of buildings in any community where people live be restricted to the height of planted trees, or that residential houses be designed in a low-rise and high-density format. I hope that the Mishima project will be reconsidered, based on those proposals and discussions.

A: As an extension of what I talked about Sengakuji, I’d like to report to you the current status of the community re-development, involving the area from Shinagawa Station to Sengakuji and its vicinity. A final city planning will be soon determined where high-rise buildings will be collectively assigned to a designated area while the other areas will accommodate only low-rise buildings.

Q: During the symposium today, speakers used the word “beauty” in their contexts. I wonder if the beauty, as perceived by the ancient people, and one perceived by the contemporary people are the same.

A: When I asked the same question to my students, about 90 percent answered No. However, most of them changed their opinion after I took them to World Heritage sites where they observed the genuine legacy objects. From this experience, I can tell that the overwhelming beauty and inspiration, possessed by World Heritages, can be shared across time and space.

At the very end of the symposium, Professor Igarashi introduced to the audience the wife of a Shikoku pilgrimage priest who was present in the room. She greeted, saying “I came from Cape Ashizuri-misaki. I hope I can see you on the Ohenro pilgrimage in Shikoku someday.” The symposium was concluded in a very friendly atmosphere.

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

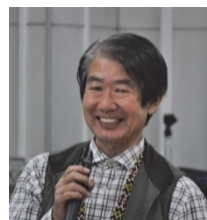
Peace Building Effort Devoted by Mindanao Children's Library Foundation
-Songs and Dances performed by 11 Young People from Mindanao, Philippines-

Date: Friday, June 1, 2018 (13:30 – 16:30)

Place: Minato City Life-Long Learning Center

Program:

- About “Mindanao Children’s Library Foundation (MCLF)” by Director Matsui and his wife Aprilyn-san. (Right photos)
- Folk Dances and Folk Songs performed by students on scholarship granted by the Foundation and its staffs
- Exchange: Speech by all students on “Our Families and Lives in the Future”



Delegation visited MUA (Minato UNESCO Association) this time consisted of 5 high-school students and 4 university students who study with the support extended by the MCLF accompanied by 2 MCLF staffs. They visited primary schools, junior high schools, high schools, universities and local organizations exceeding 50 sites in 13 prefectures in Japan between April 10th and June 10th utilizing their holidays. They exchanged with many young people and middle and old-aged people through the performance of folk songs and folk dances. We at MUA invited not only our members but many other people to join us and enjoy the exchange with the visitors.

The songs and dances performed by them were so fascinating and impressive enough which were almost professional performance in quality, proving that their preparation for the visit to Japan was really extensive. All the participants enjoyed their very powerful performance.

Visitors explained about themselves, their family, and expressed deepest thanks to the scholarship obtained through the MCLF as they were provided with opportunities for education and, as the result, became able to have a hope for the future. (Ms. Aprilyn D.Matsui kindly translated Filipino into English.) We were moved that they had a very steady and firm plan for their lives. We also realized that the activities led by Mr. Matsui of providing the opportunities for education for young people from underprivileged homes are truly admirable.

Relationship between MUA and the MCLF:

Our association with the MCLF goes back to 2005 when we first requested Mr. Matsui to give a lecture on “Medical activities and operation provided by the MCLF in Mindanao where sporadic fighting and terrors continues”. It was very shocking to know about the situation in the area of conflict and poverty. We started to send clothes donated by MUA members off to the MCLF so that they were distributed to those in need. Some of the members continue monetary donations.

About MCLF

Established back in 2002 by Mr. Matsui on a farmland at the foot of Mt. Apo located in the suburb of Kidapawan City. The main activities of the Foundation are as shown below:

- Storytelling and lending of books for children in the main building
- Storytelling in the residential areas of indigenous people, Muslims or refugees
- Gives a scholarship grant to the less fortunate but deserving children, priority orphans or half orphan, complete parent but 6-12 siblings in the family and the parent doesn't have sufficient income. 200 children in need of protection are accepted to live in the main building or boarding houses.
- Providing medical aid
- Supporting to build nurseries
- Supporting afforestation
-

Those who mainly lead these activities are young people being granted scholarships. Children of indigenous people, Muslims, immigrant Christians build a great family here overcoming differences in religions and tribes. Their efforts are greatly supported by the donations by many Japanese supporters.

