

Outstanding Achievements of Ex-Participants: Two JICA Alumni in Ghana win Prestigious Awards

It is a great pleasure for all JICA personnel to know that our work has contributed to success and career development for the Program Participants. Recently, we heard from JICA Ghana Office's Program Officer, Mr. Rabi Ali Abaari, of two ex-participants of JICA Tokyo's Training and Dialog Programs whose achievements were recognized by authoritative organizations.

Mrs. Cynthia Asare Bediako receives "Best National Civil Servant Activist in Ghana" Award;

On May 2, 2010, an ex-JICA Training and Dialog Program participant, Mrs. Cynthia Asare Bediako, Director of Administration at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, was declared the "Best National Civil Servant Activist in Ghana," by the Civil and Local Government Staff Association of Ghana and was awarded a new car by the Association. Mrs. Bediako participated in the "Seminar for Promotion of Gender Equality III" at JICA Tokyo in



Ghana

2008. Since returning to Ghana, she has led Civil and Local Government Staff Association Ladies Club to organize workshops and seminars on gender awareness to share the knowledge and experience she acquired in Japan.



Mrs. Cynthia Asare Bediako receives the key to the saloon car she won.

"It may be noted that, since I received the JICA training, the Ladies Club has grown from strength to strength through the effective planning of focused and relevant programs, and the impact of the Club's activities on the productivity of the members' organizations has been appreciable." These are the words of Mrs. Bediako from her appreciation speech.

Mrs. Bediako is personally convinced that JICA's training program has contributed substantially to her achievements and will continue to guide her in her efforts to expand these activities nationwide. She adds that the training continues to provide guidance and direction to many of her activities, which have always yielded positive results.

Mr. Emmanuel Kofi Akpabli receives "CNN Multichoice African Journalist Award for Arts and Culture";

Another JICA alumnus, Mr. Emmanuel Kofi Akpabli, a Principal Marketing Officer at the Ghana Tourist Board, who participated in "Tourism Promotion and Marketing" Course in June and July 2008 at JICA Tokyo, received the CNN Multichoice African Journalist Award on May 30th of this year. He won the award for writing a newspaper article entitled "The serious business of soup in Ghana." in the Daily Graphic.



Mr. Emmanuel Kofi Akpabli presents the award he won to Kunihiro Yamauchi, Resident Representative of JICA Ghana Office.

"I am a product of Japan and JICA, and I link my achievements as a result of the training in Japan." Mr. Akpabli told the Resident Representative of JICA Ghana Office upon a courtesy visit to JICA office, with regards to the award and his experience in Japan. According to him, participation in the JICA course deepened his insight into the range of subject matter that could be reported in the cultural genre. He says that he learned in the course that small goods and services provided through thoughtfulness, although that might be overlooked, have critical importance in tourism promotion. With that hint, he wrote the award winning article on the meaning of soup in Ghanaian culture. Interesting enough, he compared the position of miso soup in Japanese culture to Ghanaian soup in the article.

We are most delighted to learn in such ways of the activities and achievements of the training participants after their return to their home countries. We always look forward to hearing from ex-participants, their colleagues and overseas JICA personnel who have similar information.

Planning Urban Development for better quality of life: "Urban Development Focused on Land Readjustment Measure" Course

In many developing countries, more and more people are concentrating in urban areas, making cities expand as economic activities grow rapidly. However, often there is an absence of coordinating function for city development, and there are cases where a comfortable urban environment for citizens to live in is not in place. Therefore, planned urban development which meets social and economic needs is an important issue. In order to resolve this issue, participants of the "Urban Development" Course organized by JICA Tokyo learned Japanese urban development systems, particularly land readjustment measures.

Twelve participants from 11 countries were taking this year's course, for one and half months. The participants were engaged in practical training and case studies on land readjustment and urban development in the Tokyo Metropolitan area. The participants also visited Osaka and Kobe in order to study cases in the Kansai Region.

Firstly, the participants visited a development project taking place on the northern side of Osaka Station. The plan is to develop a multifunction complex for many citizens, which includes offices, shopping malls, hotels and apartments, as well as a new underground, railroad station. Construction work is already underway on some blocks. The participants were very interested in the large-scale redevelopment project taking place in the central part of the large city. They asked various questions such as how the project is financed, how the developers were decided on, how the responsibilities are shared between the developers and the government, etc..



