

ICC Kyoto

Kyoto International Conference Center

2013
News
Letter



Message from Management

The Kyoto International Conference Center (ICC Kyoto) opened in 1966, as the first government-built international conference facility in Japan, and this year marks its 47th year. Since its opening, ICC Kyoto has hosted over 16,000 important international and domestic events, including the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP3), where the “Kyoto Protocol”, which made the name of Kyoto even more famous around the world, was adopted, as well as intergovernmental conferences such as the 3rd World Water Forum, academic conferences, and corporate meetings. ICC Kyoto receives high acclaim both inside and outside of Japan. The number of users has exceeded 10 million, and has helped ICC Kyoto fulfill the role of Japan’s leading international conference center, which is the pride of in Japan around the world.

Over almost half a century, ICC Kyoto is encouraging international mutual understanding in Japan; contributing to the advancement of science and technology, medicine, culture, and conservation of global environment; and functioning as a pioneer in the convention industry in Japan, and as a place for the transmission of information from Japan to the world. As it looks toward the 50th anniversary, ICC Kyoto will advance active efforts to be a state-of-the-art meeting and exhibition complex that fulfills current needs in aspects of size, function, and service level.



Kazuo Inamori
Chairman of the board
of directors



Hiroo Kinoshita
President

ICC Kyoto, located in the city in which over 1,200 years of culture and history thrives, will strategically feature the character of its location, facilities, and its proven track record. And with the spirit of hospitality in the ancient city of Kyoto, it will make even more sincere efforts to fully satisfy both hosts and guests of meetings.

With cooperation from its partners, ICC Kyoto will work to lead the international MICE (Meeting, Incentive, Convention and Exhibition) business, not only in Japan but also in the Asia region, and contribute to the world peace and prosperity. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Kazuo Inamori
Chairman of the board of directors

Hiroo Kinoshita
President

My Hopes for Kyoto International Conference Center

I have held a long dream for the Kyoto International Conference Center (ICC Kyoto). ICC Kyoto is located by the side of Takaragaike Lake and embraced by Nekogayama Hill. Because the hill is so gentle, an Indian participant asked me if it was not one of the emperor tombs. A British scientist saw the garden there and passionately talked about the difference between European gardens which spread geometrically, and Japanese gardens which attempt to crystallize cosmos in a small space.

Twenty-one years ago, a disarmament conference organized by the United Nations was held in ICC Kyoto. After intensive discussions, participants from 37 nations were invited to an open air tea ceremony hosted by Urasenke (a grand tea master family), across the pond deep in Nijo Castle. They caught their breath at the beautiful contrast between the vivid green of trees and the scarlet carpets. Mr. Tanabe, the Mayor at the time, remarked “Kyoto is the spiritual home of Japanese people”, and no one thought he was exaggerating.

As globalization proceeds, Japan aims at vigorous regeneration of itself and increased openness to

the world. It should be done with its glorious history and tradition intact and keenly aware of its identity. If topical issues of the world are brought here, discussed by representatives of many countries at ICC Kyoto, and agreements are reached in its comfortable and modern atmosphere, repercussions will be spread well beyond borders to the rest of the world.

Fortunately, many legacies destroyed during Japan’s modernization are still preserved in Kyoto. National treasures – old shrines, temples, classical gardens, sculptures and paintings, as well as ancient city streets – are kept as they were hundreds of years ago. The entirety of Kyoto in short serves as an eloquent testimony to rich classical Japanese culture – a task shy Japanese men and women are not capable of performing.

As the number of large-scale international meetings continues to multiply, Asian countries are fiercely competing with each other to host them. I cannot help but feel uneasy that Japanese cities are losing ground to Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Seoul. My dream, therefore, is that ICC Kyoto will be able to partner with the local community to add more fine hotels, smooth flow of traffic, easy access to international airports, and other tangible and intangible elements that will enable Japan to be a major leader in the global meetings industry. Improving all these matters is an urgent task worthy of a country attempting to meet the challenges of the 21st century head on.