About Mindanao:

Philippine Islands consist of three main geographical divisions: Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Mindanao is located at the southernmost part of the country which occupies one third of the land. There exist 2000-meter-class-mountains on the east coast, west coast and mid-north areas respectively. The highest Mount Apo (2954 meters high) rises in the center of Mindanao highlands. Philippines is the only Christian country in ASEAN countries. Muslims occupies 5% of the entire nation, while they occupy more than 20% in Mindanao.

I would like to introduce an e-mail message sent to me from my friend who participated in the event as an audience:

Thank you for inviting me to the event. It was far more enjoyable gathering than I expected. I did not have much knowledge on nor interest in them. However, I was surprised to know that they had quite different experiences than Japanese young people at the same ages and live different lives. I was really impressed by the performance they presented to us. It was not created just to exhibit but rather takes root deep into the soil of their lives. As I received a transfer forms, I surely intend to donate for them.

Snapshots of the performance by MCLF Visitors



Miss Honey Caliguid met an MUA member who has been supporting her.



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

The Yukata-dressing Workshop

Date: Saturday, June 16, 2018

Place: Minato City Life-long Learning Center

The popularity of Yukata, a symbolic dress for Japan's summer scene, has been rising recently among young people as a fashionable item. Our flyer reached out to possible applicants, saying "Why don't you get dressed in Yukata by yourself and go out to "Bon-Odori" (local dance) or "Hanabi" (fireworks) gatherings. It'll make a great memory of the summer season in Japan."

This time we had a total of 36 attendees as shown below:

- 18 non-Japanese from Azerbaijan, Chile, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kilgis, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.
- 8 Japanese (either Minato City residents or commuter workers)
- 3 Keio University's UNESCO Club members
- 7 assistants
- 3 MUA staff

The workshop progressed in the following order:

- ① History of Yukata
- ② Demonstration of Yukata dressing by the instructor
- ③ Exercise of self-dressing twice
- ④ Commemorative group photo of all the attendees dressed in Yukata
- ⑤ Exercise to fold Yukata once taken off.



Major impressions from the attendees:

(Non-Japanese)

- It was a memorable experience. I totally enjoyed the workshop today. I'd like to wear Yukata again.
- Everything progressed perfectly. It would have been nicer if we could walk outside dressed in Yukata.
- The lecture was very helpful. I could understand Yukata's history well. I enjoyed the Yukata dressing experience.
- The class atmosphere was casual and enjoyable.
- The lecture was very informative. All the MUA staff were very helpful in our dressing exercise.
- The lecture was easy to understand thanks to the English interpretation. I could get the points quickly.

(Japanese)

- It was cool to get dressed properly.
- I think the contents of this class belong to what schools should teach.
- It was very helpful to learn Yukata's history, on top of getting dressed.
- I learned how to adjust the size of a too-large Yukata. I felt happy when I could dress it by myself.
- It's a very good idea to get dressed twice. We could turn to any of many MUA staff available for help.
- When dressed in Yukata, I felt the spine straightened up and had a renewed awareness that I'm a

Japanese woman. The workshop also provided an opportunity to practice English.

- All attendees looked happy with smiles. It was a fun and learning experience.
- I expected the self-dressing to be more difficult. However, after joining the workshop, I found it unexpectedly manageable.

The MUA staff were assisted at the reception desk by a few students from the UNESCO Club of Keio University. Ms. Mizuho Shoji, one of the students, gave the following comment:

“I renewed my awareness of Yukata’s history as a part of Japan’s indigenous culture. It was a pleasure to see non-Japanese participants getting dressed in Yukata in a very enjoyable atmosphere. The workshop was a precious experience for me personally to learn the proper way of Yukata dressing.”



(From left : Ms. Uchida, Ms. Shoji & Ms. Tsutsui of Keio University’s UNESCO Club)



On behalf of the MUA staff who organized this event, I’d like to express what I have observed. All participants were very serious in acquiring the dressing skill. An initial challenge was to learn how to tie an “Obi” or belt around their waist. At the end of the workshop, everyone was able to self-dress Yukata in a suitable way. It was a great pleasure for us to promote cross-cultural understanding through the workshop.