An urban renaissance project is underway on the northern side of JR Osaka Station. Many heavy machines are in operation.



The participants are briefed about a land readjustment project in the Shin Nagata Kita District at an assembly room of the City Planning Committee.

The participants visited Kobe City the next day. In this visit the participants looked at the restoration project after the Great Hanshin and Awaji Earthquake in 1995. The participants first attended a lecture at Kobe City Hall about the situation in the city immediately after the earthquake and the following restoration efforts. All the participants were surprised to know the quick response to the earthquake where survey results on damaged houses were compiled four days after the earthquake and the restoration project was decided within two months.

The participants then visited the Post-earthquake Restoration Land Readjustment Project site. The district originally had small wooden houses built close to each other. Some houses collapsed when the earthquake struck and others were destroyed by fires following the earthquake, and more than 80% of the houses were lost. The land readjustment technique was used for the restoration of the city. Its planning was conducted through repeated meetings between the government and the City Planning Committee, which was established by local residents. Various opinions were expressed by the residents, such as wider roads, the development of new parks with water tanks, and streams along pavements, based on the experience of fire engines not being able to enter some roads when fires occurred and there was no water available to fight the fires.



There is a 100-ton water tank under the park developed in the land readjustment project.

Many of these ideas were adopted and Kobe was reconstructed into a very comfortable and functional city. Some participants in the training were from countries affected by earthquakes and floods. They seemed deeply impressed by the participatory city restoration project and eagerly learned about the case, saying that they would like to introduce the method in their countries. It will be exciting to imagine and actually see what kinds of comfortable cities will be created in each country using the knowledge and experience gained from this program.



These streams were put in place on the sides of pavements, which keep the pavements wide.

Yoshimoto KOYANAGI,
Economic Infrastructure Development and Environment Division, JICA Tokyo

JICA Course Participants Visit Nishihara Elementary School



A JICA participant plays with Kendama (wooden cup and ball game) while school children giving advice to drop his knees down.

An international exchange party was held on Saturday, June 26 at the Nishihara Elementary School where the training participants mixed with elementary school students. Some participants were practicing their Japanese, "Watashi-wa XX desu, YY kara kimashita (I am XX, I am from YY)," trying to introduce themselves in Japanese, on the way from JICA Tokyo to the elementary school which is a 10-minute walk.

The exchange party started with an opening ceremony held in the gymnasium of the elementary school. Each participant holding his/her national flag walked along a walkway where the pupils stood in lines, welcoming the participants. The participants listened to a greeting from the pupils' representative and the principal's address, sitting on chairs placed in the center of the gymnasium. This was followed by the self-introduction of the participants. One participant said, "Watashi-wa (country) desu," mistakenly introducing his country's name instead of his name, probably because he was nervous, but this mistake made the atmosphere of the party relaxed and friendly. Although there were some mistakes, all 31 participants were able to introduce themselves in Japanese thanks to their practice.

The opening ceremony was followed by exchange activities in each class. Each participant headed to a classroom, hand in hand with a pupil from the class who came to pick him/her up. The name of the participant and the national flag was on the blackboard in each class room. Each class presented a program which they had prepared, and the participants also tried top spinning, origami, etc. Some of the participants were good at the cup and ball game and others had difficulties. The children enthusiastically tried to teach the participants how to play the game, saying "Knee down! Knee down!" in English.



A scene of an exchange between participants from Kosovo and 6th grade students.

After the first exchange activities ended, the participants visited the classrooms of the 1st year, the 4th year and the 6th year students. The 6th year students, who had participated in a preliminary study meeting 10 days prior to the exchange party, did research on the relevant participant's country in advance, including food, climate, clothing, currency, languages and more. The participants were impressed with the students' efforts and enthusiastically answered questions from the students. Some of the children were using some phrases in the participant's mother tongue which they had just learned, to see if they could correctly pronounce them. There was another mistake here, this time by the pupils. The children who did the research on Kosovo talked to a participant in Serbian, but the participant was actually an Albanian Kosovar, who therefore speaks Albanian. The participant calmly corrected the mistake saying, "You probably did not know most Kosovars are Albanian Kosovars although Kosovo was originally part of Serbia." This type of happening can perhaps only be experienced in an international exchange.

The participants seemed to have enjoyed the party very much which can be seen from the comments, "Thank you for the opportunity for us to attend the exchange party," "All JICA training participants should have an opportunity to attend an exchange party like this," "The party made me want to have my own child," and so on. The exchange party which made everybody smile ended successfully. The following are some of the comments from the participants who attended the event.

