

**JUNE
2013**

**JAPAN
CREATIVE
CENTRE**
EMBASSY OF JAPAN

CULTURAL E-MAGAZINE



© Ichi Ikeda

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2013

JUNE EVENTS IN JCC

4 June 2013	NUS Presentation "Creative Revitalization"
15 - 28 June 2013	Cross Encounter Exhibition : A collaboration of 7 artists
26 June – 8 July 2013	Japanese Film Festival

SUPPORTED EVENTS

1 June 2013	The Majestic Piano by Miyuki Washimiya
23 June 2013	Soul of Japan
21 July 2013	Japanese Speech Contest 2013

RELATED EVENTS

20 April – 20 June 2013	Nuit Sano 'Abstract in Blue' Exhibition
3 May – 15 June 2013	FLAME @ OTA Fine Art
3 May – 16 June 2013	Ian Woo: How I Forgot to be Happy @ Tomio Koyama Gallery
17 May – 30 June 2013	The Pulse of Time: Caroline Rothwell and Chiharu Shiota
17 May – 17 Nov 2013	Kindred Spirits: Dr. Sun Yat Sen, Singapore and Japan

NOTICE

40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation
The Japan Foundation Program Guidelines for Fiscal 2013-2014



40th YEAR OF ASEAN-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION

Further information and updates about JCC events can be found on the [JCC website](#) and [Facebook](#).

CONTENTS

- 1 OVERVIEW OF JCC’S PAST EVENTS IN MAY 2013**
 - 1.1 “EARTH CELL- NOT A FUTURE FOR ART, BUT ART FOR A FUTURE” EXHIBITION 3
 - 1.2 “EARTH CELL- NOT A FUTURE FOR ART, BUT ART FOR A FUTURE” WORKSHOP 4
 - 1.3 KIZUNA SHARING SESSION 5
 - 1.4 JCC CINEMA SCREENING: “KISEKI” 5
 - 1.5 J-MELO FAN MEETING: FEATURING JOE INOUE & VALERIE 6

- 2 JAPANESE CULTURE FACT OF THE MONTH**
 - 2.1 RAINY SEASON (TSUYU)..... 7

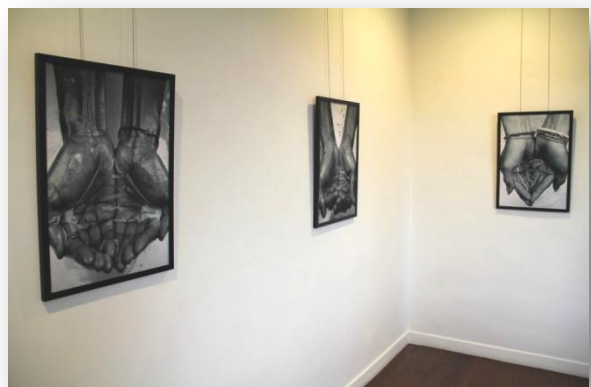
1 OVERVIEW

In the month of May Japan celebrates the golden week with numerous festivities, one of its highlights was “Greenery day” which sought to commemorate and appreciate nature as it is. At JCC, in a bid to also express value for the environment, an exhibition aimed at creating awareness and appreciation for nature was held. Another celebration in Japan, is that of “Children’s Day” or Kodomo no Hi which was also reflected in JCC’s Cinema Screening session of “Kiseki”, a heartwarming film of children’s unity in a family setting. Besides the Golden Week, NHK World brought J-MELO – a popular show featuring Japanese pop music – to Singapore with a special fan meeting with rising stars Inoue Joe and Valerie.

1.1 “EARTH CELL - NOT A FUTURE FOR ART, BUT ART FOR A FUTURE” EXHIBITION

As part of the 7th Swiss-based Digital Arts Festival in Singapore, Digital Arts Weeks International (DAW) and Japan Creative Centre jointly presented an art exhibition entitled “EarthCells - Not A Future For Art, But Art For A Future-“, featuring Japanese artist Mr. Ichi Ikeda.

The exhibition commenced with an opening ceremony held on 7 May, where the Director of JCC, Mr. Toshihide Ando presented the opening remarks. Following this, Co-Founder & Director of DAW International, Mr. Arthur Clay, gave an introduction of the exhibition and the works displayed by the various organizations under the coordination of DAW International. Ms. Jessica Wee Keok, Vice Principal from Rainbow Centre Yishun Park School, also expressed her appreciation towards the display of her students’ works at the exhibition. Finally, our special guest collaborators and school children had fun trying their hands on the interactive exhibits installed at the exhibition site.



*Artworks by Ichi Ikeda
© Ichi Ikeda*



*Interactive piece by Curious Minds
© Curious Minds*

As a prominent feature of this exhibition, artworks by Mr. Ichi Ikeda, as well as Switzerland artist group Com&Com and International artist group Curious Minds were showcased in this from 7 – 17 May. The delightful “Earth Cell Paintings” created by children from the workshop was also the central and final work of the exhibition, conveying the motto “Art for the Future” and a peaceful and sustainable future. The year 2014 marks 150 years of established

diplomatic relations between Japan and Switzerland. The projects for this exhibition aim to intensify the emotional bonds between both countries through cultural exchange and highlight the multi-cultural landscape of Singapore.