Yasushi Akashi

Chairman of the International House of Japan
Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations



▲ Second United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in Kyoto (1991)

Biography of Mr. Yasushi Akashi

After graduating from the University of Tokyo, Mr. Akashi completed his Master’s degree at the University of Virginia. He joined the United Nations Secretariat in 1957. He served as Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Cambodia and later for the Former Yugoslavia. He was Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs until the end of 1997. Currently, he serves as the Chairman of the International House of Japan, Representative of the Government of Japan on Peace-Building, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction in Sri Lanka, President of the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP) and Councilor of the Kyoto International Conference Center Foundation.



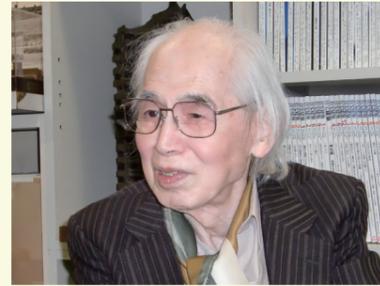
Interview

President, Sachio Otani + OTANI ASSOCIATES

Architect **Mr. Sachio Otani**

[Biography]

Mr. Sachio Otani was born in Tokyo in 1924, and graduated from the University of Tokyo. He then worked in the studio of Kenzo Tange to 1960. After joining a designing association, he established his atelier, Sachio Otani + OTANI ASSOCIATES in 1967. He was appointed to professorships in the Department of Urban Engineering of the University of Tokyo and Faculty of Engineering of Chiba University. He is a Professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo.



In 2016, 3 years from now, Kyoto International Conference Center (ICC Kyoto) will celebrate its 50th anniversary. We interviewed its architect, Professor emeritus Sachio Otani. Here is a summary.

The starting point of my architecture is the experience of life in ruins after World War II. Though I enrolled in the architectural course of the University of Tokyo, it already had become impossible to study architecture because of the war. Students were mobilized in my second and third years. After the war, when I began to think seriously about architecture again, I saw people coming back to ruins little by little and put their lives back in order, and the city got its energy back. Through that experience, I realized each person's life lay at the foundation of a city, and sought the way architecture should be as hubs for human life.

My design of ICC Kyoto was selected as the best among 195 designs in an open competition. Compared with previous ones, the competition was epoch-making in transparency of screening process and protection of the copyright of the archi-

tect selected. At the competition, I regarded two challenges: realizing western modern style of architecture in Japanese environment and representing cultural tradition of Japan toward the world.

At that time, in postwar Japan, there existed hesitation towards stressing uniqueness of Japanese culture. But through the process of the design, thinking about response of architecture to nature around, I found things as ethnicity and history were naturally represented. I considered how the design could help nature around welcome visitors from abroad, and help visitors enjoy Japanese culture and arts born and developed in that environment, namely, city of Kyoto.

In rows of mountains of Hiei, there is Lake Takaragaike held in gentle hills. The buildings of ICC Kyoto were newly added in that landscape, welcoming visitors. Around the site are small rows of mountains, leading to Mount Hiei. I thought architecture should have a dialogue with nature, and pay respect to it. I worried that walls of the building would shut out the view of mountains behind the lake pond, so I made sure that you

could see the mountains from the edge of the lake. As a result, although it is a big construction, it still looks enveloped in the nature.

Talking about the design of the interior, creating a large space for the lobby was the key. It was about 50 years ago, so you may wonder why I had such an idea. The reason was, in my junior high and high school days, I had a friend living in Ginza, Tokyo, and we used to take a walk from Hibiya Park to Ginza, and on the way, sometimes took a rest in the lobby of Imperial Hotel. So I knew how good and rich lobbies could be.

Another distinguishing design is in the Main Hall. There are stairs between the stage and the auditorium. These stairs enable participants to move around, so providers and receivers of information can integrate as one. It encourages representatives and participants to think about agenda together and discuss. Unity is required as a convention hall.

Main Building, which was built first, and the Annex Hall—buildings between a river and the lake, and the Event Hall on the other side of the river were designed based on different concepts. The Main Building and the Annex Hall are near the mountains. Meanwhile, beyond the river extends urban district on a flat plain. The combination of trapezoidal buildings I designed are based on dialogues with nature. Box-shaped buildings would make people feel volumes, and visually bring pressure on towns around. However, seating capacity was decided based on the nature of conventions held in halls, so it was impossible to decrease it. Therefore, I tipped walls inside slightly, and decreased volume of the hall as a solid.

