

### NEW YEAR MESSAGE TO JICA PARTICIPANTS

**I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year to all JICA training participants and to all those concerned with JICA Tokyo's activities.**

I was appointed Director General of JICA Tokyo International Center on January 1, 2012, exactly one year ago. During the past year, we've welcomed and sent off more than 4,000 participants. It is our sincerest desire that the training provided by JICA Tokyo will yield positive results in your home countries and bring about success in the workplaces and all other aspects of your lives.

(3) Participants should be selected only from organizations that are expected to make strategic and systematic use of the principles they will acquire through the training in Japan.

You enhance the quality of the training provided by JICA when you put it into strategic use. Enhanced quality of training, in turn, will enable participants in future training programs to increase their capabilities. I hope that JICA Tokyo, who plans and implements the training programs, can continue to work closely with the participants, so that the implementation of and participation in JICA Tokyo training programs can be even more beneficial to both sides.

2013 will be a year of rebirth for JICA's training programs. You are now taking part in training programs that are in the midst of a major shift from "standalone training," in which the focus is on capacity building by individual courses, towards training that takes more strategic approaches in which training programs are planned and implemented as an element contributing in driving developing programs and projects forward in your home countries. Your awareness as participants can alter JICA's training and make it a more effective tool for development of your home countries. It is our desire to continue working hand in hand to implement this reform. I look forward to your kind support.

The keys to your successful stay at JICA Tokyo are enjoying your time in Japan, making friends in Japan, and developing an affinity for the country. It is my hope that you will always remember and treasure your stay at JICA Tokyo.



**Nobuhiko HANAZATO**, Director General, JICA Tokyo



Mr. Hanazato(right) with  
Mr. Tanaka, President of JICA



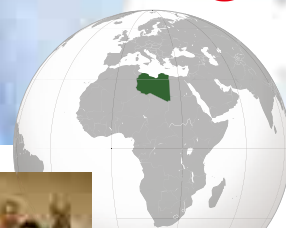
Nobuhiko HANAZATO, Director General  
of JICA Tokyo

This past year also saw a major change at JICA, with the appointment of the new president, Akihiko Tanaka, who in April succeeded the previous president, Sadako Ogata. In keeping with the spirit of President Tanaka's key-

words, "uplifting aid" and "proactive reform," JICA Tokyo has also been improving its works to provide training programs with more effective and meaningful content. With the aim of achieving our goal of providing "training that directly contributes to the realization of successful projects and programs," which was resolved at a cabinet meeting in December 2010, we have been overhauling our various sector focused training programs and reviewing each one in depth. In this regard, we at JICA Tokyo request your kind cooperation. After returning to your home country, please communicate the following three points to the appropriate persons in charge at aid-recipient organizations in your countries, as well as the organizations to which you belong:

- (1) The essential reason why participants have come to receive training in Japan is to gain knowledge and experience as well as acquire systems that can be obtained only in Japan.
- (2) Participants in training programs in Japan are strongly encouraged to proactively put into practice the principles they learned during the training when managing projects and related programs that are underway in their home countries.

# Supporting Libya's Democratization through Rehabilitation of the Injured



JICA Tokyo has implemented a special training program to support the Libyan people, who won their freedom through the democratization movement, "Arab Spring" in 2011. In the process of ending 40 years of dictatorship, many people suffered injuries, including the loss of limbs, resulting in an increased demand for artificial limbs to let these people return to normal life. Consequently, providing training for prosthetists, who manufacture artificial limbs, and for rehabilitation therapists has become an urgent issue.



Participants observing artificial limbs at The National Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities

As part of its efforts to help the Libyan people resolve this problem, JICA Tokyo held a country focused training program in September 2012, entitled "Rehabilitation of PWDs (Persons with Disabilities)" for thirteen participants of various expertise, one of them being the Minister of Social Affairs. The National Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities was the first place that the Libyan participants visited. Medical doctors and healthcare professionals among the participants showed particular interest and enthusiastically asked questions as they were first shown around the Center's hospital. Then, the eyes of the prosthetists among the participants suddenly shone with excitement when they saw the variety of artificial arms and legs lined up in a glass case. A doctor said to the prosthetists, "Now, it is your turn."