(Written by K. Hirakata, MUA Vice President, and translated by S. Tanahashi, the PR & Internet Committee)

Reception for MUA New Members

-Orientation on our activities and convivial gathering-

Date: Thursday, June 21, 2018

Place: Minato City Life-Long Learning Center

We had many new members registered throughout the previous year through such activities as English classes, lectures, Japanese speech contest, etc. Most significantly, as many as 18 members from Keio UNESCO Club of Keio University (headed by Miss Mako Tsutsui) joined MUA as supporting member. Miss Mizuho Shoji, Miss Mika Uehiro and Miss Hyunjo Bang from Keio UNESCO Club as well as Mr. Junichi Inoue were present in the reception. Mr. Kensuke Kikuchi, Vice President of MUA, gave an opening remark and kicked off the reception. Then, Mr. Inoue who joined MUA and took the position of Secretary General back in May gave a short speech. He explained that he was responsible for health promotion of the Minato City residents as the Chief of Minato City Health Promotion Center prior to joining MUA and that he was ready for contributing to the further advancement of MUA.

Mr. Hiroshi Nagano, President of MUA, gave a welcoming remark upon arrival of three members from Keio University who hurried to the venue after finishing their classes. He stated that the younger members are expected to make the most use of MUA to realize the common purpose of UNESCO activities through coordination with other members.

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

- Membership Committee: Ms. Masayo Akiyama, Standing Director
- PR and Internet Committee: Mr. Seiichi Tanahashi, Standing Director
- International Science & Culture Committee: Ms. Ritsuko Sato, Chairperson
- Foreign Language Study Committee: Mr. Takayuki Kobayashi, Standing Director
- World Cooking Workshop Committee: Ms. Kazuko Matsuzaki, Chairperson
- Minato Citizens Festival Committee: Mr. Osamu Kitaoka, Chairperson and
Ms. Toyoko Isobe, Standing Director
- Hands-on Cultural Workshop Committee: Ms. Kazuyo Hirakata, Vice President (left photo shown below).

Then, the convivial gathering was held in MUA's secretariat office, chaired by President Nagano (right photo shown below). New members introduced themselves while enjoying snacks and candies. We all made a commitment to gather everyone's strength to build the better MUA.



We are planning to present various events this year. “The 2nd Japanese Speech Contest” and “The folk-songs and folklores of Shimane Prefecture” are currently under preparation. We all felt that the addition of younger members shall provide an enormous strength in conducting our activities.

(Written by T. Kobayashi, Standing Director overseeing the Membership Committee, and translated by Y. Suda, the PR & Internet Committee Associate)

The 2018 Zazen Workshop

Date: Monday, June 25, 2018

Place: Seishoji Temple, Atago, Minato City

This workshop series started last year and this one was the third program. A total of 36 people attended. Because the Zazen hall was under a renewal construction, the workshop was held in the main hall.

At first, Reverend Mukan gave a power-point explanation on how to sit Zazen in a satisfactory style. His talk ranged from a human's physical frame to the importance of being conscious of our bone structure. We were instructed to sit Zazen in a relaxed posture without any strain. Chairs were provided for those who were likely to incur pain in the knee or the back. The inner environment of the grand main hall gave a solemn atmosphere and we could experience a precious moment of Zazen in silence.

After the Zazen experience, we moved to the auditorium. We received a lecture on “Okyo” or sutra from Reverend Mukan. He explained, “Okyo is a Buddhist scripture translated into Chinese characters from the original written in Sanskrit letters. Therefore, you cannot understand what it means just by listening to the vocal presentation alone.” He also touched upon the “Hannya Shinkyo” but I felt that the philosophy was too deep to be understood in such a short time.

Seishoji Temple offers a variety of programs, including “Shakyo” or copy-writing of the scripture, in addition to the Zazen workshop. We hope that those, who are interested in any of such programs, would join personally. Taking this opportunity, I'd like to reiterate our sincere thanks to Reverend Mukan and the temple staff who extended cooperation to MUA.



