

Asian-Pacific City Summit Newsletter No.23 September 2013 Edition

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The 11th Asian-Pacific City Summit (October 31 – November 2) is just around the corner! In the June 2013 (No.21) and August 2013 (No. 22) Editions, we have introduced the outline of Kumamoto City, the host for this year's Summit, and its great nature which has been nurtured by people. For this edition, Kumamoto has contributed an article on its cultural and artistic aspect.

I Introducing Kumamoto City – Culture and Art –

We introduce you to an exhibition at the Contemporary Art Museum, Kumamoto, which will be held in conjunction with the Summit, and scenic spots and places of historic interest in Kumamoto City. The museum is located in the same building where we will have the Summit's Main Conference. Please stop by when you get a chance.

[Contemporary Art Museum, Kumamoto]



Contemporary Art Museum, Kumamoto opened in October 2002 as the first contemporary art museum in Kyushu. The museum holds various exhibitions and events based on the following three basic principles.

1. To be a museum that analyzes the human condition through contemporary world and Japanese art;
2. To be a museum that considers artistic expression from the standpoints of food, clothing, and the home; and
3. To be a museum that encourages the expressive activities of artists who made Kumamoto and Kyushu their home.

Contemporary Art Museum, Kumamoto will hold "Welcome to the Jungle" in conjunction with the 11th Asian-Pacific City Summit in Kumamoto.

Welcome to the Jungle

Southeast Asia – a region which currently draws attention from the world for its remarkable growth. In this region, among diverse religions, different ethnicities, and complex historical experience, people live together and create an original culture which is multilayered and overlapping. In partnership with the Singapore Art Museum which actively collects contemporary arts in Asia, the exhibition showcases about 30 works since 1999 by 25 artists from 8 countries: Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar. The exhibition also features about 30 works by 18 artists from 8 countries in Southeast Asia from the collection of Fukuoka Asian Art Museum. The museum is internationally well known for systematically collecting and exhibiting Asian modern and contemporary art. In this way, the exhibition introduces the latest trends of Southeast Asia.

Date: Saturday, October 5 – Sunday, November 24, 2013 (44 days)
Venue: Contemporary Art Museum, Kumamoto,
 2-3 KAMITORICHO, Kumamoto City, 860-0845 JAPAN
 TEL: +81-96-278-7500, FAX: +81-96-359-7892 <http://www.camk.or.jp>
Open Hours: 10:00-20:00 (Last Admission at 19:30) **Closed on:** Tuesdays
Co-organized by: Singapore Art Museum **Supported by:** Fukuoka Asian Art Museum

A part of the exhibits



Yee I-Lann,
Sulu Stories, 2005



Titarubi,
Bayang Bayang Maha Kecil #9 (Shadows of the Smallest Kind) (detail), 2010



Steve Tirona,
from *Imelda Collection*, 2006
(3 works are from Singapore Art Museum Collection)



Panya Vijnthanasam,
The Journey of Soul, 2001

(Fukuoka Asian Art Museum Collection)

[Scenic Spots and Places of Historic Interest in Kumamoto City]

In addition to the Kumamoto Castle and Contemporary Art Museum, there are various scenic spots and places of historic interest in Kumamoto City. Among them, we will introduce places within walking distance of the Summit venue.

○Former Kumamoto residence of Koizumi Yakumo



Koizumi Yakumo (also known as Lafcadio Hearn) is known for his works such as *Kwaidan*. He rewrote legends and ghost stories which have been told throughout Japan, added unique interpretation to them and brought them to life in *Kwaidan*, a richly emotional literature. The Greek-born Yakumo came to Japan as a correspondent of a US publisher in 1890. He then started to teach English and in his second year in Japan, he married a Japanese woman. As he moved his residence to Matsue, Kumamoto, Kobe and Tokyo, he dedicated to English education in Japan and wrote many books to introduce the Japanese culture to the West.



He came to Kumamoto as an English teacher at Goko (currently Kumamoto University). He stayed in this house during his first year in Kumamoto. One of his works, *Glimpses of Unfamiliar Japan*, is said to be written here. Inside the residence, which was rebuilt in 1995, contains some panels which introduce his achievements and works. The household Shinto alter that Yakumo prayed at every morning is also preserved.