After learning how prosthetists are trained in Japan, the Libyan participants saw the work areas where training in prosthetics production actually takes place. The Director General of the Libyan Rehabilitation Center asked questions that only those actually working in the field would ask, first commenting manufacturing artificial limbs entails the handling of hazardous material, and then asking what measures are taken to assure health and safety. He looked reassured upon hearing the answer that resin is handled in a separate, well-ventilated room and that masks are also provided in the work areas. He must have imagined Libyan prosthetists receiving training in this particular place in the near future while asking these questions.



Participants visiting prosthetic factory

At the request of the Libyan participants, an additional field study to show them how Japanese people with disabilities commute to their working places was hastily organized. Ms. Masako Okuhira, Director of International Training Section in the Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, who teaches in many of JICA Tokyo's courses related to persons with disabilities, conducted the tour from participants' hotel to the Society by public transportation.



Libyan participants at The National Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities



After taking subway, the participants walked down the sidewalk which Ms. Okuhira takes every day. The sidewalk was barrier-free for wheelchair users and a melody was played at each pedestrian crossing when the light turns green as an audible signal for visually-impaired pedestrians. In addition, the station platforms and some sidewalks were fitted with guiding blocks for people with visual impairments. As Ms. Okuhira explained each of these examples of barrier-free design to the Libyan participants, they were impressed to see barrier-free Tokyo.

However, it was Ms. Okuhira's own personal story that impressed these Libyan participants most. Ms. Okuhira, who had become disabled due to cerebral palsy, entered college after graduating from a special needs school. She then studied in the United States with the support of a company, which she joined after returning home. Although she was quite satisfied with that company, a friend of hers one day asked her, "Don't you feel that now it is your turn to do something for other people with disabilities?" This encouraged Ms. Okuhira to start her present career. Today, she is engaged in providing training to persons with disabilities from around the world.



Ms. Masako Okuhira

Ms. Okuhira's life story deeply touched the Libyan participants' hearts. A participant represented the Libyan team and said, "There is so much that can be learned from your life."

According to the Libyan doctors, active social participation is still difficult for Libyan persons with disabilities and that there are even widespread social attitudes that do not acknowledge the existence of persons with disabilities.

This is why Ms. Okuhira's life, in which she has overcome difficulties to fully participate in society and is working for the benefit of fellow disabled people, was so inspiring for the Libyan participants that it said that people could learn so much from her life. When Ms. Okuhira came to the exit to see off the Libyan participants at the end of the tour, they jokingly said to her, "Some of us are saying that you are an iron-willed woman, an Iron Lady!" There is no doubt that this was high praise indeed from the Libyan participants. Although the above episodes are only a fraction of what happened during this fruitful training program, they are a good sign of Libya's great potential for the future.



Libyan participants visiting Asakusa on weekend





## Message from a Brazilian Ex-Participant of Policy Planning for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Course

Ms. Paula Baratella is an ex-participant of the group training course on Policy Planning for Energy Efficiency and Conservation this year, who visited Japan from May 13<sup>th</sup> to June 9<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Baratella sent us a very impressive message telling how she amazingly managed to make the maximum use of JICA's training and dialogue program, not just to develop her professional capacity, but also to learn the Japanese culture, build relationship and enjoy herself during a few week's stay in Japan. Here is here message:

My name is Paula Baratella. I am an architect and work for the Brazilian Federal Government as an Infrastructure Analyst at the Ministry of Mines and Energy. In 2012 I had a great opportunity: to be a participant of JICA's Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EE&C) Training Course in Japan.

After a 48-hour trip I got to Narita Airport where I was kindly welcomed by a JICA agent who held a sign with my name and Brazilian flag. It did not take me too long to find out how friendly and ready-to-help Japanese people are.