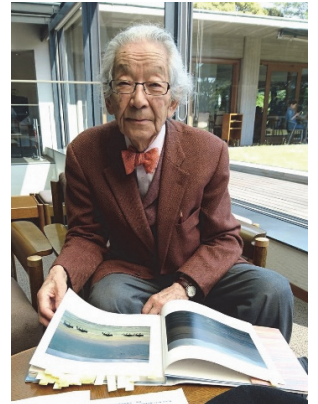
(Written by Y. Miyashita, Vice President, the International Science & Culture Committee, and translated by S. Tanahashi, the PR & Internet Committee)

Gathering with Mr. Hiroshi Matsumoto, Counselor of MUA

Date: Thursday, May 17, 2018

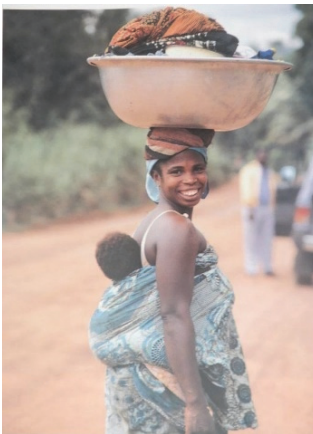
Place: Minato City Life-Long Learning Center

We can hardly discuss the successful planning of lectures presented by MUA's International Science & Culture Committee without referring to a great support in inviting prominent speakers provided by Mr. Matsumoto based on his broad range of personal connections. After graduating from Waseda University, Mr. Matsumoto studied the urban planning at The University of Manchester in England. Upon his return to Japan, he served as a researcher at International Development Center of Japan. He also served as a Managing Director and a Senior Managing Director at The Association for Promotion of International Cooperation, thereby contributed to the promotion of international development support of Japanese Government. Then, he moved to the International House of Japan where he served as a Managing Director and currently maintains the House as the "Inn Keeper".



He established relationships with people of more than 60 countries. He talked enthusiastically about his abundant experience from the viewpoint of three P's, i.e. "Public Mind", "Productive Mind" and "Playful Mind". It was a really pleasant two hour session in which we could feel the origin of Mr. Matsumoto's life. He published such books as "Global Architect: 50 years of international exchange and cooperation" and "Half Globe: Hiroshi Matsumoto's Photobook".

Mr. Matsumoto kindly projected 100 photos selected from his book "Half Globe – Hiroshi Matsumoto's Photobook". He explained what he saw and felt from each one of those photos. Only a few of them are shown below.



At a village (Ivory Coast 1986)



Primary school students with various roots (West Samoa 1985)



An old man in a ferry (Sudan 1977)



Commemorative photo taken after the Salon

(Written by T. Kobayashi, Standing Director, the Membership Committee, and translated by Y. Suda, the PR & Internet Committee Associate)

MUA Visit to the Romanian Embassy

Date: Thursday, June 28, 2018

Place: Nishi-Azabu, Minato City

This past February, MUA held a very successful “Home dishes of Romania” workshop. We owe it entirely to the cooperation extended from Ms. Kazuko Shimada who heads an NPO called the Japan and Rumania Music Association. As an extension of this friendship, we could organize this embassy visit. A total of 12 MUA members joined this visit. We had the pleasure of receiving a lecture on Rumania, presented in fluent Japanese, by Mr. Silvia Cercheaza, secretary to the ambassador and cultural affairs officer, who was the instructor at the said cooking workshop.



The nation’s name “Romania” derives from the Roman Empire. The Rumanians are ethnically a mix of the Dakians and the Romans, and are characterized by the Latin national traits. Japanese would associate the country, among others, with Comaneci, the gymnastic athlete, and the 29 world heritages it boasts. The followings were introduced as major interesting data about the country:

