

ICC KYOTO

News Letter 2018



Photographed by Christoffer Rudquist

Ikenobo — The Source of Ikebana,

Interview

Senko Ikenobo

Ph.D., Headmaster Designate of Ikenobo

Senko Ikenobo is Headmaster Designate of Ikenobo, which has a history of over 555 years and is the origin of one aspect of the Japanese traditional culture called ikebana. She serves as Vice Head Priest of the Shiunzan Chohoji (Rokkakudo) temple in Kyoto, Honorary Consul of Iceland and Guest Professor of Gakushuin Women's College and Ritsumeikan University. Senko Ikenobo's varied activities focus on life as emphasized through Ikenobo ikebana. In 2013, she conducted an ikebana workshop at Harvard University and performed a floral offering ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters. In 2016, her ikebana works were displayed at the Shima Kanko Hotel The Classic to welcome Prime Ministers on the occasion of the 42nd G7 summit held in Mie Prefecture, Japan.

Left: Ms. Senko Ikenobo
Right: President Hiroo Kinoshita
In Rokkaku-do Temple (Chohoji Temple),
the place where ikebana began

In the Muromachi Period (circa 1336-1573), a priest of Rokkaku-do Temple, Senkei Ikenobo, was invited by samurais to make flower arrangements. He had made a name for himself in this art, and it is said that this was the birth of ikebana, Japanese flower arranging, a quintessential part of Japanese culture. After this, Ikenobo created a history of flower arranging as the origin of ikebana, and the spirit of ikebana spread from Kyoto to the rest of Japan, and then to the world. We spoke to the Headmaster Designate, who has taken the name Senko Ikenobo IV, and is spearheading efforts to spread and develop ikebana.

Even if the presentation changes, the philosophy nurtured in past eras remains the same

President Hiroo Kinoshita : Ms. Senko Ikenobo, there are records of flower arranging that apparently go back 555 years*. How has ikebana changed with the transformations in the historical backdrop and our lifestyles?

Senko Ikenobo : In its long history, the presentation of ikebana has changed, but its philosophy, nurtured in the context of a past age, has not. This is the philosophy of uncovering the brilliance of life in every single flower. We say, "Arrange the flowers from the feet," suggesting that you should arrange flowers with an understanding of, and respect for, the preciousness of nature and the beauty of blooms in the fields. In the past people would go to the mountains and fields, carefully

assess how the plants grew, and pick those plants and arrange them. Now, flowers are imported from all over the world, and with the development of biotechnology, we have flowers of shapes that were previously nonexistent, and colors that were previously unimaginable; the nature of blooms is changing, for example in their size. Further, even though it used to be the norm to display ikebana with a scroll in a *toko-no-ma* (an alcove), living spaces without *toko-no-ma*, such as in apartment buildings, have increased. We are responding to this with suggestions for new shapes for flower arrangements for our living environment, lifestyles, and flower materials, which are all changing day by day. We have continued on to this day seeking how we can have an effect in a given era, and touch the hearts of people of the ages.

Kinoshita : In order to pass on ikebana for posterity, there are various initiatives being

promoted across the country, including the holding of exhibitions and hands-on ikebana workshops. I also understand that you are now holding jointly sponsored events with Kyoto University?

Ikenobo : I think that the more things are digitalized and become inorganic, the more our desire to interact with nature grows. Our collaboration with Kyoto University is an initiative that enables us to perceive biodiversity from the viewpoint of non-native species. We are considering what we can do as practitioners of ikebana. The preferences of modern people are diversifying, but if we can find a really suitable gateway to flower arranging, then that can become a trigger for an interest in ikebana. I have heard from young people that they have become able to really feel the four seasons through studying flowers, and that they enjoy gaining an understanding of the beautiful words of Japan, and the names

Delivering Japanese Culture to the World



The 53rd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Association of Rehabilitation Medicine In The Lounge at the Kyoto International Conference Center

of flowers. Further, since the Great East Japan Earthquake, the number of students taking ikebana classes in university, including male students, has increased. I believe that they may be facing ikebana with their own sensibilities, wishing to learn about a culture that came to coexist with nature.