Toghrul (Azerbaijan)



I was very impressed by the way all the children welcomed us at the sport hall and also the questions, games and the information about my country which they prepared before hand.

Wondu (Ethiopia)



Everything they prepared to welcome us impressed me. The students are very lovely and respectful and the teachers are very nice as well. I hope JICA Tokyo should keep up this exchange program and all the JICA participants should join and visit the school.

Daphne (the Philippines)

I really liked playing with the children and the song they sang for us. I was overwhelmed by this experience. I think it's better to have this kind of cultural exchange twice a year so the others who missed this activity will also have a chance to come. I will recommend this to future Filipino participants who will come to TIC.



Singh (India)

It was a very good this school visit. Especially when the children held my hand and led to the classroom, I felt very touched and it immediately broke all the barriers!

Nguyen (Vietnam)

I really enjoyed playing games with the children. I think JICA should have more school visit like this for the participants. It's very nice and gave us a lot of happiness.

All of us were once elementary school children, but it is a distant memory. It seems that the participants were deeply touched by the warm welcome from the people at Nishihara Elementary School.

Knowledge-based Management for ASEAN



Participants listening to the theory presentation of Knowledge Management.

This unique course on knowledge management started in 2004 and has had more than 100 participants to date. This Training and Dialog Program, which Dr. Ikujiro NONAKA, the inventor of Knowledge Based Management himself takes course leader's role, has been attended by the leaders of various fields including lawmakers, company executives, central government high rank officials, university professors and social entrepreneurs (NPO representatives). In the course that continues from 12 to 23 of November, participants discuss how an organization should utilize explicit knowledge and tacit knowledge that the organization has and how it can continue creating knowledge, based on case studies in Japanese firms (Honda, Eisai, 7-Eleven, etc.) and overseas firms. The participants then discuss the strengths of successful companies and organizations, through workshops and presentations on the keys to success, the essence of their strength and the leaders' roles.

In the very short and tight schedule, the participants compare ideas that Eastern and Western leading philosophers have proposed, consider different approaches that the philosophers in the two regions took, and discuss their interaction and fusion. They then learn about what ideal organizations and leaders should be and are encouraged to obtain awareness about the issue. The course emphasizes that a leader should "work towards a better society" and the participants declare their determination to do so by presenting the "First Step (towards future action)" on the final day.



Program Participant making presentation of the result of their workshop.

The participants who took the course have taken the First Step and are currently continuing with their endeavors to create knowledge and lead society, in a variety of fields. For instance, Yang Berbahagia Datuk (an honorific title in Malaysia, roughly similar to English 'Sir') Thomas George from Malaysia had been promoted after his return home to be the Secretary General of Malaysian Ministry of Works, as well as the Chairman of the Board of Professional Services Development Corporation in charge of human resource development management of both organizations, and is now fully utilizing the enhanced managing ability brushed up through participation in the course, and spreading the knowledge based management in Malaysia.

Open seminars and other follow-up activities for ex-participants have been conducted in Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia. The theory of knowledge management (the

Leadership Development of Persons with Disabilities

Some visitors to JICA Tokyo might notice barrier free rooms (there are three of them) at the Accommodation Compound of the Center. As it shows, JICA Tokyo is trying to convert itself to a barrier free facility where disabled persons can come and receive services in the same way as the others do. While the conversion is on its way, JICA Tokyo prepares Training and Dialog Programs specially designed for handicapped personnel with an intention of making it an approach toward the Inclusive and Dynamic Development, as described as our Vision of activities.



Participants checking accessibility of one of the busiest districts in Tokyo.

The participants of the said program come to JICA Tokyo to learn about or strengthen their leadership role of the persons with disabilities. The uniqueness of this group training on "Leadership Development of Persons with Disabilities," which takes place at JICA Tokyo from Oct. 12th to Dec. 4th, is that people with disabilities themselves take the leadership in the participation of the persons with disabilities in society and in their workplaces. There has long been a dominant notion that people with disabilities need to be protected or guided, but after seeing this course such ideas would never come to mind.

What are the main obstacles in our communities? How can we motivate people with disabilities and empower their organizations? Participants have sufficient opportunities to develop their ideas for answering these questions through lectures and workshops.

