

Summer 2022

# The Chiyoda International



The end of the rainy season is often around the last eleven days from the middle of July. This year, however, summer has arrived much earlier on June 27. A cloudless fine day has continued, and real summer has come.

## A sense of coolness

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### A frame of mind to beat the heat

As I had a chance to participate in "a workshop, approaching tradition" the other day, I enjoyed coloring an Edo Wind Chime. What is an Edo Wind Chime, anyway? It is made of glass, using the same method since the Edo period. They are characterized by the rough texture along the lip of the chime, which creates the characteristic sound.

The wind chime itself originates from the ancient China, and it is thought to have nearly 1,000 years of history. According to one theory, the origin of the wind chimes was used to tell fortunes based on the direction of the wind and the sounds it made. This custom came to Japan along with Buddhism and the wind chimes became to mean a good luck charm. Nowadays, wind charms are known as the symbols of summer in Japan, because they bring a sense of coolness. Those hung beneath the eaves announce the arrival of each welcome breeze, which makes people feel cooler. Likewise, as summer draws to an end, a chorus of chirping insects attunes us to the steadfast approach of autumn. The rhythmic thrum of gossamer wings is itself a cooling murmur of Ryo to all who hear the music of the seasons. This is Japanese ways of mitigating the heat that are as much a frame of mind as an actual lowering of the ambient temperature.

[Recent days, however, the heat is unbearable. See the related article → Page 4]

(Cover design/ Washi-Art by K.Nishijima)



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Let's go to the City Hall.



It was our International Event which took place at the Citizen Gallery in Chiyoda City Hall. The Panel Exhibition to introduce the irresistible spell of 17 countries whose embassies and cultural centers locate in Chiyoda City, was held on May 23 through 27. On the last day of the event, May 28, we had the International Exchanging Fair. About 800 visitors enjoyed the traditional music concert and tribal dance performances on the stage. Various inspirational charms were not only introduced in the Exhibition Booths but also introduced through the cultural workshops. It seemed everyone there could discover his/her favorite!! This international event contributed into a deep understanding of seventeen cultures and Japanese culture.

Will show you around



Greetings from Mayor of Chiyoda City



I would expect that each overseas country becomes familiar to our citizens and the scale of exchanges will greatly expand.



Hinode Washi



[Introducing the charms of the following seventeen countries and Japan]

Ireland/ the United Kingdom/ Israel/ India/ the Republic of Tunisia/ the Republic of Paraguay/ the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste/ the Kingdom of Belgium/ Portugal/ the Republic of South Africa/ the United Mexican States/ the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg/ the People's Republic of Bangladesh/ Palestine/ Apostolic Nunciature/ Italia/ Spain

*For the shows on the stage**At the booths**At the workshops*





[Spain] Flamenco



[Portugal] Fado



[Timor-Leste] Dance TEBE TEBE



[Ireland] Tap Dance



[Mexico] Dance & Music



[Paraguay] Arpa



[Japan] Instrumental Trio

### Thank you!

Through this event, many members of the Chiyoda International Volunteer Bank took active roles as well, using their language skills. Here are brief comments by volunteers (below).

All performances were impressive and enjoyable and it was my great honor to be a part of the event. Realized that so many different kinds of harps. Shizue T.

I participated as a volunteer for the first time and much enjoyed it. Thank you. Sumi S.

I am glad I was able to listen to live music from each country between volunteer work. Kazuhiko T.



Music and dancing is fantastic. Could get a small souvenir. Tadayuki O.

I enjoyed the first volunteer. I want to participate this kind of volunteers if possible. Hidetoshi K.

It is so fun to happen to meet something new. Sachiko I.



We had various booths, where I tried on traditional costumes, painted henna, and enjoyed the stage. Most of performers were fluent in Japanese, so I didn't have much chance to use English. But I encouraged them by saying, "Please enjoy the stage to the full." It was an enjoyable experience for me. Mari O.

We continue to hold such International Cultural Exchange Events every year from now on as the annual international event. Visitors, community and volunteers, please come back next year again! We hope this event will lead to further interaction between the community and all of the cooperating countries.

Our Project, CIVoB *Treasure every encounter, for it will never recur.*

Did you know our Volunteer Registration System, Chiyoda International Volunteer Bank (CIVoB) to assist activities of foreigners living or working in Chiyoda City? So far, 124 volunteers with language skills have registered themselves to the CIVoB file, willing to help those who are unable to understand Japanese language. Why don't you take advantage of our service?