A harmony born from respecting each other's cultures and compromising

Kinoshita : The Headmaster Designate is also proactive in spreading information overseas. You are leaving for the UN and UNESCO headquarters yourself, attempting to introduce ikebana; what kind of reactions do you get?

Ikenobo : Culture is identity, and people are respectful towards the culture of ikebana. The aesthetics of ikebana are entirely different to those of Western flower arrangement; the left and right sides are asymmetrical, making space incredibly important, and it expresses highly condensed feelings with the idea that "less is more." It values discovering the life not just in beautiful flowers, but also in withered branches, cherishing life itself. People overseas respect this, and are interested. I really feel that treasuring your own culture, respecting the culture of others, and coming to a compromise with each other is linked to harmony. Ikebana itself expresses a world view where one world is created by combining plants with different

natures, for example, their colors and shapes. I have joy and confidence that, through ikebana, people are able to connect to each other even if their backgrounds are different, whether that is their nationality, ethnicity, or religion.

Kinoshita : In terms of recent topics, "Flower and Sword" ("Hana ikusa") a movie about Senko I, starring the Kyogen (traditional Japanese comic theater) performer Mansai



Nomura, is scheduled to be released in June*. I have heard that you, as Headmaster Designate, gave your full cooperation to its production?

Ikenobo : The movie depicts a man called Senko facing off against Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hideyoshi with the strength of flowers, not weapons. Instead of holding down your opponent with force and making them surrender, you should attempt an approach where you try to deepen your understanding with the power of culture, and try to compromise; I believe that in some way this thinking is common to both then and now, even if the societal conditions and the times are different. Wanting to faithfully reproduce the flowers of that time period as much as possible, I created around 200 arrangements. The movie will be screened

overseas with subtitles, and I hope lots of people are able to see it.

Embodying "Tradition and Innovation" Expectations for a new hall that will heighten appeal

Kinoshita : As a trustee of the Kyoto International Conference Center (ICC Kyoto) you are also proactively involved in our management. Long-awaited by various circles in Kyoto, our new hall is being constructed in order to realize our country as a tourist destination and place of world-class culture, and to promote Japan's MICE; I would like to hear your expectations for the ICC Kyoto in the future.

Ikenobo : The Kyoto International Conference Center is well situated in Kyoto, and even in Kyoto it is located in a place overflowing with nature, and is impressive as a building. And yet, its equipment and systems evolve daily in order to support new forms of conferences. I really think that it embodies the way things are done in Kyoto, where we innovate while treasuring tradition. I expect that the Center's appeal will be heightened, and it will be able to contribute to the advancement of Kyoto's status as an international city.

* As of March 2017, when the interview took place

Interviewer

Hiroo Kinoshita

Became President of ICC Kyoto in 2012, after serving as Vice Minister for the National Land Agency and President of Hanshin Expressway Co., Ltd.

The long-awaited New Hall will soon be ready!



Dimensions and capacity	
Total floor area	: 4,500 m ²
Area of hall	: 2,000 m ²
Maximum capacity	: 2,500 people
Ceiling height	: 10.0 m
Schoolroom layout	: 1,000 seats
Theater layout	: 1,600 seats
Round table layout	: 800 seats

The new multipurpose space will open in Kyoto in fall 2018
We are currently accepting bookings to use the New Hall from October 1st

* This image is for illustrative purposes only.