It is our great pleasure to feel their indefatigable spirits from their activities and reports, and to keep in touch with them after their return home. Although there are still various obstacles to realizing a society in which everyone can participate, we believe that we can shift it step by step through our continuous challenges. There are lot to learn for us from their activities. We are looking forward to seeing these new leaders from various countries in October!

Yurie URAYAMA, Human Development Division, JICA Tokyo



Workshop at JICA Tokyo.

SECI Model) has also been introduced and put into practice in JICA projects in Thailand and the Philippines. A participant from the Philippines, an university professor incorporated the SECI Model in his newly developed Knowledge Management Master's Degree course. In a few years, the achievement of ex-participants will be more and more firm and visible.

We intend to continue deepening interactive cooperation with relevant countries and projects through the course.

Satoshi KIMURA, Public Policy Division, JICA Tokyo

Dr. Ikujiro Nonaka and Knowledge Management Theory

The Course Leader **Ikujiro NONAKA**, Professor Emeritus at Hitotsubashi University, was born in 1935. After working at Fuji Electric Co., he studied at the University of California, Berkeley and obtained PhD in Business Administration in 1972. Prof. Nonaka, who is well known for his "Knowledge Management" which is a management theory adopted by many US corporations, analyzed Japanese companies with excellent performances in *The Knowledge-Creating Company* published in 1995. In the book, he pointed out that the strength of these companies lies in their management in which the employees' tacit knowledge and explicit knowledge are dynamically linked together, and the book received high praise. Prof. Nonaka is one of the few Japanese economists known worldwide, and was selected as one of the '**Most Influential Business Thinkers, the Top 20**' in the May 2008 Wall Street Journal. As a corporate manager, he served as an executive in Eisai, Fujitsu and Mitsui & Co., Ltd., among others. He is the Chairman of the Economic Research Center, the Fujitsu Research Institute from 2010.

The main publications of Prof. Nonaka about corporate management include the following.
Knowledge-Creating Company (Oxford University Press, 1995, with H. Takeuchi),
Enabling Knowledge Creation (with G. von Krogh and K. Ichijo, Oxford University Press, 2000),
The Essence of Innovation (Nikkei BP, 2004, with A. Katsumi, in Japanese), and
The Essence of Strategy (Nikkei BP, 2005, with co-authors, in Japanese).
Managing Flow : A Process Theory of the Knowledge-Based Firm (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008,
with Toru Hirata)

For more information on Dr. Nonaka, please refer to the URL below:
http://www.ics.hit-u.ac.jp/faculty/profiles/ikujiro_nonaka.html



Dr. Nonaka giving lecture at JICA's Knowledge Management Course.

The distinctive features of the "Leadership Development of Persons with Disabilities" Course



The first goal of the UN Millennium Development Goals is to "Eradicate Hunger and Poverty." Disability and poverty are intertwined. Approximately 20% of the poorest of the poor in developing countries are said to be persons with disabilities. Unless these people are brought into the development mainstream, achieving this goal will be impossible. To change the situation and promote the social inclusion of people with disabilities, movements led by those who face disabilities and that involve their organizations are indispensable. Therefore, fostering the leaders among people with disabilities is essential.

The training develops future leaders of organizations of and for people with disabilities. The participants learn about discrimination and human rights issues and acquire the skills of networking, agency management, fundraising, and the utilization of local resources. They experience cross-disability while training with interns who have disabilities different from their own, while Japanese instructors with disabilities provide them with role models to which they can aspire.

The goals of the program include: 1) empowerment of people with disabilities and other community residents gained from the activities provided by the participant's organization; 2) expansion of regional, national, and international networks of disability organizations; 3) regional and national mainstreaming of persons with disabilities; 4) ultimately, the realization of a fully-inclusive society.

Participants learn the history and current agenda of the Japanese disability movement from instructors with disabilities. The training broadens their awareness of human rights and the value of networking. The methods of training are very varied, including lectures, participatory workshops, and site visits. To complete their training, they design a project to raise disability awareness and strengthen regional, national, and international networks in their own country, and they implement the project after returning home.

The website "www.jicafriends.jp" provides former participants with continuing follow-up and information in this field.



Masako OKUHIRA, Manager International Training Section, Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities

Let's interact with our neighbors!

Speaking of the autumn, yes, it's sports, food, and having fun with the neighbors! Our friendly neighbors are looking forward to seeing you all. Here is the chance to meet and talk to them. Please take these opportunities and make your stay in Japan more memorable and enjoyable!

