



Introducing our Japanese Culture

Tour of Kyoto Supported by the City of Kyoto

20 September, 2011

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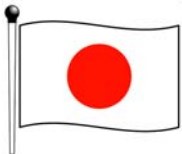
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To our friends around the world
Thank you for your support



『KeyNews』

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Publisher: Masumi TAJIMA

(September, 2011 VOL.2)

2nd Tour of Kyoto Held, Supported by the City of Kyoto

On 20 September, in spite of heavy rains brought by a typhoon, we had a great experience in the ancient city of Kyoto.

First, we slipped into the world of maiko, or apprentice geisha, at the luxury ryokan, Gion Hatanaka.



We were delighted watching their dancing while enjoying seasonal Japanese cuisine, and playing traditional games with them. We invite you all to have this experience for yourselves:

<http://www.thehatanaka.co.jp/>

After lunch, we visited the Yuzen kimono craft center. Various techniques exist for dyeing kimono cloth. In the Yuzen method, colorful designs are painted directly onto the fabric. Mr. Hiroshi Fujii is the master of this craft. We tried the Yuzen method of painting by brush, but it proved difficult to keep the paint inside the lines of the patterns.

When I was shown Mr. Fujii's great pieces, they were breathtaking and included both classical Japanese patterns as well as modern patterns imbued with his warm personality.



Next we visited the KOHO Nishikiori textile craft center. KOHO's long history began in 1894, when weavers wove the textiles used in the Ise Shrine, the most important Shinto shrine in Japan.
<http://www.koho-nishiki.com/>

Finally, we were welcomed into the Ando Japanese Doll Shop.



Japanese handcrafts like doll-making are facing times of financial hardship, as many Japanese people no longer use handcrafted products in their daily life. Visiting these studios helped us recognize our responsibility to introduce the beauty of these crafts to both our guests and peers.
<http://www.ando-doll.com/>

The 7th Asian Congress took place from 23 to 26 August, 2011 in Hong Kong and Macau. 123 delegates from 16 chapters attended the event. At the Congress, we the Japanese delegacy expressed our gratitude for everybody in the world's support after the catastrophes. Thanks to you, we stay strong, encouraged, hopeful and unified as a nation. Arigatougozaimasu! Thank you 感谢 感謝 감사 Remerciements Dank Grazie Gracias Obrigado Teşekkürler Terima kasih ขอขอบคุณ Спаси́бо
(We also wish to express our gratitude to those whose languages are not included above).