○Former Uchitsuboi Residence of Natsume Soseki



Natsume Soseki, a leading Japanese literary giant, came to Kumamoto to teach at Goko (currently Kumamoto University) in 1896. This is a memorable house for the Natsume family as this is where Soseki lived with his newly-married wife, Kyoko, and where his eldest daughter was born. The well which was used for the first bathing of his eldest daughter, and the stableman's cabin which was used as the accommodation for Terada Torahiko, one of his students and later became a great essayist, are preserved. This residence is now open to the public as a memorial museum and displays his valuable autograph manuscripts.

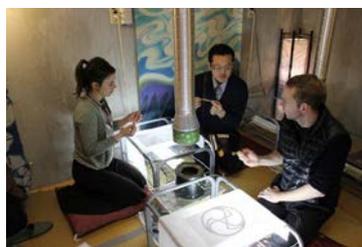
○Shinmachi and Furumachi Area



The townscape of Kumamoto City was created 400 years ago by Kato Kiyomasa, who built Kumamoto Castle. The "Shinmachi and Furumachi" area still has the taste of the time.

The skills and food culture which have supported the prosperity of Kumamoto Castle still remain in this area. People who are proud of its history as a castle town will welcome you to this area with hospitality.

Nowadays, cafes and restaurants using restored or renovated Machiya (an old Japanese building built around 130 years ago and functions both as a workplace and a residence) have become popular as people can have tea or meals in nostalgic atmosphere. Shops which provide experiences of making *karashi renkon* (mustard filled lotus root), one of local specialties, and Higo Inlay, one of local traditional crafts, are also popular.



In addition to these, there are many attractive spots in Kumamoto City including springs where you can come in touch with the world-class clear water and restaurants where you can taste fresh agricultural and marine products from Kumamoto.

Manyou Kumamoto, the tourism information website of Kumamoto City, has pages in four languages.

Please visit <http://www.manyou-kumamoto.jp/>



II News from UN-HABITAT ROAP-Fukuoka (The second installment)

★Director of UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific – Fukuoka will make a keynote speech at this year's Asian-Pacific City Summit. They share their activities with us.★

■ Introducing projects by UN-HABITAT ■

"Safe water to the Ger Communities" - Ulaanbaatar City (Mongolia) 2009 -

1. Overview

Groundwater is the only water source for Ulaanbaatar City. It becomes difficult to supply water because of inadequate water supply and sewerage facilities, as well as rapid migration of rural population to urban Ger areas. The number of people suffering from sickness, such as diarrhea, has been rapidly growing due to deterioration of water quality. UN-HABITAT is therefore constructing water and sanitation facilities by involving the residents in the project and thus developing a safe and secure environment for them.



In-migrants have been settling in Gers (tent-like structure made of wood and covered with skin, felt, or textile) in areas without adequate infrastructures such as water supply and sewerage facilities and electricity.

2. Activities

a) Supply of safe water

UN-HABITAT has been improving the living environment of Ger areas by developing water supply facilities and related infrastructure.

- Establish water kiosks (drinking water supply stations in town)
- Develop public service centers (including public baths, toilets and so on)
- Construct roads to water kiosks and secure safe access to them



b) Community revitalization through taking part in activities

UN-HABITAT aims to revitalize the community and strengthen the bonds among residents by encouraging them to actively engage in the implementation process of the project.

– Voice from a local resident – Mrs. T. Legjmaa

"...When I found out that UN-HABITAT was planning to implement the Community-Led Ger Area Upgrading Project, I liked their approaches to involve the residents in the project. As the residents engage in discussions on their needs and problems in the community, they are able to plan for better future..."

III Jeju Forum

★★★ Article from a Member City
(Jeju Special Self-Governing Province) ★★★

Jeju Forum took its first step in 2001 as a 'peace forum' for the discussion of regional peace in Asia, and now the scope of issues has been expanded in a variety of areas including economy, gender equality, education, culture, and others. In the opening ceremony of Jeju Forum 2013, Governor WOO Keun-min of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province said, "We seek an Asia that is not returning to the past but moving forward toward the future. We must take a path of inclusive prosperity, not one of exclusive national interests. And we must take the road to peace and reunification for Korea, not one of bellicose mutual destruction."