Nishihara Sports Day -October 10 @ the Playground of Nishihara Elementary School-

'Passing Big Balls over the heads ". Everybody is going to divide into two groups and pass Big Balls over their heads without dropping them. Go for it, everybody!!



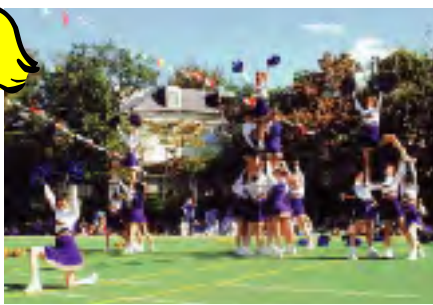
'Change ". The men are going to change into housewives in this game. You wear a wig and apron and sweep a ball with a broom and hang a pair of socks on the laundry pole. Who is going to be the best 'housewife "??



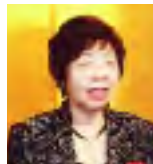
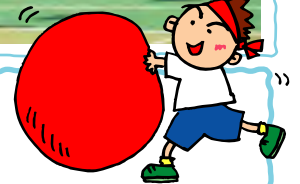
'Yes! Falling in love ". Wearing big pants with two people inside you must try to dribble two balls into the net. Let's work together with a partner you have not met before to cross the goal line!



During the lunch break, there is a performance by the baton twirling club from Seitoku University.



It has been 20 years since JICA participants first joined in the Nishihara Sports Day. This is a very special occasion for us because we can meet and have fun together with the participants. Therefore, we are very much looking forward to it every year. Although we have a language barrier, we believe we have some means to understand each other through these physical activities. Your participation makes us more excited so we will be very happy if many of you come to join us!



The President of the Nishihara District Sports Board
Ms. Kiyoko SUZUKI

Nishihara Town Festival -October 17 @ the Parking Lot of the Shibuya Sports Center-

Mochi (Rice cake) pounding by the neighbors.
If you want to try pounding mochi, why don't you ask them?
They might let you do it!



Are they the 'Karate Kids "? No, they are 'Shorinji Kempo " kids. If you are lucky, you can see this kind of Japanese Martial Arts Demonstration.



Do you know how to save someone's life?
Here you have a chance to experience first aid.

There is a flea market in this festival. You might make some lucky finds.



We, the members of Nishihara District Youth Affairs Board, undertake various efforts to create the environment for a healthy and secure community for young people. A part of our activities, we hold the Nishihara Town Festival every October. This is an opportunity for interaction between the community and young people, so many of the organizations that encourage youth development and run local facilities cooperate together to organize various interesting events like a flea market, Japanese street performances, food stalls and so on. We believe this is a good chance for JICA participants as well to see how a community in Japan operates. You are always welcome to come to the festival!!



The president of the Nishihara District Youth Affairs Board
Mr. Hirota FUKUDA

Japanese Cooking Class - October 30 @ Uehara Shakai Kyoiku Kan (Uehara Social Education Center)-

At the beginning of the session, the instructor will explain the food ingredients and demonstrate how to cut them.



After this, it's cooking time. If this is your first time to cook, don't worry about it. The members of Shibuya International Friendship Association are going to help you.



The layout and presentation of the food is very important for Japanese cuisine. Are they arranged on the dish nicely?



It looks so yummy!!! After you have arranged the food, it's tasting time! **'Itadakimasu'** (Let's eat).



Friendship Tea Party - November 26 @ TIC -

Have you ever heard of "Ayatori" (making different figures using a loop of string, also called "cat's cradle") before? It's a game using a loop of string that is passed between the fingers of both hands to make various shapes to represent objects. What can you make with the string?



There are other toys similar to "Kendama" around the world, but why don't you try the Japanese one? Can you put the red ball into the cup?



Now it's time to learn the Japanese way of drinking tea.

They will teach you not only the manner of drinking tea, but also the rules of etiquette such as how to enter the room and so on.



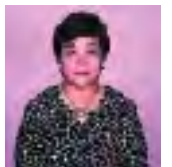
Have you ever wondered how to make a bowl of Japanese tea? If you want to know it, you should come to this tea party! They will teach you how to make it.



The main purpose of Shibuya International Friendship Association is to support children in developing countries and also to interact with foreigners who are staying in Japan.