"INNOVATION AND HARMONY WITH OUR EXISTING STRUCTURES"

"A DESIGN THAT HARMONIZES WITH THE ABUNDANT NATURAL ENVIRONMENT"

Inquiries and bookings

Kyoto International Conference Center
Sales Promotion Department

Tel: +81 (0)75-705-1345

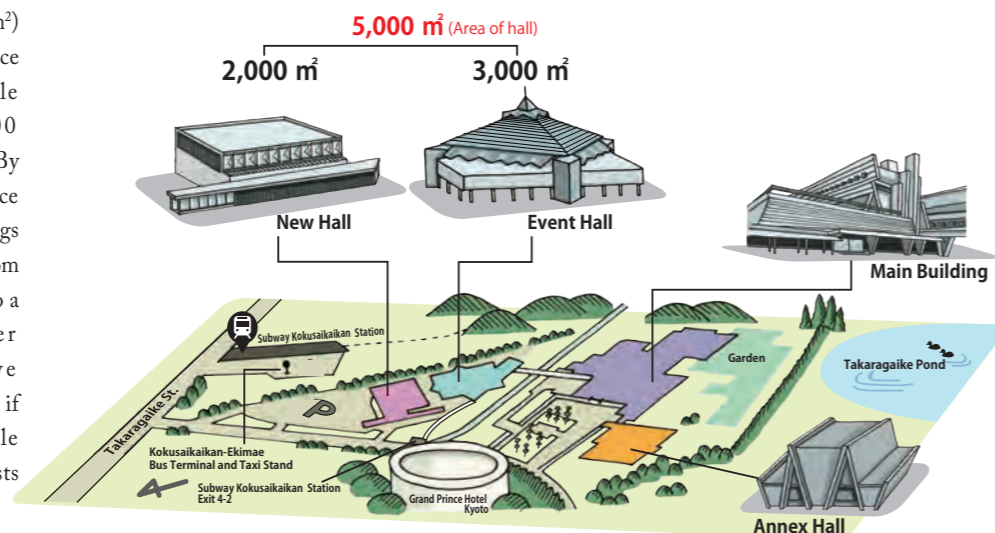
(weekdays 9:00-17:30)

E-mail: sales@icckyo.or.jp

Official website: <http://www.icckyo.or.jp/>

Able to accommodate large-scale events with 4,000 attendees

The New Hall (2,000m²) and the adjacent existing Event Hall (3,000m²) can be used simultaneously as a space of 5,000m², allowing large-scale events with more than 4,000 attendees to be held in one zone. By combining the two halls, this space can smoothly create different settings without the need to move floors, from a venue for ceremonies or awards to a party venue. Even smoother management and impressive presentations are possible. Further, if using both buildings, large-scale conferences with over 10,000 guests can be held comfortably.



A space offering hospitality in the impressive venue of Kyoto



VIP Room



Passageway

Lounge



Foyer

Inheriting the design concepts behind our existing facilities, the design of the New Hall emphasizes harmony with the rich nature of the Rakuhoku area of Kyoto. The new hall is comparable to a "zashiki" sitting room, with the approach inviting guests into the building as an "engawa" veranda, and the foyer as an "irigawa" passageway, creating a story that reflects the structure of Japanese architectural spaces. The spatial composition, which gives the feeling of a spacious yet versatile area,

offers a place to hold even more unforgettable events. The public space offers equipment and facilities characteristic of Kyoto, and in the VIP Room, perfect for entertaining distinguished guests from Japan and overseas, visitors can experience Kyoto, the city of traditional Japanese culture, through an abundant collection of local traditional craft. We have created a space that offers hospitality to visitors in the impressive venue of Kyoto.

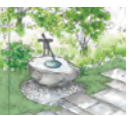
Main Features

VIP Room:

- An interior composed of traditional materials such as wood, paper, ceramics and plaster
- A toko-no-ma alcove with Kitayama Maruta posts and lacquered floorboards
- Furnishings using Nishijin-ori brocade, Kyo-sashimono (wood crafts) and lacquer
- An exclusive garden for the VIP Room, made with stones from Kyoto, such as from Kibune and Kurama

Public Space:

