

The 57th UNESCO Art Exhibition

Date: November 22 - 26 (Wed - Sun); Venue: Meguro Art Museum Ward Residents Gallery

The 57th UNESCO art exhibition was held based on the theme of "How can art contribute to peace?" It featured paintings, ceramics, silk embroidery, calligraphy, photography, and glasswork, created by Meguro UNESCO artists and members, including artwork from the UNESCO Art School. A wide range of genres were on display, making it an impressive exhibition, with half of the venue filled with pieces created by UNESCO-affiliated schools and children from Meguro ward. My heart aches thinking about the reality of a world where wars and conflicts still persist. The artwork made by children in Japan shown at the exhibition reminded us of our hopes and dreams encouraging the younger generations to lead us towards a future of peace through art.



Sumio Suzuki, Arts and Literature Committee Chairman
Translated by Yoko Nakamura

UNESCO Cultural Lecture 3:

"Japanese Sake: Its Cultural Significance and Charms"

-Aiming for UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Registration.

Speakers: Kenjiro Monji, Kotoko Yamada

Hosted by: Meguro Ward Board of Education

Organized by: NPO Meguro UNESCO Association

Date and Time: January 20, 2024 (Sat), 10:00 AM - 12:00 AM

Venue: Nakameguro GT Plaza Hall



After a welcome from the Meguro UNESCO Association President, Mr. Monji introduced himself, sharing his experience as an ambassador to Iraq, Qatar, UNESCO, and Canada. He has lead sake diplomacy efforts as a "Sake Samurai." He showcased a sake seminar held at the UNESCO

headquarters in Paris in 2017, where he offered over 40 types of Japanese sake.

Currently, Japanese sake faces challenges with declining brewery numbers. To elevate its status, Mr. Monji has created a proposal to register "Traditional Sake Brewing" as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. The proposal aims to recognize sake not just as an alcoholic beverage but as a part of Japanese culture. The proposal is set for review and decision by the end of this year.

Later, Ambassador of Japanese Sake and Culture Kotoko Yamada, conducted a basic sake lecture, explaining the differences in taste and aroma, while the guests tasted samples sourced from sake breweries in Ishikawa Prefecture, taking into consideration the damage they suffered as a result of the recent earthquake. Participants experienced variations in taste due to rice polishing and the level of added alcohol. Ms. Yamada also highlighted sake's versatility with various cuisines, challenging the misconception that it pairs exclusively with Japanese food. Many attendees expressed interest in hearing more and shared a newfound appreciation for Japanese sake.

Chairperson of the Training Committee, Kayo Yamada

Meguro UNESCO New Year Party

January 27, 2024 (Sat) 13:30 - 15:30,
Restaurant on 1F Meguro Ward Office Building,
53 participants, including 19 friendship members

With so many FM participants this year, we were able to enjoy conversations over light meals with people from various international backgrounds. We introduced new members and students from language classes, including Japanese language classes. Some confident students took the opportunity to share their names, nationalities, reasons for coming to Japan, and personal interests by speaking Japanese.

During this year's event, we also collected donations for the Noto Peninsula Earthquake. Our hope in response to these tragic disasters at the beginning of 2024 is for the affected areas to be restored and for wars to end as quickly as possible. We would like to continue to extend our help and support as much as we can.



Mariko Omae, Cultural Exchange Committee

Translation and English editing by staff writers and editors

Meguro UNESCO Japanese Language Class 2024 Spring Term

Morning/Saturday/Online courses start April 9th

Beginners class for age 16 and older

Please check our website for detailed information

NPO Meguro UNESCO Association

2-24-3 Gohongi, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153-0053 (Monday to Friday, 1-4 pm)

Tel: 03-5725-6150 / Fax: 03-5725-6160

Email: meguro@unesco.or.jp

Homepage: <http://www.unesco.or.jp/meguro/>