Ms. Baratella and her colleagues



Ms. Baratella in Tokyo's subway

At JICA Tokyo I met other EE&C participants who taught me a lot about their countries, culture and professional experiences. We became good friends and we still keep in touch after our return home. We had great times together discovering places, tastes and contrasts in a country where high-tech and tradition get along just fine. After all, we found out our countries' challenges regarding energy efficiency are not that different and neither just our dreams. The 2012 EE&C group was active, creative and unique!

The EE&C course concept allowed participants from different countries to share experiences through observation, debate and group works. The training was outstanding, very deep and intense. JICA, the Energy Conservation Center, Japan, and the coordinators provided us interesting lectures and practical knowledge through site visits. Learning about Japan's excellent energy efficiency cases and policies regarding equipment, buildings, partnerships, daily life, factories and local governments made me realize why Japan is such a successful nation.



Receiving Certificate of Completion on the final day of the training

Above all, Japan's efforts towards an energy saving and low carbon society, especially after Fukushima's nuclear disaster, revealed how Japanese people are managing to overcome a severe energy shortage and still keep the economy running: a strong sense of community, time management and public cooperation are key factors-as we found out!

During my stay, I was glad to experience and learn more about Japanese culture and tradition at JICA Tokyo through field trips, *budo* (martial arts) training, karaoke, Japanese crash course, and new Japanese friends I got during *ikebana* courses, tea ceremony, *origami* art, traditional festival and *onsen* (hot spring). Anyway, eating fresh *sushi* at Tsukiji Fish Market and getting lost at Shinjuku station were incredible experiences. Thanks to all of those who kindly helped me find my way back to JICA Tokyo!



Seeing Tuna being cut at Tsukiji fish market



One scene at Budo (martial arts) demonstration

These experiences will definitely guide my next steps in my career and my life. Professionally, I will take the technical knowledge, managing skills and excellent practices as an example. Personally, I will deeply reflect about many lessons learned in Japan, which I deem as a great country. The partnership between JICA and the Brazilian Ministry of Mines and Energy for the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Training course is very effective in building capacity and improving skills.

*I thank you very much.  
Domo arigato-gozaimasu!*



Paula Roberta de Moraes Baratella



## Presentation at the Ninth International Symposium on Water Supply Technology (IWA) –Water Supply Administration for Better Management of Water Supply Services–



Course Participants making Presentation at the Symposium



A group work of overseas participants and future JICA Experts

As opportunities for private sector to enter the water supply business and municipal waterworks bureaus to expand their activities overseas increase in Japan, JICA Tokyo is offering a group training course entitled “Water Supply Administration for Better Management of Water Supply Services.” In Japan, all you need to do to drink safe water is to turn the tap on. However, many people in developing countries still lack access to safe, potable water. Japan rapidly developed its water supply services during its high-growth period, resulting in the lowest levels of non-revenue water (\*) in the world. This Training and Dialog Program aims to share the knowhow behind this successful management of water supply in Japan and to decrease the levels of non-revenue water in respective countries.

At the beginning of this year's program, we held a session, in which nine participants from seven countries, namely Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, India, Mongolia, Pakistan and Paraguay made presentation on water supply in these countries. This session was held open to the public at the convention center PACIFICO YOKOHAMA as a special event organized in conjunction with the 9th International Symposium on Water Supply Technology of International Water Association (IWA), with the support of Yokohama Waterworks Bureau.

While many organizations involved in water supply services—including water-related companies, municipal waterworks bureaus, administrative institutions and research institutes exhibited at this venue, the country report presentation also drew a large audience. The participants made presentations on the current conditions of and issues concerning the water supply systems in their countries and active discussions among the participants followed. Instructors from the Japan International Corporation of Welfare Services (JICWELS), the organization in charge of the actual implementation of the training course, were among those who led the discussions. The audience listened intently with serious expressions, reflecting the recent growing interest in the expansion of the water business.

After the report presentation, the participants visited the exhibition booths, where they got information about products from Japanese water-related companies and these companies' overseas activities. The participants then enthusiastically asked about the possibility to adopt the exhibited products and technology in their own countries.

