2012 News Letter

# ICC Kyoto

**(**) Kyoto International Conference Center



Recollections of the Kyoto International Conference Center

Eiko Yuasa

(The Senri Foundation)

Meetings and events alike garnered praise as they were held in 2011.

# The Site of the Kyoto Protocol and World Heritage

## Preface

Dear Friends.

Forty-five years ago, here in the city of Kyoto, a magnificent building was built, which is known as the Kyoto International Conference Center or ICC Kyoto, the first full-scale convention facility in both Japan and Asia as a whole.

Over the course of its history, ICC Kyoto became well known to the world as the venue of the COP-3 Agreement on Climate Change, called "the Kyoto Protocol," which was agreed upon on December 11th, 1997. In fact, the agreement was nearly aborted, when on the final day discussion dragged on beyond midnight. Some say that the convention turned out to be a great success thanks to the clean and refreshing environment and hard-working staff of the ICC. We are determined to work hard to invite more conventions related to environment protection.

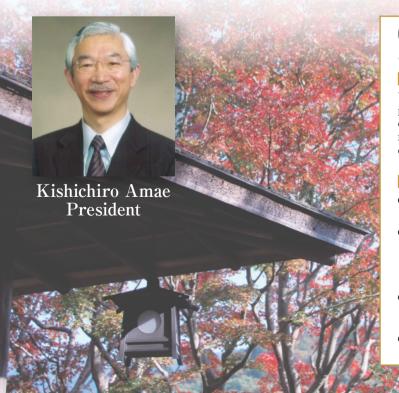
The great earthquake of March 11th, which hit northeastern Japan and was followed by a deadly tsunami and the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, cast a shadow over all of Japan, including Kyoto. The number of non-Japanese tourists dropped sharply and quite a few international conferences were cancelled

or postponed. ICC Kyoto was no exception to the aftereffects. Fortunately, we were able to quickly restore things to "business as usual." No radioactive fallout was observed here in Kyoto, which is located more than 500km away from Fukushima.

The challenges that Japan faces now are the same as those faced by ICC Kyoto. A yen that is too strong against the US dollar and euro keeps foreign visitors away, and Japanese conference venues have been losing competitiveness against emerging neighboring countries such as Singapore, China and South Korea.

Despite these circumstances, ICC Kyoto is committed to offering better services for every type of conference, event/exhibition, and reception and arranging off-meeting tours to famous Japanese gardens and other World Heritage Sites in and around Kyoto. We eagerly await any and all inquiries and look forward to seeing you in Kyoto.

Kishichiro Amae President, Kyoto International Conference Center



# Corporate Philosophy

Always move forward to pave the way to a new future

#### (Philosophy)

We consider our ultimate goal to be the achievement of world peace and prosperity through international conferences and events that seek to establish mutual understanding and friendship with people of the world and contribute to the development of scholarship and culture.

#### (Management Policy)

- Strive to benefit the global community, nation, and local community by practicing sound management
- Remember the ambitions of those who came before us by remaining steadfastly committed to serving as a bridge between peoples of the world, attracting conferences to our facility, and achieving the mission of the Japan MICE\*Strategy
- By maintaining the ambiance of the garden, be mindful of providing service that is so attentive to details that it earns the
- Taking the initiative in striving to be a conference venue that is

# Photo Gallery

## **ICC Main Facilities**















External views and other facilities











## The Four Seasons of Kvoto









# Recollections of the Kyoto International Conference Center

Interview



Executive Director, The Senri Foundation

M.G. Filzo Vince

## Ms. Eiko Yuasa

#### Profile of Eiko Yuasa

Graduated from the Department of English, Faculty of Letters, Doshisha University Employed at the Kyoto Branch of the U.N. Association of Japan

#### 1961-1965

Relocated to the USA and served as an editor of the home interior magazine "House Beautiful"

#### 1966-1976

Manager, President's Office of the Kyoto International Conference Center

#### 1976 onwards

Executive Director of The Senri Foundation

**President:** The ICC opened 45 years ago in May 1966. I would like to ask you about that era because you are just about the only one who knows about it. What sort of circumstances led to it opening in Kyoto?

**Yuasa:** Efforts to bring it to Kyoto were led by Gizo Takayama, the mayor of Kyoto at the time. There was a pitched battle nationwide to get the ICC to set up shop.

**President:** Did it settle in Kyoto by the direct decision of major functionaries of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of the day?