1.2 “EARTH CELL - NOT A FUTURE FOR ART, BUT ART FOR A FUTURE” WORKSHOP

In conjunction with the Earth Cell Exhibition, a workshop was conducted on 11 May at Japan Creative Centre for children to express their creativity through finger painting. During the 2-

hour workshop, 20 children ranging from ages 4 – 12 years had a great time using their hands to create patterns on hexagram papers. This workshop was overlooked by the respectable Ichi Ikeda with the hope of increasing environmental awareness and to convey the need to work towards sustainable life on earth.



*Completed works by the children were
assembled into this large piece*

The completed works by the children were then assembled together into hexagonal shapes of animals or flowers and were displayed along with the other exhibits.

1.3 KIZUNA SHARING SESSION

Two events were held on the 18th of May. One of which is a sharing session by 9 groups of students who have travelled to Japan as part of a Youth-Exchange Project, KIZUNA (also known as “bonds”).



Presentation by a KIZUNA participant

These students from Singapore Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic, Nanyang Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Raffles Design Institute, LASALLE College of the Arts, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and First Media Design School shared their thoughts and experiences from their trip together with more than 70 guests.

Organized by the Japanese Government, the KIZUNA project aims to raise awareness of Japan's revival efforts in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake and dispel misconceptions of the disaster. Under this project, youths from 41 countries are given the opportunity to travel to Japan and participate in exchange programs. During their stay, they experience the realities of the ongoing reconstruction through volunteer works and exchanges with local residents.

1.4 JCC CINEMA SCREENING: “KISEKI”

In the month of May 2013, JCC screened the award-winning film “Kiseki”, also known as “I Wish”. This heartwarming film attracted a full house of people from all walks of life. The many comical moments during the film brought laughter to children and adults alike.

On the day of the event, we indeed had a full house in attendance.

After the film, Mr. Yutaka Nomoto from the East Japan Railway Company (JR East) introduced Shinkansen, the Japanese high-speed rail, along with the attractions and delights of Eastern Japan. Audiences who have taken Shinkansen shared their positive experiences with this mode of transport



During the sharing session by Mr Notomo from JR East

while others expressed their appreciation for the helpful information provided for their future trip to Japan.

1.5 J-MELO FAN MEETING: FEATURING JOE INOUE & VALERIE

Singer-song writer Inoue Joe and Valerie from Sea*A spent an unforgettable night of close connection with their fans on the 22nd of May. This fan meeting, organized by NHK World, is scheduled to be broadcast in July on their international music show, J-MELO.



J-MELO Fan meeting with Inoue Joe & Valerie

The event started off with 2 anime opening themes from Inoue Joe: “Closer” and “Kaze no Gotoku”. Succeeding the rising heat from Joe’s mini-live, 2 local dance groups dazzled the crowd with their lively dance moves. Last but not least, we had a solo song performance from the winner of the JCS Japanese Song Contest 2012, Ngoh Chang Boon, who impressed the crowd with his powerful vocals.

The performances were followed by an engaging talk session where each fan passionately shared their favorite Japanese artist and their love for Japanese music. Joe’s witty remarks together with the enthusiasm of fans pushed the atmosphere to a new level. Moreover, 2 selected fans, despite being amateurs, put up an outstanding impromptu performance in front of the crowd.

After the performance, fans stayed around to mingle with Joe and Valerie during the reception, scurrying for autographs and posing for cameras.



Fans gathered for J-MELO were thrilled

J-MELO is a popular music programme broadcasted in English on NHK World featuring exclusive interviews, performances of artists and hits of Japanese music. Catch this exclusive fan meeting session held in Singapore on NHK World this July 2013. For more information about J-MELO do visit their website at: <http://www.nhk.or.jp/j-melo/nhkworld/index.html> .

2 JAPANESE CULTURE FACT OF THE MONTH

2.1 RAINY SEASON (TSUYU)

From around early June to mid-July, as spring gives way to summer, most of Japan is subject to a period of rainy weather called *Tsuyu*¹. Day in and day out, the sky remains gloomy, and temperatures and humidity rise. It is probably the least pleasant time of the year.

Many innovations have been developed in Japan to cope with the wet, muggy weather. Traditional wooden Japanese homes are raised above the ground to keep the heat and humidity away and have few walls to facilitate ventilation.

Many people live in Western-style homes and concrete apartment buildings these days. Consequently, people are relying more heavily on heating, cooling, and dehumidifying equipment.

Kids are often prevented from going outside to play during the rainy season and get bored easily. While in school, they pass the time by playing indoor games during recess, and physical education classes are held in the gymnasium. After the pool season starts, swimming classes are held even in the rain, as long as it's not too cold.

The early summer rain has many positive aspects, of course. It helps plants grow and flourish, and it's a valuable source of drinking water. Insufficient rainfall during *tsuyu* usually means water shortages in mid-summer. The fact that mold grows easily in humid weather is a big plus in making certain foods, such as miso, soy sauce, and sake, which are important parts of the Japanese diet.



¹ <http://web-japan.org/kidsweb/explore/calendar/june/rain.html>

**Have any comments for JCC
e-magazine?**

We would love to hear them!

**So please do send in your suggestions and thoughts to
jcc@sn.mofa.go.jp.**