- Romania is **located** in East Europe and has a territory as large as Japan proper plus Shikoku Island.
- Romania joined NATO in 2004 and EU in 2007, respectively.
- **The official language** is Romanian, which belongs to the Roman language, and which resembles French and Spanish.
- **National Memorial Day** (December 1): It was established in 1918 to commemorate the Romania’s unity as a nation state.
- **Currency** is Leu (singular) or Lei (plural), and the international symbol mark is “RON.”
- **The capital** city is Bucharest.
- **History:** The origin of the country dates back 2,000 years. The Dakians in their own state fought against the Roman Empire and was defeated. Thus, Romanization progressed. Because about 60 percent of the Romanian language derives from the Latin, the country is often dubbed “a country of the Romans.” Romania, once a country of nomad tribes, transformed itself through interactions with neighbor countries; (8th to 14th centuries) Era of a small county; (15th to 19th centuries) Era of a country jointly governed by three monarchies; (1878) Birth of the Romanian Kingdom state; (1866 to WWI) The monarchy family existed; (1947) A portion of the territory was ceded to the Soviet Union; (1989) The Ceausescu regime collapsed after the Romanian revolution, thereby transforming the country from a Communist nation to a democratic one. Today Romania is governed by a semi-presidential political system. The president and the congress members are elected directly by citizens’ votes.
- **Religion:** Romanian orthodox accounts for 86 percent, while also embracing Protestant Roman Catholic and other denominations.
- **Topography:** The Danube triangle delta, the Black Sea and the Carpathian mountain range provide rich natural environment to the country. There remain many areas yet to be exposed to human developments.
- **Food culture:** Romanian food has been influenced by the culinary culture of its neighbor nations, including Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary and Serbia. Still it maintains the traditional Osman food culture at its core. The staple food was once corn but today it is replaced by wheat bread. The most popular national dish is Sarmale (stuffed roll cabbage). People drink wine and mineral water as did the Romans. The high-quality Linden honey, a local product, is internationally known.

(To be continued on P.17)

The 74th National Convention of Japan's UNESCO Activities held in Hakodate

Date: Sat. July 7 and Sun. July 8, 2018

Place: Hakodate, Hokkaido

This year the national convention was held in Hakodate, under the slogan of “Let’s extend the spirit of peace and coexistence from Japan’s northern terra to the next generation.” The event was organized by the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ), along with the Hokkaido Council of UNESCO Associations and the Hakodate UNESCO Associations (HUA). Against the backdrop of the expanding ESD movements throughout Japan as well as the international concerted efforts toward the SDG’s, it seemed like a most appropriate and timely choice to hold the annual convention in Hokkaido, in view of (1) Hokkaido’s history as the “Human Terra” which has nurtured the Jomon era ancestors up to the indigenous Ainu people, (2) Hakodate’s tradition as a Japan’s window for commerce to the world during the Edo period, (3) Japan’s application to UNESCO for the world heritage recognition of the Jomon culture which existed in Hokkaido and Tohoku regions, and (4) the 150th anniversary of the prefectural naming of Hokkaido.



The convention started with the speeches by President Yoji Ohashi of NFUAJ (left photo) and President Jiro Tsuchiya of the HUA, followed by Mayor Toshiki Kondo of Hakodate and other dignitaries. The keynote speech titled “Tidal current of life, environment and peace as perceived in Ainu people’s culture” was delivered by Mr. Shuzo Ishimori, Director of the Hokkaido Museum. We could learn from his presentation why the Jomon culture could survive for over ten thousand years as well as the attraction the culture has offered. The keynote speech was followed by a stage performance titled “Hakodate’s Future and UNESCO,” combining the theatrical acts and

projected images, which was demonstrated mainly by young people (left photo below). Simply put, it was a cream-skimmed highlight presentation of the summer-season outdoor play which has been held annually at the local Goryokaku fortress. The stage play enabled us to understand in a short time the historical developments of the port town Hakodate, spanning the time from the Edo period to today.



In the afternoon of Day 1, schools located near Hakodate reported on their ESD activities. Because they included the history of railroad construction along with other human efforts, we could renew our memory of the WWII as well as the environmental pollution analysis of the Onuma quasi-national park, which is renowned for tranquility and beauty, and other locations. Each of such histories attracted our close attention. The reporting event was followed by the 10th anniversary forum of the Future Heritage Movement (FHM) (right photo above), introducing the FHM as undertaken in Hokkaido. It also profiled NFUAJ’s FHM which was established based on its proprietary concept, separate from the world heritage. We could renew our awareness that the FHM is a truly meaningful effort which pursues the promotion of tangible and intangible regional cultural activities,

instead of simply preserving memorial objects, as well as the invigoration of the related communities.

The Day-2 started with a speech titled “ESD and Jomon Culture” by Mr. Chiharu Abe, formerly Director of the Hakodate Jomon Culture Center. It was followed by a panel discussion. Mr. Takato Kato, President of the Hakodate Ainu Association, and other panelists discussed the feasible approaches to realize the plenary objective – “Let’s extend the spirit of peace and coexistence.” President Kazuko Ohtsu of the Hokkaido Council of UNESCO Associations facilitated the discussion and made it vibrant and stimulating.

