

MAY
2013

**JAPAN
CREATIVE
CENTRE**

EMBASSY OF JAPAN

CULTURAL E-MAGAZINE



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2013

MAY EVENTS IN JCC

7 – 17 May 2013	“Earth Cell- Not a future for Art, but Art for a future” Exhibition
11 May 2013	“Earth Cell- Not a future for Art, but Art for a future” Workshop
18 May 2013	JCC Cinema 20 : Kiseki

SUPPORTED EVENTS

10 – 19 May 2013	“Friendship through Flowers” Exhibition at Paragon
1 June 2013	The Majestic Piano by Miyuki Washimiya
23 June 2013	Soul of Japan

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
10 May 2013	100% KPP World Tour 2013 in Singapore
17 May – 30 June 2013	The Pulse of Time: Caroline Rothwell and Chiharu Shiota
22 – 24 May 2013	Music Matters Live With HP 2013
25 & 26 May 2013	Siro-A: A Technodelic Visual Show

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](#).

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Singapore Association

1 OVERVIEW

The highlight event of April 2013 at JCC was the exquisite Tea Ceremony Exhibition. A cup of handmade Japanese green tea is always well appreciated by the Japanese. The Tea Ceremony is a traditional and well-respected art form in the Japanese culture, and its lacquer ware dates back far into ancient times. JCC also screened a recent Studio Ghibli film, which drew a large crowd of fans to the centre.

1.1 “ART OF LACQUER WARE FOR CHANOYU” OPENING CEREMONY

In the month of April 2013, one of the main schools of Japanese Tea Ceremony in Japan, Chado Urasenke Tankokai Singapore Association, worked closely with JCC to assemble an exclusive and never-before-seen exhibition featuring lacquer ware used in Tea Ceremony practices. More than 50 important and exquisite pieces from the Edo Period to modern times were displayed for Singaporeans to have a sense of Japanese Tea Ceremony traditions and tools up-close.



The host from Urasenke bowing after giving a cup of tea to the guest



Member of Urasenke preparing the Tea

To inaugurate the exhibition, JCC held the Opening Ceremony of “The Art of Lacquer ware for Chanoyu” at JCC on 6th April 2013 as a private gathering for invited guests. After the opening remarks from the Director of JCC, Mr Toshihide Ando, Mr Lai Kim Fatt, Vice President of Chado Urasenke Tankokai Singapore Association, provided an introductory speech in representation of the organization.

Following this Ceremony, Ms Sochoku Nakabayashi of Chado Urasenke Tankokai Singapore Association enlightened the audience with a lecture on the history of Japanese Tea Ceremony Lacquer Ware. A special Tea Ceremony Demonstration and Tea Tasting session ensued to complement the event. Guests were also guided through the exhibition by the elegant, kimono-adorned members of the association.



Lecture by Ms Sochoku Nakabayashi (in yellow) and interpreter Ms Yoko Suzuki (in grey)

Chado Urasenke Tankokai Singapore Association is a non-profit organization aimed to engage the community in the study of *Chado* (the way of Tea) and to promote a better understanding and appreciation of the rich cultural heritage of Japan as expressed in Chado in Singapore. Its tearoom is housed in Liang Court to serve as a centre for its activities.

1.2 “ART OF LACQUER WARE FOR CHANOYU” EXHIBITION



The host preparing the Tea at the Ryu-rei

With the aim of sharing the Art of Tea with the people in Singapore, the Chado Urasenke Tankokai Association also provided free Tea Tasting and Demonstration gatherings on 6th April, 13th April and 20th April for its visitors which almost always had a full house!

This showcase, which was open to public from 6 – 20 April 2013, had a large pool of guests from all walks of life, taken in by the beauty of the ancient materials.



Sweets from Kyoto being brought to guests before being served the tea



A guest enjoying her bowl of hot Tea

During traditional tea ceremony gatherings, the host prepared the tea at the *Ryuu-rei*, which is a special table for preparing the Tea. To assist the host in clearing space and other tasks, an assistant usually sits near the host at the *ryuu-rei*. This assistant also helps in serving the tea prepared to the guests. This was exactly what was done at JCC during the Tea Sessions. However as normally done in Urasenke Tea practices, the gathering was conducted in a seated style where guests sat at

normal chairs instead of on *tatami* mats.

A representative from the association provided guidance through the ceremony by explaining the whole ceremonial procedure as it went along. Guests were given sweets from Kyoto to sweeten their taste-buds before being served *Matcha* (a powdered green tea used during such ceremonies). *Matcha* usually has a bitter taste and the sweets provide a dampening effect to reduce the bitterness.

After the Tea Sessions which lasted approximately 15 minutes, guests were taken through the whole exhibition and given detailed tours and descriptions on the lacquer ware on display.

The important and delicate lacquer ware articles were carefully enclosed in glass casings. Over 50 articles were on showcase including utensils and beautifully adorned items.

Collectively, our guests expressed much joy and appreciation for the exhibition and tea sessions.



Tour Guide of the Lacquer Ware Exhibition

1.3 JCC CINEMA SCREENING: “THE SECRET WORLD OF ARRIETTY”

In the month of April 2013, JCC screened the popular film of Studio Ghibli, “The Secret World of Arrietty”. As soon as the notice for this movie was released on our website and emailers, we received massive response and had a full house for the event.

On the day of the event, we indeed had a full house in attendance. During the movie, there were many touching moments and guests expressed their delight and appreciation for the

movie screening at JCC. The movie was indeed heart-warming and sent many into tears but indeed captivated all with a beautiful ending.



2 JAPANESE CULTURE FACT OF THE MONTH

2.1 CHILDREN'S DAY [KODOMO NO HI]

May 5 is Children's Day¹, when families celebrate the healthy growth and happiness of children. It became a national holiday in 1948, but it has been a day of celebration in Japan since ancient times.

The fifth day of the fifth month was traditionally called Tango no Sekku and was a festival for boys. Girls have their own festival, called Hina Matsuri (Doll Festival), held on the third day of the third month.

On Children's Day, families with boys fly huge carp-shaped streamers (koinobori) outside the house and display dolls of famous warriors and other heroes inside. The carp was chosen because it symbolizes strength and success; according to a Chinese legend, a carp swam upstream to become a dragon.



Carp streamers waving in the wind

In recent years, as more people have moved into apartments and smaller houses, the carp streamers have also gotten smaller, and there are now miniature versions that are decorated indoors.

Also on this day, families often take baths sprinkled with iris leaves and roots. This is because the iris is thought to promote good health and ward off evil. Rice cakes wrapped in oak leaves and filled with sweet bean paste, called kashiwamochi, are also eaten.



On May 5 each year, events highlighting children are held throughout the country.

¹ <http://web-japan.org/kidsweb/explore/calendar/may/children.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.**