In addition, this training course includes 10 participants from Japanese municipal waterworks bureaus, who are prospective future JICA Experts. In fact, it is a very unique, the only JICA training course that is jointly carried out as a part of the Capacity Enhancement Training for JICA Experts. After the group discussions with overseas participants, these future Experts provided us with much positive feedback, such as: “Now I have a much better understanding of the water supply realities in developing countries,” “I have gained experience as if I were working as an Expert that I am sure will help me in actual work situations in developing countries,” and “It was a precious opportunity for me to have face-to-face discussions in English with participants from developing countries who actually work in the field of water supply.”

Through the two-week program, both Japanese and overseas participants built very intimate relationship. The program helps develop the network among waterworks bureaus of different countries, including Japan.

In the field of water supply, increasing attention is being paid to the international expansion of municipal waterworks bureaus, in response to the Japanese government's New Growth Strategy, which includes “the exportation of infrastructure package,” that encourages the “establishment and implementation of measures to promote the overseas operations of municipal waterworks bureaus and other public utility providers.” In the midst of growing attention being given international operations in both public and private sectors, JICA is also being required to explore new forms of cooperation, such as joint initiatives between the public and private sectors. This training course is one such highly anticipated effort of JICA to contribute to the supply of safe potable water in developing countries through cooperation with Japanese municipal waterworks bureaus and private-sector companies.



Staff of Bureau of Waterworks, Tokyo Metropolitan Government (right) explains about a reservoir to participants

\* “Non-revenue water” refers to water that is lost in distribution systems due to leakage, illegal connection, metering errors, etc. and thus produces no revenue.



Course participants at the closing ceremony



**Takafumi YASUMOTO**,  
Economic Infrastructure Development and  
Environment Division, JICA Tokyo



### No more “Lives being lost by giving life”

#### ~ Workshop on Improvement of Maternal Health for Africa (Focus on MDG5) ~



Key to every pregnant woman to have a proactive attitude toward pregnancy, childbirth and child care: empowerment of women, involvement of men and ensuring client friendly services and quality care

Still, every day, almost 800 women die from pregnancy/childbirth related complications, of which 80% is preventable. Among the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), maternal health (MDG5) is progressing least. It is estimated that the number of women dying in pregnancy and childbirth is declining globally, decreased from 543,000 in 1990 to 287,000 in 2010 which is still unacceptably high. More works need to be done in achieving the MDGs, delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted and every child birth is safe.

There exist huge inequalities and gaps in the provision of quality reproductive health information and services within a country and among countries and regions. Therefore, special consideration must be made for Africa, where complex issues need to be tackled: weak empowerment of women, poor community involvement with resultant weak linkage between the community and the health facility, logistic and resource constraints affecting quality of care, poor environment at the health facility and unfriendly clients' services leading to less utilization of reproductive health services, and male dominant societies.

Under such conditions, JICA Tokyo's training program “Workshop on Improvement of Maternal Health for Africa” was implemented by JOICFP\* in October for senior officers and administrators of governments and NGOs who conduct safe motherhood programs in the African countries aiming at joint collaboration of governments and NGOs to maximize the interventions at the community level.

The program was designed to share the Japanese experience on ensuring the “continuum of care” from pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, to post partum by creating linkages between the community and the health facility to increase access to and utilization of quality skilled care at the community level. During the program, a series of exciting discussion sessions were



Participants in a Group Discussion to identify and analyze the gaps and bottlenecks in “continuum of care” at the community level

conducted on cause analysis and identified necessary elements for continuum of care at the community level in each country.

The course participants visited Suzaka City of Nagano Prefecture where the organizational setup for community based health promotion activity is said to have originated. Immense learning during the first two weeks of the Workshop was digested and “plugged-into” the existing programs of each participating country by formulating an action plan during the final third week.