Since ancient times, architects have gained cooperation of artists as painters and sculptors, and

made magnificent spaces. In the construction of ICC Kyoto, it was clearly written in an official document which defined conditions, that one percent of all construction cost should be used for collaboration with artists. It was the first case of its kind in a national project. I wish this kind of attempts had been more usual. It is a common practice in other countries. It is also the case in palaces and cathedrals. Also in Japan art and architecture should work together and make living environment.

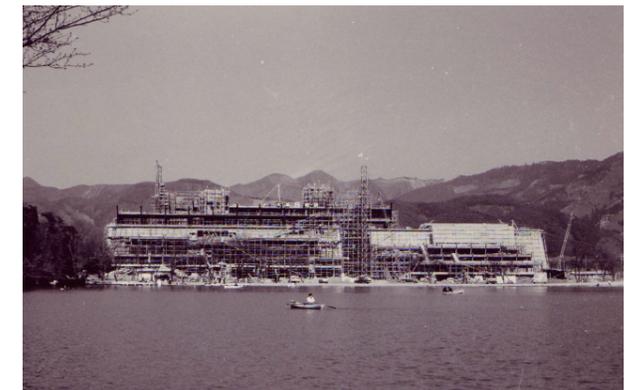
While I have designed many buildings, I dedicated my best efforts to ICC Kyoto, and had my best memories. Forty and some years have passed since the beginning of the construction, but I am still doing some work for it. My original design was not perfect, so there still remains something to do with it.

I am really happy that the Kyoto International Conference Center Foundation, which is officially commissioned the management of the buildings from the national and Kyoto city governments, recognizes them as a treasured asset. The staff of the Foundation manage ICC Kyoto hoping guests from around the world are impressed by its magnificence. Guests are surprised saying that it is incredibly well-maintained after 46 years. The Foundation has taken care of it very well, always trying to make it better. I really hope the staff will continue to treat the buildings with affection.

Architecture is something you should talk to. And I feel like it answers me. It is alive. Buildings and human-beings have dialogues. They really do. I am very honored that I have been involved in the architecture of ICC Kyoto for more than 40 years.



▲ Early stages of construction



▲ Steel-frame work completed view

Major Conferences in 2012

The 25th Anniversary of the Religious Summit Meeting on Mt.HIEI August 3—4



On August 3rd and 4th, 1,300 religious leaders in Japan and overseas attended "The Interreligious Gathering of Prayer for World Peace". Under the theme of "Raging Natural Disasters and the Role of Religious Leaders", leaders from 13 countries took part in the discussion. On 3rd the opening ceremony, commemorative speech given by Dr. Takeshi Umehara, a famous philosopher from Sendai, and a symposium under the theme of "how religious leaders has faced victims of disaster" were held. On 4th, a forum under the theme of "Energy problem raised by the accident of nuclear power plant and standpoint of

religious leaders" was held in the morning. In the afternoon, participants moved to Enryakuji Temple and attended the Ceremony of the Interreligious Prayer for World Peace, commemorating victims of natural disasters and wars, and offering prayers. In the closing ceremony, the Mt. Hiei Message, saying that it is religiously and ethically unforgivable to keep nuclear power plants activated, and that religious leaders should reflect on not fulfilling their responsibility to sound strong warning against nuclear power plants.

RED BULL CIRCLE OF BALANCE September 8



Red Bull Circle of Balance, a world competition of BMX Flatland bicycle riding, was held on September 8th, in the Event Hall. After 5 years of the last competition held in Tokyo in 2007, 16 top riders from 13 countries participated this time, as well as about 1,100 fans of BMX bicycles from around Japan. At the center of the Hall, a round special stage was constructed, and around the stage audience seats and a DJ booth were set. That setting made the Hall a totally different space than usual, used often as an exhibition hall. On both sides of entrance where riders appeared, huge Japanese lanterns were hung, and on audience seats put Japanese-style cushions. The Japanese-style garnishment added to the fun.