Yuasa: The former Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida was in Oiso at the time, so they went all the way to him to make sure that he would close the deal. Ichiro Kono, who was Director General of the Economic Planning Agency at the time, happened to hail from Kanagawa prefecture, so he was approached by those in Kanagawa who were making vigorous efforts to bring the facility to Hakone. So a number of representatives elected from Kanagawa one day came to him and criticized him for supporting Kyoto's bid despite his own Kanagawa background. He told them that though he had been elected from Kanagawa he was not a Kanagawa representative and was instead concerned about the interest of the entire nation of Japan. That was amazing. Meanwhile, Mr. Takayama had a very strong will and the type of personality that tended toward making him hellbent on getting things done. Mr. Yoshida said that Kyoto would be selected because it was the one place that represented the whole nation, and this pleased Mr. Takayama to no end. They also went to see the Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi. This was to be Japan's first ever international conference center built by the Construction Ministry using state funds, so the whole thing was really starting from scratch. Even the design of the structure itself was solicited publicly, the first open bid of its kind in Japan. The architects who entered bids at the time had no concept of what an international conference center should be. The only thing they had in mind was the U.N. Headquarters in New York. It was a day and age in which you automatically equated international conferences with the U.N. That was the conventional wisdom in Japan 45 years ago when it came to understanding what international conferences were.

**President:** So you were to become Manager of the President's Office. Had you just returned from New York?

Yuasa: The U.N. Association of Japan was supposed to be setting up a branch in Kyoto, so the head of the branch asked me to help as a volunteer, as I was not employed despite having a university degree. A lot of people from the U.N. had come to Japan and would work weekdays in Tokyo but come to Kyoto on the weekends for fun. You could say that I acted like a branch office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, showing them around and taking them to fancy restaurants. We put out a newspaper called "U.N. Kyoto," so I had many opportunities for meeting people in high places, and that caught the eye of Mayor Takayama. He noticed that there was "an interesting girl at the U.N. Association of Japan who is fluent in English." It was after that that I received an offer from an architecture magazine in New York to work as an editor. I was in New York for five years from 1961 but ended up tiring of it and returned to Japan with the desire to get into the interior design business, something that had not yet taken off in Japan. It was immediately after I got back that Mr. Takayama told me that he had been waiting for me to come back. I turned him down, telling him that there was no way I was going to serve officialdom, that I couldn't stand bureaucrats, but then he told me that he was taking on the position of president under the assumption that I would be helping out. I hadn't made a move on my own; I was just sort of thrown into it and had

**President:** So, finding yourself as Manager of the President's Office of Mr. Takayama, the first president, what was the toughest part of the job?

**Yuasa:** At the time, the international arena was a special world unto itself. There was the sense that only a certain kind of celebrity would be involved in that sort of thing. The very idea of an international conference center opening up in Kyoto was a source of great pride to both the intellectuals and general public of Kyoto. You would even see the president of Kyoto University boasting to visitors that "Kyoto now has an international conference center of our own." In Western society, good manners were expected of men rather than women - just the opposite of Japan. The Japanese way of doing things would not be acceptable at the international conference center even if the location was Japan; only an



international standard of conduct would suffice. So the atrocious manners of Japanese men were our biggest dilemma. We offered courses in etiquette quite because of the lack of familiarity with international norms, even to the conference hosts. They came with their own value judgments about manners, and you simply can't do that. I told them to think of it as being no different from a traffic signal: walk at green and stop at red - don't assign any meaning to it. Japanese men were psychologically reluctant.

**President:** At that time was it difficult to approach Americans and foreigners - Caucasians in particular?

Yuasa: Yes, there were a lot of bigwigs who were terrified by the very sight of Caucasians. And it was more than just a language issue. It was not a matter of everything Japanese being wrong, but there was still a yawning gulf between Japan and the international community. I would tell them that they had to play by international rules, that Japan needed to raise its game in order to be accepted. At the time of the 5th US-Japan Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Affaires that first christened the Center, I was struck by how servile Japanese could be toward Americans. There was to be a meeting of economic ministers, so a large room was not needed and we held the meeting in Room B-1. Since the newspapers made quite a big deal about how this would be the first time that economic ministers would be coming, Kyoto business leaders came to see the room being set up. The president of an old and venerable textile company said "what this room needs is a tapestry weave at the entrance." So he took the measurements before leaving and later a splendid yabusame (the ceremonial art of shooting whistling arrows at a stationary target from the back of a galloping horse) tapestry weave was hung at the entrance. Well, then one of the officials responsible for hosting the meeting starts asking "who hung this thing here," knowing that he could act arrogantly if another Japanese were involved. He was furious, saying that it had to be taken down immediately or Japan would be considered a warmongering country. So the company president had no choice but to take it back. I could understand what the bureaucrat was trying to say, as the feeling of defeat was still strong in Japan at the time, but there is a proper way of asking for something to be done. It was just over-the-top. The good thing about the US-Japan trade and economic conference was all of the good advertising the Conference Center received because it was written about so much. Since it was a closed session that completely shut out the media, there was nothing the media could write about or do. So, they had nothing to submit other than a bunch of miscellaneous articles on the "Ladies' Program," the International Conference Center, and me.