At the closing ceremony of the program, Mr. C. Paul Nyanzee of Liberia representing the group mentioned that “experiences from the Workshop demonstrate that no single intervention by the health system is by itself sufficient to improve maternal and newborn health and reduce mortality. We need to incorporate the community by the provision of effective information, quality services and supportive environment to empower the community and increase their influence in making decision on maternal and newborn health. Japanese framework may be our gateway in creating linkages between the community and the health facility to increase access to and utilization of health services”.

JOICFP will also organize a course entitled “Improvement of Maternal Health (MDG5)” during January 23- February 16, 2013 for 14 participants from Armenia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Namibia, Philippines and Swaziland. Major components of the workshop will be on strengthening: a) information provision (community-based preventive care); b) service delivery (facility-based preventive and clinical care); and c) creation of supportive environment at the community level.

\* JOICFP (Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning) is a Japan-based international NGO active in the field of population, sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning, maternal health and HIV/AIDs, where it works to improve the health status of women, men and young people of the world. JOICFP received a UN Population Award in 2001.



Key to “linking the community and health services” lie in the hands of community volunteers as observed in Nagano Prefecture (Suzaka City Health Promoters).



**Lisa ASAMURA,**

Program Manager, Human Resource Development, JOICFP



# Meet your Japanese Family =Home Stay Program=

Twice a year, JICA Tokyo organizes "Home Stay Program" in collaboration with Hippo Family Club, an organization making researches on language acquiring methods and practicing it through the cross-cultural exchange. The members of this club are very open-minded and ambitious to know and learn other cultures and they have been cooperating with JICA Tokyo's home stay program for over 20 years.



In September, 2012, 11 participants from JICA Tokyo joined this program and stayed over a night and spent a weekend with Japanese host families. Here are some questions and answers, with 5 participants answering frequently asked questions about home-stay.

## Q1) Weren't you afraid before joining this program?

**Pwint:** Yes, I was. It took me a long time to decide my participation because I was worried about so many things even after signing up this program, being nervous. However, as soon as I met my host family at the welcome party, I was peaceful and happy. My host mother always thinks for my convenience and also loves to talk to me. After a few hours, I felt like she was my family! At the end, it's turned into a pleasant and unforgettable weekend in my life!



Ms. Pwint Kyaw (center, Myanmar)

## Q2) How did you open up to your host family?

**DILDAR:** Hippo Family Club organized a Welcome Party for us and it's for "Ice Breaking" between participants and host families. This is really a good party, and we opened up ourselves through playing games and dancing together. In my views, whenever I hear the name of Japan and JICA, my host family comes in my eyes and they are coming in my sweet dreams too. I'd be very happy to see them in the future.



Mr. Hussain Dildar (left, Pakistan)

## Q5) What is the best part of this program?

**Rosa:** Staying overnight in a Japanese family. It gave me a completely new point of view. Going to the supermarket or choosing the menu for the family meal or looking in the bathroom to so many bottles or, yet, opening a drawer and looking to see so many different dishes or those very special blankets was like entering a new and secret world. At the end of the day, when the mother went to my bedroom to turn off the light, I suddenly realized I was "one of them" and that act brought about all the warmth families have and I needed so much that day. It was a unique chance to belong to Japanese world. It was fast, it is over and, at the same time, it will last for the rest of my life. Unique, life lasting and welcoming - these are the words to describe a "home-stay" experience.



Ms. Rosa Ludermir (right, Brazil)



Ms. Anna Jumatul Laely (second from left, Indonesia)

## Q3) Is it still worth to join if your host family is a single household?

**Anna:** Well, at first, I hesitated to join this program when I found out my host family was a single household but now I can tell it doesn't matter! Hippo members work together with their local members so during this program, we spent time with another family who was the host family of the other participants. I talked a lot with my host about our cultures. I really enjoyed sharing our ideas with her and at the end we became really good friends.

## Q4) Do you have any problems if you have some food restriction?



Mr. Ariful Islam (center, Bangladesh)

**Ariful:** No, not at all! I, myself, have a food restriction and I just eat halal food but when my host mother cooked, she asked me about cooking ingredients she used and I didn't have any problems. I received a cordial welcome to their family and I spent a memorable time with them.