At the very end of Day 2, the participants from Tokyo gathered on the stage and extended their greeting and invitation to the audience as the hosts of next-year’s annual convention. Thus, the two-day event, held in Hakodate, was concluded successfully. As the UNESCO associations in Tokyo are expected to fulfill their mission as the host of the 2019 annual convention, I hope that as many MUA members as possible will participate and undertake active roles.

(Written by H. Nagano, MUA President, and translated by S. Tanahashi, the PR & Internet Committee)

(Continued from P. 1) **A Recollection in August**

-ching the medical application of cyclotron in Berkeley, California. I also found out that while at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, he was studying the influence of radioactivity on human body. I could even hear Dr. Hempelmann’s live voice, at his advanced age, responding to an oral history interview.

From the information thus obtained, I felt to my regret that although Dr. Hempelmann was a medical doctor, it seems he did not think hard enough about the possible negative implication of the A-bomb development. The same seems to apply to many other scientists who were engaged in the Manhattan Project. Today when we discuss the progress in science and technology, I hope that the UNESCO spirit will be the platform to evaluate the positive or negative factors involved.

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

(Continued from P. 15) **MUA Visit to the Romanian Embassy**

- **Tradition and customs:** Major days of national celebration include the followings:
 - March 1: Martisor, when men present to women a small item, woven by red and white wool, as a symbol of their respect. All the streets are flooded by red and white colors.
 - March 8: Day of Women (Mothers).
 - April or May: Easter, which is more important than Christmas for the Romanian Orthodox people. The day falls on the Sunday, following the first day of a full moon, after the Vernal Equinox Day.
 - New Year’s Day: People enjoy goat dance.

Silvia-san also showed us many slides, introducing popular spots designated as world heritages. During the Q & A session, many questions were raised, including one from an attendee who planned a trip to Romania soon. It was a most enjoyable and informative embassy visit where the bilateral friendship between Japan and Romania was further strengthened.

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

Launch of the SDG 4 Data Digest: Tools to Improve Learning Globally

03 December 2018

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) is launching today, 3 December, the SDG 4 Data Digest 2018: Data to Nurture Learning, which demonstrates how data can contribute to improve learning, as ministers and policymakers gather at the Global Education Meeting in Brussels to take stock of progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) on quality education for all .

Inequality in education is high on the agenda in Brussels but, as the UIS points out, it cannot be tackled without robust monitoring to track whether children, adolescents and adults are gaining the skills they need. This monitoring is vital, given that six out of ten children and adolescents worldwide are still unable to read a simple sentence or handle a basic mathematics calculation, according to UIS data.

“Inequality lies at the heart of the global learning crisis that stunts the lives of 617 million children and adolescents,” says Silvia Montoya, UIS Director. “Inequalities in learning are seen and felt not only at the individual level but across countries and communities, with entire societies held back by poor education and skills gaps.”

The Digest is blunt about the scale of the task ahead. One-third of the children and adolescents without basic literacy and numeracy skills are out of school and urgently need access to the education that is their right. But two-thirds of these children and adolescents are actually in school.

“Far from being hidden away or hard to reach, they are sitting in classrooms, in schools that are unable to provide them with the quality education they have been promised,” says Montoya. “That promise has been broken far too often.”

This matters, given the critical importance of learning for the achievement of all SDGs, from reducing poverty to tackling gender discrimination and building healthy, peaceful societies. The Digest voices concern about how these goals can be reached by the 2030 deadline if significant numbers of people continue to lack basic skills.

The Digest explores the internationally-comparable data needed to reduce inequalities and ensure the lifelong learning envisaged by SDG 4. It covers a wide range of assessment initiatives from early childhood education to adult literacy programmes. It also presents a series of tools to help countries make informed decisions about the types of assessments that will meet their specific needs, as well as guidance on participation in assessments and building the essential human capacity to improve learning outcomes through the effective use of data.

Making a strong case for investment in evaluation, the Digest argues for a shift in perspectives about the perceived costs of learning assessments by donors and governments. Participation in major international or regional assessments can cost each country roughly \$500,000 every four years, which seems like a major expense for a smaller economy. However, it is minor when set against the overall cost of providing schooling, and the even greater economic consequences of inadequate education.

(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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