[ to be continued to the next page; See Page 4 ]



# Miscellaneous

CIVoB (continued from P3)

## What we do

The City arranges (based on our list of registration) and introduces volunteer helpers who seem to match your needs. Those who need some help (Interpretation/guide/ Japanese learning support/Event assistance/etc.), please let us know your needs in advance. Contact to the International Peace and Gender Equality Division, International Peace Section :  
e-mail → [kokusaidanjo@city.chiyoda.lg.jp](mailto:kokusaidanjo@city.chiyoda.lg.jp)

### Still Recruiting Volunteers

It is a great opportunity to be involved in a society you usually do not have a chance to touch. Especially in the International Cultural Exchange Fair (mentioned before), many members will be contributing their skills to international relations. Not only professional but also novice volunteers are welcomed. Please register at the counter 6B(ChiyodaCity Office 6<sup>th</sup> floor).

[person in charge]

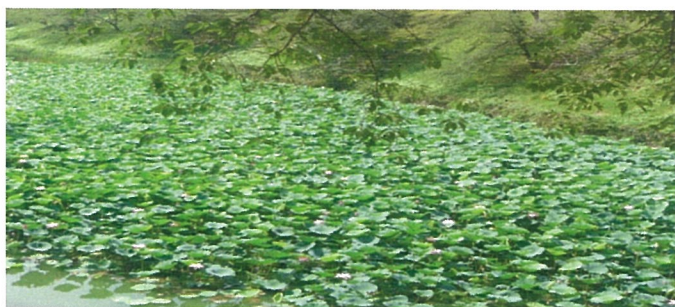
Ms. Takizawa



CIVoB



**VISIT** the Lotus Moat, near the Fujimi-Tamon



Location: in the Imperial Palace East Gardens, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo  
Tamon is a building used as the armory. There used to be 15 Tamon buildings at the Edo Castle. Today, Fujimi-Tamon is the only one in existence. The stone wall is 20m high from the Lotus Moat. The structure of this stone wall was very practical. The lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) is an aquatic plant which came from China a long time ago. It has huge flowers on floating leaves. Each flower is in bloom for only 4 days on the morning in July or August. It is fragile and beautiful.

## A Bit of a Culture

### FUROSHIKI to go!

The traditional Japanese cloth to achieve 3Rs;  
Reduction, Reuse and Recycling of waste

The Furoshiki is an oversized square cloth, dyed in one of any number of colors and patterns, used for carrying and storing things as well as for wrapping gifts, spreading on the floor, or even decorating a room. The word FUROSHIKI, literally meaning "bath spread", dates from the mid-Edo Period(1603-1868). Furoshikis were first used at the public bathhouses---then a social center for the common people as a wrap to hold the bather's clothes.

An important feature of furoshiki is that it is always reused. One would never throw away a furoshiki. Using furoshiki will thus reduce the use of raw materials to create packing and decrease the use of excessive packaging, and contribute to saving resources and energy.

Wrapping even a spherical  
object very well!

Suika (Water Melon) Zutsumi

Japanese traditional wisdom

protects environment of the earth.



## Feel Free to Drop By

### Cool Off [Heat Illness Prevention Project]



information

Heat stroke is a form of hyperthermia in which the body temperature is elevated dramatically. When the body is overwhelmed by heat, it becomes unable to sweat to control its temperature in normal range. Summer days in Japan are sometimes hotter than we imagine. When we experience elevated body temperature over 40 degrees Celsius and symptoms including nausea, thirst, dizziness, confusion or agitation, please take it seriously. Emergency measure is necessary. Chiyoda City supports the "Heat Illness Prevention Project" so that the City has the Cool-Off-Spots: designated places where you can rest for a while in the air-conditioned facilities and in the supporting stores. Remember, it is not mandatory to wear a face mask outdoors.

For details, visit our website ⇒ <http://hitosuzumi.jp>

Also, Chiyoda City will notify you by e-mail whenever there is at high risk of developing heat stroke. Please register your e-mail address if this service is required. Send e-mail to; Chiyoda Public Health Center Health Planning Section

[p-anzen@bousai.city.chiyoda.lg.jp](mailto:p-anzen@bousai.city.chiyoda.lg.jp)