**President:** The buildings of the International Conference Center are important, but the matter of how to train the staff to make it a first class venue is also very important.

**Yuasa:** At the time, you could be a big company president or university chancellor, but you were still an amateur when it came to international conferences. We made a point of feeling pride in the fact that we were the only professionals. If you do several hundred of these per year, anybody is going to learn the ropes.

**President:** And you would later go on to become active as executive director of The Senri Foundation. Now that you have an outside view of the International Conference Center, what kind of place do you feel that it should now become?

Yuasa: I don't have any particular thoughts about that. I was there when the facility was first opened so I had my own ambitions. When a person changes so do her ambitions, so I don't think it is my place to lecture to others about what they should do. But there is something that I would like to stay the same forever: There should always be a sense of pride in the fact that this was the first statesponsored international conference center in Japan. And since it is located in Kyoto, a city that is the very essence of Japanese culture, I hope that fact is always understood and that the facility reflects that fact in any of a number of different ways. I hope to see the Center always maintain a connection to Japanese culture.

**President:** We have had built for us a great venue in Kyoto, so we've got to maintain a quintessentially Kyoto quality to the place. Thank you for all you have had to say today.

#### **Event Report**

# The 36th Go Meijinsen Tournament

Sep. 14-15, 2011

On Sep. 14 and 15, when the advent of autumn is felt early and late in the day, match #2 of the 36th Go Meijinsen tournament was held at Hosho-an, a Japanese tea ceremony house in the ICC garden. This third-season match that saw the youthful Yuta Iyama meijin defend his title against challenger Keigo Yamashita honinho, two titans of the world of Go, attracted many fans of the game. After the pre-tournament celebration on the night of the 13th, the match was held solemnly in the Hosho-an tea ceremony house over a period of two days. General spectators listened intently to the play-by-play commentary of professional Go players at the public-viewing board





in the ICC main building. On both days there were Go clinics, live commentary on NHK BS Premium, and discussion sessions by professional Go players, rounding out a successful but unusual two-day event for the Kyoto International Conference Center.

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# Major Conferences in 2011

July 23-28

## XXIII Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis 57th Annual SSC Meeting

During the six-day period of July 23rd through 28th, the XXIII Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis was held under the leadership of Society President Yasuo Ikeda (Waseda University). The hosting of the event in another country had been considered for a while due to the impact of the earthquake disaster, but the conference was eventually held in Kyoto, as originally scheduled, thanks to teamwork by the members of organizing committees, related individuals, and Kyoto locals in lobbying for no change of venue.

The opening ceremony held on July 24th included a 3-D opening visual specially made for the occasion, followed by a welcoming speech to participants by Japan Tourism Agency Commissioner Hiroshi Mizohata. Next, the night sky of summer lit up as hundreds of fireworks were fired off during the welcome reception.

Hosting over 5,000 participants from 80 countries and regions the world over, the conference came to a close after six days. As the success of this event at Japan's largest international conference center came in the wake of the earthquake disaster, there can be no doubting that this conference had great significance in terms of delivering to the world the message that Japan is on the road to recovery.

## October 2-4 STS Forum Eighth Annual Meeting

The Science and Technology in Society (STS) forum was founded by Mr. Koji Omi with the aim of providing a new venue for open discussions on an informal basis, and of building a human network to resolve the new types of problems stemming from the application of science and technology. Its annual meetings have been regularly held in Kyoto since 2004.

This year, they had the honor of the presence of HIH the Crown Prince of Japan on the last day.

It has been decided that the Ninth Annual Meeting will be held here at the ICC Kvoto October 7-9, 2012.





## November 10-12 The 2011 Kyoto Prize

The Presentation Ceremony of the 2011 Kyoto Prize that is given to those who have made sigificant contributions to the progress of science, the development of civilization, and the enrichment and elevation of the human spirit, was held on 10th November. This year is the 27th sinceestablishment of the Kyoto Prize. The Kyoto Prize, which is an international prize, is annually presented by the Inamori Foundation and consists of the following three categories; Advanced Technology (Dr. John Werner Cahn, age 83, U.S.A), Basic Sciences (Dr. Rashid Alievich Sunyaev, age 68, Russia, Germany), and Arts and Philosophy (Tamasaburo Bando V, age 61, Japan).







# ILO 15th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting

The ILO (International Labour Organization) 15th Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting was held from December 4th through 7th, 2011. This meeting had been scheduled to be held in April but was postponed due to the impact of the Great East Japan Earthquake. There had been careful consideration about the problematic safety ramifications of holding the event in Kyoto, but after careful deliberation by the ILO Headquarters in Geneva, the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, and related individuals in Japan, it was decided that the ILO meeting of the Governing Body would take place at the originally scheduled venue.