The 9th Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology in Society forum October 7—9



The 9th Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology in Society *forum* was held from October 7 to 9, with the participation of approximately 1,000 global leaders in science and technology, policy, business and media from 96 countries, regions and international organizations, who met to reflect on how to expand the "lights" and control the "shadows" of science and technology, and promote innovation for solving our shared challenges. At the Plenary Session, titled "Global Health", 2012 Nobel Prize recipient, Professor Shinya Yamanaka, Director of Center for iPS Cell Research and Application (CiRA)

at Kyoto University, spoke about how the issuance of medical patents to commercial institutions impedes the spread of advance medical technology.

The 10th Annual Meeting of the STS *forum* will be held from October 6 to 8, 2013, at the Kyoto International Conference Center (ICC Kyoto).

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The Closing Event of the Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention November 6—8



The "Closing Event of the Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention", hosted by the Government of Japan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Ministry of the Environment, and Forestry Agency), and co-organized with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, was held on three days from November 6th to 8th. The World Heritage Convention was adopted in 1972, and the World Heritage List includes 962 sites, such as the Pyramids of Egypt, the Great Wall of China, and the Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto. The number of the State Parties to the Conven-

tion has reached 190.

At the Opening Session, Ambassador Masuo Nishibayashi, the Chairperson of the Event, made opening remarks, saying that "we will consider the present, the past, and the future of the World Heritage, so we can ensure that the Convention will continue to play its role". Following that, Mrs. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO stated, "The World Heritage Convention has been a model of international cooperation. It has been becoming itself our common heritage that to be protected for future generations". In front of the conference room (Room A), a picture panels exhibition and films on Japanese World Heritage sites in Japan were on show. Approximately 600 people from over 60 countries participated in the three days Closing Event. As the fruit of discussions, the Kyoto Vision was launched, proclaiming the importance of the involvement of local communities for the conservation of World Heritage.

9th IDF-WPR Congress / 4th AASD Scientific Meeting November 24—27



Asia and Western Pacific region has the largest number of diabetic patients in the world. In that region, clinical conditions are diverse because of variety of ethnicity as well as cultural back ground, and approach to science-navigated treatment is an urgent need. This time, under the theme of "Exploring Diversity of Diabetes in the WPR; Science-Navigated Care and Education", 4,081 health-care professionals and researchers from East and South East Asia and other Western Pacific areas gathered and engaged in discussions about clinical and basic researches, education, and treatment of diabetes.

Illuminative events accompanied the Congress, namely, open lectures for citizens, "3 km-run & walk", "aerobic exercise", and "diabetes conversation map". Total number of participants was 1,598. To draw people's attention to eradication of diabetes, famous spots including ICC Kyoto, Nijo castle, Toji Temple, and Kiyomizu Temple were lit up, and subtle and profound scenes loomed up in the night sky.

※9th IDF-WPR Congress / 9th International Diabetes Federation Western Pacific Regional Congress
※4th AASD Scientific Meeting / 4th Scientific Meeting of the Asian Association for the Study of Diabetes

Event Calendar in 2013

As of January 1, 2013

Day	Event	Participants
Jan. 18—20	Junior Chamber International Japan Kyoto Conference 2013	14,000
Feb. 22—23	The 43rd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Replacement Arthroplasty	2,000
Apr. 3—7	14th International Myeloma Workshop	2,000
Apr. 18—21	The 57th Annual General Assembly and Society for Lymphoreticular Tissue Research	5,000
May. 10—12	The 85th Congress of the Japan Gastroenterological Endoscopy Society	7,120
Jun. 1	The 50th anniversary ceremony of Kyoto Computer Gakuin The 10th anniversary ceremony of The Kyoto College of Graduate Studies for Informatics	2,000
Jun. 2—7	19th International Conference on Solid State Ionics	700
Jun. 12—14	The Japanese Association for Molecular Target Therapy of Cancer	1,000
Jun. 23—27	11th World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry	3,000
Jun. 30—Jul. 4	CLEO-PR & OECC/PS 2013 The 10th Conference on Lasers and Electro-Optics Pacific Rim, and The 18th OptoElectronics and Communications Conference / Photonics in Switching 2013	800
Aug. 4—9	Regional Conference of the International Geographical Union	1,200
Sep. 3—7	The 49th Annual Congress of the Japan Society for Transplantation The 13th Congress of the Asian Society of Transplantation	2,000
Oct. 6—8	The 10th Annual Meeting of the STS <i>forum</i>	1,000
Oct. 24—26	The 51st Annual Meeting of Japan Society of Clinical Oncology	5,000
Oct. 28—30	The 51st Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society of Japan	1,500
Nov. 3	The 53rd congress of the Kinki Physical Therapy	2,200