- A garden that ushers in guests with the beauty of the four seasons in a natural environment and a suikinkutsu (a musical garden ornament)
- Wooden furniture with tops that have a "rubbed-in" lacquer finish
- Side tables that function as display-cases, which can introduce products from traditional industries and share information
- A high table with a Kyo-yaki and Kiyomizu-yaki ceramic tile tabletop
- Kyo-yaki and Kiyomizu-yaki ceramic wall art

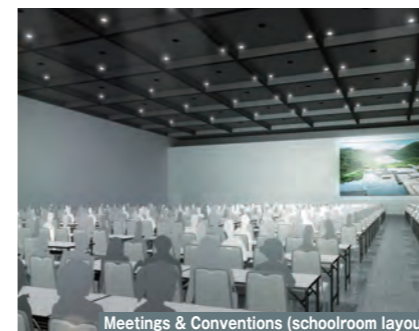


suikinkutsu

A large space offering great freedom for presentations

This highly independent zone, separated from the Main Building area, is designed to accommodate ceremonies and awards, as well as parties, events, exhibitions, business meetings and more. A simple design is used inside the hall, making it a

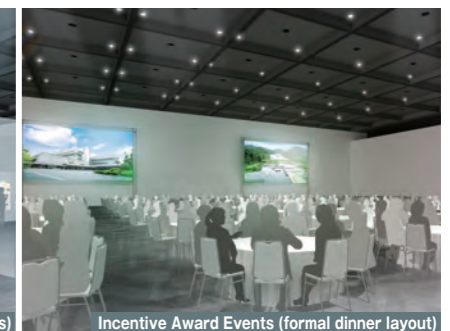
space that can support the various needs of organizers. We offer this space, where guests can enjoy unforgettable exchanges, presenting as they wish, with heartfelt hospitality.



Meetings & Conventions (schoolroom layout)



Exhibition (displays)



Incentive Award Events (formal dinner layout)

"Your Choice" catering service



* The photographs are for illustrative purposes only.

ICC Kyoto is creating a custom menu suited to a great variety of styles, and the tastes of diverse guests from Japan and overseas. We have responded to diversifying demands so that our guests can enjoy dishes with people sitting with them, regardless of allergies, dietary and religious restrictions. In addition, from October we will partner with several key representative Kyoto hotels. Guests will be introduced to catering systems that can take their orders from participating hotels, based on the organizer's requests. This service will be offered to suit the type and scale of the occasion, e.g. for conferences, events and parties.

"Your Choice" catering service will be available for the New Hall and the Event Hall.

Kyoto International Conference Center to host the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2020



Minister of Justice Kamikawa (left) inspects the Main Hall with President Kinoshita (right)

It has been decided that the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will be held at the Kyoto International Conference Center in April 2020. It has been half a century since it was last held at the Center, in 1970. Approximately 5,000 people from around 150

The success of the proactive bid from the "All Kyoto" team

countries worldwide are expected to participate, and we plan to use the new multipurpose hall currently under construction.

The Congress is held once every five years. The Ministers of justice and the Attorneys General of countries all over the world, and people from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) gather together, and discuss topics including measures to prevent terrorism and re-offending; and the political declaration, which includes many policies that should be implemented by UN member states, will be adopted. This will be the first large-scale international congress organized by the UN held in

the Center since the Third Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP3) in 1997.

Following the decision made in August 2017 to hold the Congress, Minister of Justice Yoko Kamikawa visited the ICC Kyoto. After receiving an overview of the ICC Kyoto from President Hiroo Kinoshita, she inspected the Main Hall and the Japanese Garden. Minister Kamikawa told the press: "The ICC Kyoto is a place where the venue and nature are harmoniously united with Japanese sensibility. We will be able to extend the best hospitality to the VIPs from each country here."