Even though you are not staying in Japan for a long time, we would like to help you get to know Japanese traditions, culture and daily life. Therefore, every year we provide opportunities to cook Japanese food, to learn how to drink Japanese tea and to enjoy its taste with Japanese sweets. We hope many of you will come to have fun with us and have a wonderful time together. We are looking forward to seeing you all.

The president of Shibuya International Friendship Association
Ms. Yoshiko IZUMIYA

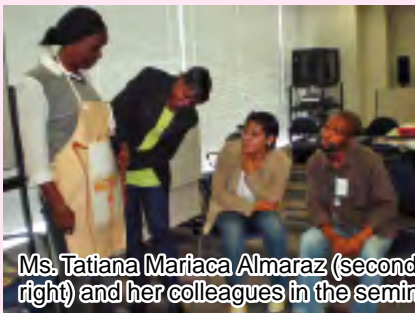


**If you need further information,
please contact the Information Desk!
We are very happy to help you.**

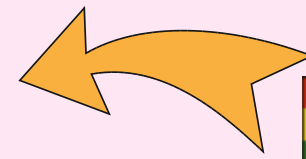
Participant's Voice from Bolivia

by Ms. Tatiana MARIACA ALMARAZ

Before I came to Japan I was wondering how I would be able to acquire the technology to bring home with me, as Japan has the ultimate technology in some fields.



Ms. Tatiana Mariaca Almaraz (second from right) and her colleagues in the seminar



Ms. Tatiana Mariaca Almaraz participated in "Workshop on Improving Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health" from Bolivia in June and July 2010.

But here, I realized that Japanese technology of preventing Sexually Transmitted Infections, HIV and etc. has roots in their cultural values. When you bring information you're sharing your heart, your principles and respect (for me is the number one), ie; respect yourself and respect others. You already know that knowledge without sense is meaningless, but when you teach about rights, sexual education, and other topics you're always trying to make people feel the respect.

In my trip to Tottori prefecture, I understood, the source of your technology is your heart, the essence of your culture, your

feeling of the real meaning of respect.

I learned a little bit of Japanese language, but my favorite word is **SUBARASHII** (wonderful), because this amazing country and people show us, that you don't need a lot of money to give knowledge with sense to our youth.

I came here with one idea in mind, now I leave with better technology than the one that I had expected.

Japan is just **SUBARASHII!**

OLMECA - the Most Ancient Civilization of the Americas; the Road to Maya

古代メキシコ オルメカ文明展 マヤへの道

Although less well known than the Mayans or the Aztecs, the ancient Olmec Civilization is the oldest in the Americas and had a great influence on Mesoamerican cultures long after its decline. The Olmecs are well-known for the conspicuous gigantic stone carved heads that have been excavated around the Mexican Gulf coast. Although the exhibition in Tokyo does not show the actual stone head (you can only see a replica), it is still interesting enough to experience the fascination of ancient Mexican art in this exhibition, which commemorates the 400th anniversary of friendship between Japan and Mexico.

Photo: CONACULTA, INAH

Place: Ancient Orient Museum, Tokyo (古代オリエント美術館)
(15 -minutes walk from Ikebukuro Station on the JR Yamanote Line and Tokyo Metro Lines)

Date: Oct 9 (Sat)-Dec 19 (Sun)

Time: 10:00~17:00 (Entry until 16:30)

Admission: ¥ 1,400

VINCENT VAN GOGH

The Adventure of Becoming an Artist

没後 120年 ゴッホ展

It has been 120 years since Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890) died. Shortly before his death, Gogh wrote to his sister saying that he wished to paint portraits that after 100 years will still seem to people to be alive. We all know that his wish was fulfilled and van Gogh's works have touched the hearts of a great number of people. This exhibition presents 120 of van Gogh's works with the intention of revealing the secrets of the birth of a great artist. Please visit the museum and find out for yourself!

© Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam
(Vincent van Gogh Foundation)

Place: The National Art Center, Tokyo (国立新美術館)
1 Floor Exhibition Room
(Exit 6 of Nogizaka Station on the Tokyo Metro Chiyoda Line, 5 minutes walk from Roppongi Station on the Toei Oedo Subway Line and Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line)

Date: Oct 1 (Fri)-Dec 20 (Mon) Closed on Tuesdays

Time: 10:00~18:00 (until 20:00 on Fridays)

Admission: ¥ 1,500