His remarks depicted Jeju's roadmap to peace and prosperity. The Jeju Forum uses its unique format to bring people together in order to show, share, and cooperate for our mutual objective of peace. Fifty-two sessions of different topics which were run by 23 organizations manifested what we could do in our position to bring the world into a better and more peaceful state. This 3-day event was attended by over 3,600 people from 50 countries; key speakers included Korean Prime Minister Jung Hong-won, former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, former Japanese Prime Minister Hatoyama Yukio, Freda Miriklis, president of International Federation of Business & Professional Women [BPW], and investment expert Jim Rogers.

One of the pillars in the UN MDGs is women's empowerment, as emphasized by BPW President Miriklis who said, "The 21st century has been called both 'the Asian Century' in regard to economic development and 'the Women's Century' from a standpoint of women's empowerment."

Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad talked about Asia's attitude toward war and stressed, "War is really a very primitive way of settling disputes between nations. We should make war a crime. Perhaps, if we begin now at this Jeju conference, if we begin to work towards making war a crime, we may one day resolve all our conflicts through negotiation, through arbitration, or through resorting to the courts of law."

One of the regional issues during the Forum was an ODA project in Timor Leste that Jeju provincial government has been engaged in for the past two years. Foreign Affairs Minister Jose Luis Guterres of Timor Leste was a keynote speaker at the ODA session with other representatives from Korea International Cooperation Agency [KOICA] and UNDP Seoul Office.

Jeju Forum aims to become a platform for diagnosing the tasks facing Asia as the region engages with the international community in these complex times, and for determining solutions through a multitude of diverse perspectives.

Visit the official Jeju Forum website for more information:

<http://www.jejuforum.or.kr/eng/2013/>





★To all the contact persons of our member cities: We are waiting for articles from you.

Please feel free to send us information on hot topics and new projects of your city and your efforts to address urban issues that might be helpful to other cities.

(Newsletters are posted on the Asian-Pacific City Summit website and sent to member cities and other addresses via email.)

Future Asian-Pacific City Summit Conferences

| Date | Name of the Conference/ Theme | Host City |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| October 31 - November 2, 2013 | The 11 th Asian-Pacific City Summit (Mayors' Summit) Theme: Initiatives for Livable City Development - Realizing a community where citizens can live and work safely and comfortably - | Kumamoto City (Japan) |
| July 2014 (Scheduled) | The 10 th Working-Level Conference Theme: Balanced Life and Sustainable Living (Tentative) | Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (Kingdom of Thailand) |
| 2015 (Scheduled) | The 12 th Asian-Pacific City Summit (Mayors' Summit) Theme: Youth Policy in the Cities (Tentative) | Vladivostok City (Russian Federation) |

The Asian-Pacific City Summit has been building cooperative relations and networks among cities through Mayors' Summits, Working-Level Conferences and other activities, working toward solutions for urban problems in the Asia-Pacific region.

Asian-Pacific City Summit Member Cities 30 Cities from 13 Countries

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Auckland City (New Zealand) | Kagoshima City (Japan) |
| Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (Thailand) | Kitakyushu City (Japan) |
| Brisbane City (Australia) | Kuala Lumpur City (Malaysia) |
| Busan Metropolitan City (Korea) | Kumamoto City (Japan) |
| Changsha City (China) | Manila City (The Philippines) |
| Dalian City (China) | Miyazaki City (Japan) |
| Fukuoka City (Japan) | Nagasaki City (Japan) |
| Guangzhou City (China) | Naha City (Japan) |
| Gwangyang City (Korea) | Oita City (Japan) |
| Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) | Pohang City (Korea) |
| Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (China) | Saga City (Japan) |
| Honolulu City (USA) | Shanghai City (China) |
| Ipoh City (Malaysia) | Republic of Singapore |
| Jakarta Capital City Government (Indonesia) | Urumqi City (China) |
| Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (Korea) | Vladivostok City (Russia) |

【Editorial/Publication】

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