April 26-29, 2017

32nd International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International

We held the world's largest international conference on dementia, organized by Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) and Alzheimer's Association Japan. This was the second time the conference has been held in Japan since 2004. On this occasion, a total of 4,000 people attended the conference, which was entitled "Dementia: Together towards a new era." Approximately 3,000 of the participants were people living with dementia, their families, care professionals, and researchers from 65 countries and territories; and some 1,000 participants attended the

events open to the public, such as the exhibitions on April 27-28, jointly hosted by Kyoto Prefecture, Kyoto City, and Alzheimer's Association Japan. Over the four days, the content of the conference was diverse, with introductions to cutting-edge research and initiatives, poster presentations, a memory café where people could further their relationships within and outside of Japan, and ikebana and tea ceremony experiences. The ADI International Conference had previously promoted "participation by people with dementia," and this time approximately 200 people



Plenary Session in the Main Hall

with dementia played active roles as presenters and volunteers, demonstrating the importance of living positively even with dementia.

September 16-21, 2017

XXIII World Congress of Neurology and the 58th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Neurology (held jointly)



The opening ceremony in the Main Hall

The World Congress of Neurology is the sole international congress in the field of neurology, and has the longest history. There have been 23 meetings, from the first meeting in 1931 to the congress in 2017.

The XXIII World Congress of Neurology (WCN 2017) and the 58th Annual Meeting of the

Japanese Society of Neurology were held jointly over six days, from September 16 to 21, 2017, at the Kyoto International Conference Center. This was the largest-scale international meeting held in Kyoto in recent years, with 8,617 participants from 120 countries, a greater number of participants than those of any World Congress of Neurology held in the past. There were various discussions, relating to the theme of "Defining the Future of Neurology."

Preparations for the bid for this congress began in 2011, and after lobbying, public relations work and presentations, it was decided at the WCN 2013 in Vienna that this congress would be held in Kyoto over the other candidates (Korea and Hong Kong/China). This was the second time that the Kyoto

International Conference Center had hosted this congress, and 36 years since the Center hosted the 12th meeting in 1981.

Their Imperial Highnesses Prince Akishino and Princess Kiko attended the opening ceremony, and during the congress there were opportunities to hear and discuss cutting-edge research presentations by researchers and physicians involved in neurology and neuroscience around the world, such as the plenary lecture by three Nobel Prize winners, including Shinya Yamanaka. During the intervals, Japanese cultural experiences characteristic of Kyoto were offered, including the tea ceremony, ikebana, and trying on kimono; the congress enjoyed great popularity among the participants from overseas.

April 2-3, 2017

Cherry Blossom Special Days 2017



The busy cherry blossom paper craft corner (left) and the ensemble concert in the Japanese Garden (top right)

The Cherry Blossom Special Days event was held again in 2017. This event is independently planned by ICC Kyoto, and we generally open our Japanese-style stroll garden to guests for free. We were blessed with two days of warm, spring-like weather, and the event was crowded, with quite a turnout.

The spacious stroll garden allows people to wander around the pond, over the floating bridge that spans its waters, and take in the rich nature of Takaragaike Lake, with a backdrop of the surrounding mountains, including Mount Hiei. An ensemble concert was held by students of the Kyoto City University of Arts in the garden, the elegant tunes adding beauty to the event. Inside the Center, there was a corner for paper craft and old games, and a corner with demonstrations and experiences of traditional Kyoto handicrafts; it was successful as an event for families. For lunch, we offered shokado bento boxes with a taste of spring, and a special menu of Western food. The cherry blossoms were still in bud, but this time the event was once again a very successful two days, with plenty of blooming smiles.