This home stay program is only one weekend but this is just a chance to meet Japanese family. Most of them succeeded to build up a good relationship with them. They usually keep in touch and visit each other while you are in Japan, and they also keep in touch after the participants go back to their countries.

There is the second home stay program in February 2013 so why don't you take advantage of this chance and jump in an once-in-a-lifetime experience?

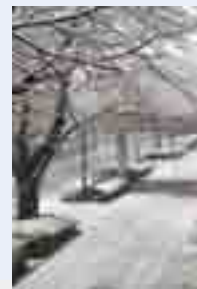


Tomomi NISHIGAKI, JICA Tokyo

# How we spend winter time in Japan

If you came to Japan from some high latitude countries, such as Mongolia or Ukraine, you will find that the weather is sort of mild in winter around Tokyo compared to your home countries. But if you are from tropical or subtropical regions, you must prepare for your new experience with cold winter!

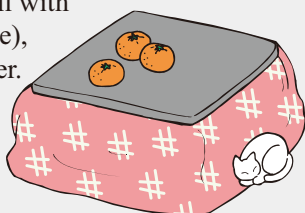
For those of you wondering how the Japanese people spend the winter time, we will show you some part of our winter lifestyles, and some tips on spending winter time warm and comfortable.



## Heating Devices

Since most part of Japan has very hot and humid summer, Japanese wooden houses in general were not constructed airtight nor with perfect heat insulation. Therefore, heating tended to be directed towards individuals or small portion of the houses, rather than heating the entire houses.

If you have a chance to visit Japanese family in winter, you may find a **kotatsu**, a traditional Japanese household heating. It is a low table with heater installed, and covered with thick blanket (**futon**) so that heated air does not escape, keeping inside **kotatsu** very warm, with high energy efficiency. It is so comfortable to keep your feet in kotatsu when it's cold outside that you can hardly move from there, and you can easily fall asleep. Life in **kotatsu** suits very well with **mikan** (tangerine or mandarin orange), which is a very popular fruit in winter. Personal heating devices, including stoves, fan heaters and electric blankets are also popular.

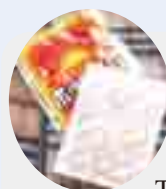


## Sanitary Masks

Don't suppose there is an epidemic outbreak when you see many people wearing masks. Here in Japan, people wear masks both when they have got flu or cold, or when they want to prevent flu, by preventing inhaling droplets from infected person's coughs or sneezes that contain influenza virus. If you try wearing mask in winter (you can get one at JICA Tokyo's Front Desk), you will realize that it helps ease the dryness of air when you breathe. During the cedar pollen season from February to April, masks become even more popular than mid-winter to prevent inhaling pollen, as about one fifth of the Japanese suffer from cedar pollen allergy.



Did you get some image of Japanese way of life in winter? It must be hard for you to get concrete images by just reading this article. Instead, if you watch Japanese TV programs, visiting Japanese houses, or joining the homestay program as described in the previous page, will surely help you understand how it is like to spend winter time in Japan.



## Hand warmers

Since 1970s, using disposable hand warmers is very popular in Japan.

These hand warmers employ powdered iron with salt as catalyst, and carbon powder to produce heat in the oxidation process. It is a popular habit to keep hand warmers in pockets to keep fingers warm, or use those with adhesives stuck to body when going out in cold weather.

However, you must be careful when applying hand warmers directly on your body, since you might get low temperature burns. To avoid the burns, it is recommended to stick the adhesive type on your garment instead of your body directly.



## Nabe (one-pot dishes)

In winter, most Japanese enjoy **nabe** (meaning pot) dishes, cooked and eaten at a same time in **nabe**, a large ceramic pot (except for sukiyaki and shabu-shabu, which employ iron pots) placed on the table. The meal cooked in **nabe** itself is also called **nabe** or **nabemono** (**nabe** things). Usually, the pot is heated by a small, either portable or gas/electric stove. Since you can eat **nabe** dishes served directly from the boiling pot with soup, it makes you very warm. It is also good to take many different kinds of ingredients, meat, fish, vegetable, mushrooms, and so on that help you keep your health. In addition, eating meal from a same pot makes very close, intimate relationship among those who eat **nabe**. Cooking with nabe is very simple, requiring very little preparation. For all these reasons, nabe are favorite dishes of this season for many Japanese.



