

Kobe Cross Cultural Center

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| Activity name | 30th Anniversary Celebration Event, Exhibition of Cross Cultural Works '09 -- Festival for Creating Beauty through Sharing Cultures -- | | | |
| Date | June 11 (Thursday) and 12 (Friday), 2009 (for 2 days) | | | |
| Location | Harada-no-Mori Gallery (Nada-ku, Kobe City) | | | |
| Participants | International students | Local residents, companies, etc. | Other | Total |
| | 210 | 1,830 | 488 | 2,528 |

<Activity Details>

In the almost 140 years since it served as a foreign settlement, our city Kobe has built a deep history of sharing daily life experiences with culturally diverse foreign citizens, developing the city's public awareness.

This event is held in cooperation with 20 exchange organizations and international schools that have similar aims in the community, in an effort to achieve a multicultural society in our increasingly globalized world. With a desire to build a stronger, wider network and create new beauty through the resulting diversity, we held the Festival for Creating Beauty on two beautiful spring days. **Though the Festival was postponed due to an outbreak of influenza in the Kobe region, we were eventually able to welcome a large number of participants.**

<Overall Events>

The hall was lively with presentations (performances by international students and foreign citizen groups) from a wide variety of cultures around the world.

- Traditional clothing fashion show--Participants were from Panama, Kenya, Peru, Thailand, Indonesia, and Iran, countries that boast a variety of cultures.
- Folk music and dance--Flamenco guitar, Ainu music, Okinawan music, Ocarina, classical Chinese dance (angel's dance), and Indonesian angklung performances.
- Cross-cultural discussions--**Reproduction of the Tale of Genji Scrolls using South American Mola embroidery** - Celebrating 1,000 Years of The Tale of Genji-
- World Handicraft Exhibition—Exhibition of works created by students who have learned world handicrafts for many years in classes at the Cross Cultural Center: Mirror work from India/Mola appliqué from Panama/ Pojagi from South Korea/European Paper Craft/Patchwork from the United States/Ink painting from China/ Origami/Haiku in English.
Approximately 500 items were on colorful display, covering the entire first and second floors of the west wing

<Comments from Participants>

- This was the first time I have been able to see such a wide variety of traditional clothing and folk dancing in Kobe, and it was impressive. (Mr. Sim Sokcheng, Cambodia, international student)
- The recreation of the Tale of Genji Scrolls using South American mola appliqué to commemorate the 1,000th anniversary of The Tale of Genji was truly unique, and had the power to express female passion and resentment in a manner that crosses borders. (Ms. Michie Ishikawa)
- We must pass down the American patchwork, mola appliqué, Indian mirror work, Chinese ink painting, South Korean pojagi, and other diverse handicraft displayed in the Exhibition, as a world legacy of beauty. (Ms. Kazuko Yamasaki)



Handicraft display
--South Korean pojagi class--



Indonesian song and angklung performance by Vocal Manis



Food and bazaar by an Indonesian group



Song and folk dance by German schoolchildren



Traditional Persian clothing fashion show



Folk music and dancing by an Okinawan group