Event Calendar in 2018

As of February, 2018

Date	Event	Participants
Jan. 18 - 21	Junior Chamber International Japan Kyoto Conference 2018	20,000
Jan. 26 - 28	The 41st Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Ophthalmic Surgery	3,000
Feb. 8 - 9	The 56th Kansai Economic and Management Summit	650
Mar. 15	The 68th Annual Meeting of Japan Wood Research Society	1,000
Mar. 21 - 22	2017 TPM Awards Ceremony	450
Apr. 17 - 21	16th Urological Association of Asia Congress 2018	500
Apr. 19 - 22	The 106th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Urological Association	5,000
May. 16 - 18	The 26th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Breast Cancer Society	6,200
Jun. 14 - 16	The 60th Annual Meeting of Japan Geriatrics Society in Kyoto	1,800
Jun. 17 - 22	The 19th International Meeting on Lithium Batteries	1,200
Jun. 21 - 22	The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Association for the Surgery of Trauma	700
Jul. 1 - 6	18th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology	6,000
Jul. 22 - 27	27th International Liquid Crystal Conference	600
Sep. 4 - 7	5th Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society World Congress-2018 Kyoto, Japan	2,500
Sep. 9 - 13	19th Congress of International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism	1,000
Sep. 14 - 16	The 17th Biennial Meeting of the International Gynecologic Cancer Society (IGCS 2018)	3,000
Sep. 24 - 26	The 91st Annual Meeting of the Japanese Biochemical Society	4,000
Oct. 7 - 9	STS forum 15th Annual Meeting in Kyoto	1,400
Oct. 11 - 13	The 31st Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Radiation Oncology	2,800
Oct. 30 - Nov. 2	Group on Earth Observations	600
Nov. 6 - 9	2018 Asia-Pacific Microwave Conference	950
Nov. 10 - 12	The 2018 Kyoto Prize Presentation Ceremony, Memorial Lectures, and Memorial Workshops	3,000
Nov. 16 - 19	50th Congress of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology - SIOP18	2,000
Nov. 28 - 30	The 3rd International Symposium on Rice and Rice Bran Science	600
Dec. 7 - 9	The 57th Annual Meeting of Japanese Retina and Vitreous Society	1,600
Dec. 14 - 16	Augmentative Talent & Acceptable Community Conference 2018 in Kyoto	900

(Events with more than 300 estimated participants)

HIGHLIGHTS OF KYOTO

Kyoto, which flourished as the capital of Japan for a thousand years, is a beautiful city where you can fully enjoy the essence of Japan.



KITANO TENMANGU SHRINE

北野
天満宮

An ancient shrine colored by plum trees

Kitano Tenmangu Shrine was constructed in 947, and enshrines Sugawara no Michizane, a famous scholar and statesman of ancient Japan. He is now worshipped as the god of scholarship, and is visited by many students. The shrine is famous for its plum trees, as Michizane loved plum blossoms. The main shrine is a National Treasure.

URL http://kitanotenmangu.or.jp/top_en.php

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SHOSEI-EN GARDEN

A Japanese garden spread out in the heart of the city

This Japanese garden is attached to the great Higashi Honganji Temple in Kyoto. It was created in 1653 by Jozan Ishikawa, a warrior also known as a skilled literatus. It is quietly and comfortably spacious while sitting in the heart of the city: a stroll garden centered around a pond and adorned with seasonal flowers and trees. It is a National Place of Scenic Beauty.

URL <http://www.higashihonganji.or.jp/english/tour/shosei-en/>



NIJO-JO CASTLE

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A World Heritage Site supporting the culture of the samurai

This castle was constructed in 1603, taking its current form in 1626. The highlights are the Japanese garden, and the gorgeous buildings, designated as National Treasures, that showed the power of the Tokugawa family who had succeeded in uniting Japan. Inside, the castle is decorated with carvings and pictures that convey the best of the contemporary arts and crafts. It is a World Heritage Site.

URL <https://www2.city.kyoto.lg.jp/bunshi/nijojo/english/>

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MURIN-AN GARDEN

A modern Japanese garden masterpiece

This was the villa of Aritomo Yamagata, a military officer and statesman who supported the modernization of Japan. The open garden (completed 1896), which incorporates the mountain range of Kyoto in the background, is an outstanding work by Jihei Ogawa VII, a celebrated designer of great gardens. It is a National Place of Scenic Beauty.

URL <https://murin-an.jp/en/>