The first time this meeting was held in Japan was 1968, and this marks the third time Iapan has hosted the event. About 600 government representatives and labor and management representatives from approximately 44 countries and regions were in attendance. There were far-reaching discussions about ILO activities and how they pertain to the subject of how to achieve "decent work" (work that is worthwhile and having human dignity) in the Asia-Pacific region.

HYPERLINK "http://www.ijo.org/global/lang--en/index.htm"

# Event Calendar in 2012

A broad variety of functions make use of the Kyoto International Conference Center. Depending on your program and number of participants, you can choose the venue facilities that suit your needs.

(Events with 1000 or more participants)

		(Participant counts a	re estimates)
Jan	Jan. 14-15	The 15th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society of Metabolism and Clinical Nutrition	4,000
Feb	Feb. 4-5	Kaifukuki Rehabilitation Ward Association, The 19th Conference in Kyoto	3,000
Mar	Mar. 14-16	The 85th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Pharmacological Society	2,700
	Mar. 26-31	2012 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing	1,700
	Mar. 31-Apr. 1	Rotary International District 2650 2011-2012 District Meeting	2,000
Apr	Apr. 2	Kyoto Seika University Entrance Ceremony 2012	2,300
	Apr. 27-29	Art fair 2012	5,000
May	May. 17-20	The 85th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Orthopaedic Association	8,000
Jun	Jun. 1-3	The 111th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Dermatological Association	4,500
	Jun. 4-8	80th Annual Meeting and 24th Congress, International Commission on Large Dams	1,200
	Jun. 29-Jul. 1	63rd Annual Meeting of the Kampo Medicine	4,000
Jul	Jul. 4-6	The 48th Annual Meeting of Japanese Society of Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery	1,500
	Jul. 15-16	Japan Society of Nursing Diagnosis	2,500
	Jul. 29-Aug. 2	XV International Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions (IS-MPMI Kyoto 2011)	1,000
Aug	Aug. 31-Sep. 2	The 1st International Congress of Aromatherapy	1,000
Sep	Sep. 15-21	19th International Mass Spectrometry Conference	2,000
Oct	Oct. 2-3	43th Japan Nursing conference "nursing management"	2,300
	Oct. 7-9	STS forum Ninth Annual Meeting	1,000
	Oct. 11-12	The 57th Congress of the Japan Audiological Society	1,000
	Oct. 19-21	The 74th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Hematology	5,000
	Oct. 25-28	66th Annual Congress of Japan Clinical Ophthalmology	6,000
Nov	Nov. 3-4	The 36th Japanese Association of Clinical Research on Death and Dying	3,000
	Nov. 10-12	The 2012 Kyoto Prize Presentation Ceremony, Commemorative Lectures, and Workshops	3,000
	Nov. 12-15	The 40th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Association for Acute Medicine	3,500
	Nov. 18-22	The 11th International Conference on Greenhouse Gas Control Technologies	1,600
	Nov. 25-27	The 9th IDF-WPR Congress / The 4th AASD Scientific Meeting	2,000
	Nov. 29-Dec. 2	The 59th National Congress of the Japanese Society of Laboratory Medicine	2,000
Dec	Dec. 4-7	The 19th International Display Workshops in conjunction with Asia Display 2012	1,300

<sup>\*1</sup> Kaifukuki Rehabilitation Ward Association: National Recovery Rehabilitation Unit Council

\*4 AASD: Asian Association for the Study of Diabetes

<sup>\*2</sup> STS: The Science and Technology in Society

<sup>\*\*3</sup> IDF-WPR : International Diabetes Federation Western Pacific Region

# Established in Kyoto, Japan's first state-sponsored international conference center





Kyoto has nurtured a unique culture over more than 1200 years since the glory of when it was known as the capital Heiankyo. This culture is displayed in the beauty of its four seasons and forms the heart of Japanese

Kyoto has 17 temples, shrines and castle inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List and about 2,000 temples, shrines and other historical sites. Integrated into these historical buildings and places are diverse facets of culture, including the tea ceremony, flower arrangement and Noh theater.

Kyoto International Conference Center was established in 1966 in this mecca of Japanese culture, as Japan's first state-sponsored international conference center.

# A Complex Dedicated to Conferences of the Highest International Standard



ICC Kyoto covers a vast site of 156,000m<sup>2</sup> that features the Main Building, Annex Hall, Event Hall and a Japanese garden as well as car parking for 450 vehicles. Together with the adjoining hotel, the site serves as a state-of-the-art complex devoted exclusively to conferences.

ICC Kyoto boasts more than 70 conference rooms, including 9 halls with simultaneous interpretation equipment. The Main Building, Annex Hall and Event Hall are connected by indoor passageways and linked by a digital network system comprising more than 600 fiber-optic cables. This network makes live video relay easy, thereby enabling large-scale conferences of more than 7,000 people.

## Access