Events with 500 or more estimated participants



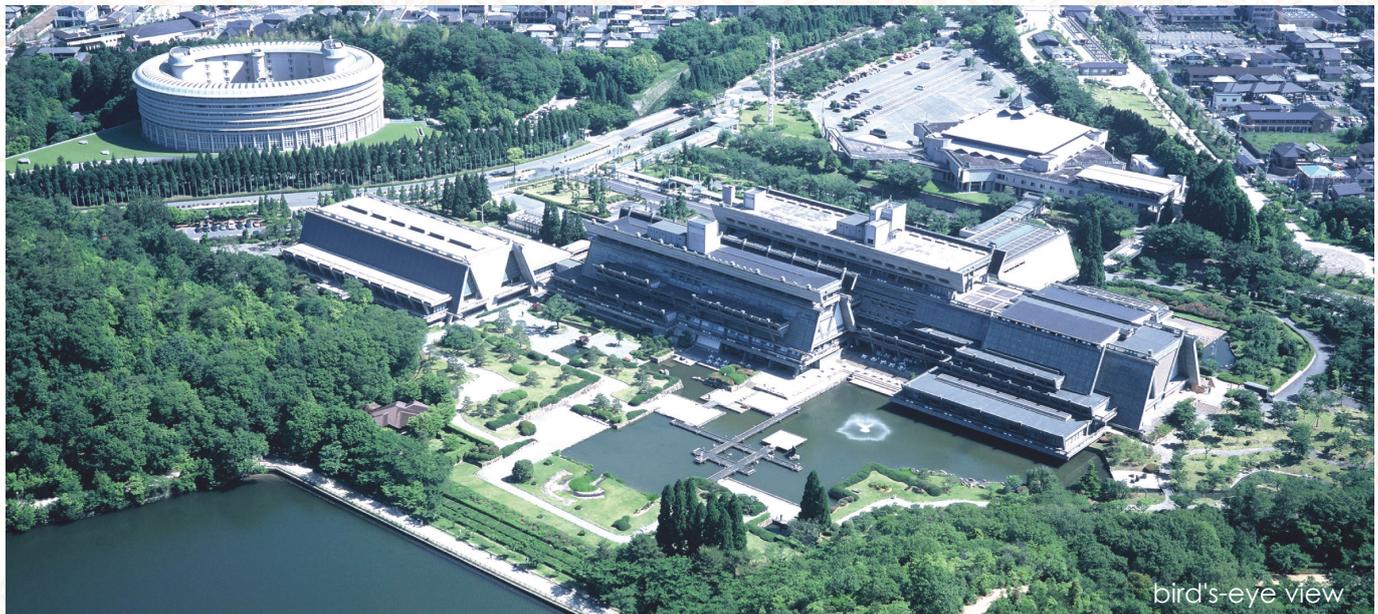
Let's meet in Kyoto

Kyoto International Conference Center



A Dedicated Conference Complex of the Highest International Standard

The Kyoto International Conference Center (ICC Kyoto) is the premier conference location in the cultural heart of Japan. Nestled quietly amongst scenic mountains and the tranquil waters of Lake Takaragaike, ICC Kyoto covers a vast site of 156,000 square meters that features Main Building, Annex Hall, Event Hall and a Japanese Garden. With over 70 multipurpose meeting rooms including 9 halls with state-of-the-art audio-visual and simultaneous interpretation equipment, as well as a highly digital network system, ICC Kyoto together with the expertise and Japanese hospitality, offers the ideal meeting venue in truly unforgettable surroundings.



bird's-eye view



Room A



Tea Ceremony House "Hosho-an"



Garden Party

Beautiful Garden in Vast Grounds

The extensive Japanese garden, where visitors can enjoy beautiful scenery all year round, provides a charming setting for garden parties up to 3,000 people, with various traditional attractions such as playing Koto (Japanese harp) and Japanese drums, and special fireworks. At the Japanese Tea House "Hosho-an", guests can have an experience of the spirit of the tea ceremony during meetings.



Fireworks

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