**Tatsuaki INOUE**,  
JICA Tokyo





## JICA Tokyo has created its Facebook Page!

As a tool of communication with JICA Training Participants and Ex-participants, and other concerned personnel, we have created a new page on the world's largest social networking service, Facebook!

If you have a Facebook account, please log in and make a search for "JICA Tokyo International Center", or connect to the URL below. If you don't have an account, it is a good time to register!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/JICA-Tokyo-International-Center/167911536562011>

We are also waiting for your messages telling your stories during your stay in Japan and after returning home! and don't forget to click "Like!" about our page!



## MUSEUMS

### Waiting for the First Train

始発電車を待ちながら

On October 1, 2012, the Tokyo Station Marunouchi Building made its grand debut after 5-and-a-half years of restoration works are completed to return the building to its original state. The red brick station building was completed in 1914 and later heavily damaged by the bombing during the World War II, losing its domes and the third floor. Reparation of the building that took place soon after the war was largely a makeshift, losing much of the original grandeur and elegance. The reopening of the station building coincided with the reopening of Tokyo Station Gallery, an art museum intended to make the station a place to enjoy rich culture instead of a place to pass through. This exhibition titled "Waiting for the First Train" is held to celebrate the reopening of the Gallery with 9 artists collaborating with themes of railway and

Tokyo Station. The Gallery's 100 years old brick wall will surely make you feel the profound history of the Station.

《new tokyo station》2012 by Naoki Honjo courtesy of nap gallery

Place: Tokyo Station Gallery (東京ステーションギャラリー)  
(Located at the Marunouchi North Exit of JR Tokyo Station)  
Date: October 1 (Mon) – February 24 (Sun)  
Closed on Mondays (except Dec. 24, Jan. 14 and Feb. 11) and Dec. 25, Dec. 29–Jan. 1, Jan. 15 and Feb. 12  
Time: 11:00~20:00 (10:00~18:00 on Sat., Sun. and holidays)  
Admission: ¥500

### The Art of Orient

オリエントの美術

Idemitsu Museum of Arts possesses one of the largest collection of Middle and Near Eastern Art in Japan, mainly from Egypt, Iran, Turkey and the Mediterranean region. Since 1979, the Museum has been exhibiting this collection at the Middle Eastern Culture Center in Japan, located in the City of Mitaka, suburbs of Tokyo. From January to March 2013, that collection will be on exhibit at Idemitsu Museum at the Imperial Theater Building located in the very center of Tokyo, to commemorate the Renewal of the Middle Eastern Culture Center. The special exhibition features wide variety of the Middle Eastern Art of Idemitsu collection including ceramic, metal, glass and stone artifacts from prehistoric era to the Islamic period. These precious art pieces include some works

that can not be seen elsewhere in Japan, or one of only a few examples of that kind in the world. Please visit the Museum and enjoy the beauty of the Oriental art and explore the history of the Middle East!

象牙飾板 イラク 前9~7世紀  
出光美術館 蔵

This ivory plaque was unearthed in an excavation of ancient Assyrian capital city of Nimrud in modern day Iraq. In this excavation, the wife of archaeologist Max Mallowan, Agatha Christie, took part in the expedition team.

Place: Idemitsu Museum of Arts (出光美術館)  
(3 mins walk from Exit B3 of Hibiya Station on Subway Chiyoda Line, 15 minutes ride from Yoyogi-uehara)  
Date: Jan. 11(Fri) – Mar. 24 (Sun)  
Closed on Mondays (except Jan. 14 and Feb. 11)  
Time: 10:00~17:00, Fridays until 19:00 (last entry 30 minutes before closing)  
Admission: ¥1,000