YOUTH FORUM NEWS

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NHK HAIKU MASTERS Talk Session at SU

By Mizuki Ando

HAIKU MASTERS is an NHK WORLD TV program.

It's broadcast in about 140 countries in English.

HAIKU MASTERS uses a new art from, which they call Photo Haiku.

It's a combination of haiku and pictures.

They try to get many people to write a haiku and upload it on their website, and they announce a new "Haiku Master" each month.

You can watch the program on NHK WORLD Video On Demand. It's a free app and people from around the world can watch the TV program.

HAIKU MASTERS has three guidelines.

The first is "fusoku-furi"—not too far, not too close, which means it should not be too close or too far from the image in the photo.

This means the haiku cannot be just a description of the photo.

The second guideline is to make a three-line haiku.

The haiku needs to be written in three lines to express the original form or rhythm of haiku.

And finally there is seasonality. This means you should express the seasonality in either your photo or the haiku.

NHK Sapporo sponsored a HAIKU MASTERS Talk Session at Sapporo University.

It was a two-hour event held from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on September 10. The event was free to the public.

The talk was about discovering the joy of making photo haiku and the charm of Hokkaido.

There were five panelists: Haiku poets Kazuko Nishimura and Kit Pancoast Nagamura, MC Nelson Babin-Coy, and special guests Biei photographer Toshiki Nakanishi and Sapporo University Professor Phillip Radcliffe.

This event was divided into two parts. The first part was for the panelists to create a photo haiku using some of the photographs taken by photographer Nakanishi.

Then the two female panelists and Nakanishi created awesome photo haikus.

The second part of the program was how to use photo haiku in English class. Prof. Radcliffe showed the guests some photo haikus created by his students.

Also, each panelist talked about their own specialty.

Many people who attended the event showed an interest in learning more about photo haiku and in watching the HAIKU MASTERS program.

The first HAIKU MASTERS Photo Haiku event was held in Yamagata in July and included poets Nishimura and Nagamura.

The special guest at the Kyoto event was Issey Ogata, one of Japan's leading actors known for his unique and powerful acting ability. He is also a pioneer of Japanese solo stage performances.

The second Photo Haiku event was held in Sapporo, and the third was in Kyoto in November.

The special guest at the Kyoto event was writer Hisafumi Iwashita. HAIKU MASTERS holds a Photo Haiku event every two months.

The next event schedule has not been decided. You should not miss it.

And you should try to be a HAIKU MASTER!

Visiting Los Angeles

By Yuri Kikuta

Los Angeles is the second most popular tourist destination in America. There are many Japanese in Los Angeles.

Currently 70,629 Japanese live there. Los Angeles has the second largest Japanese population after New York.

Los Angeles is about an 11-hour flight from Japan. There are many sightseeing spots in Los Angeles.

Here are three popular spots in LA.

First, the most famous is, of course Disneyland Park and Disneyland Adventure Park.

The price of a one day ticket is $97 for a value ticket, $110 for a regular ticket and $124 for a ticket during peak times.

Tickets will be higher on weekends and holidays, so it's better to go on weekdays.

There are other tickets, such as 2-days tickets to 5-days tickets.

Disneyland Park has the Sleeping Beauty castle and it's divided into eight theme areas.

The characters walk every-where in the Park, so you can take pictures at any time with them.

The best area in the California Disneyland is the World of Color located in the Adventure Park. Here you can see the world's largest water screen and fountain water show.

Famous scenes from Disney movies will appear with 1,200 fountains and music.

The next famous spot is Santa Monica Beach. Santa Monica Beach is the most famous beach in California.

Santa Monica Beach in the daytime.

This beach is not only for swimming in the sea, but also there are many people who do jogging, yoga, beach volleyball and cycling.

You can also go cycling to Venice beach by renting a bicycle.

In addition, there is Santa Monica Pier in the middle of Santa Monica Beach.

Pacific Park at night.

At Pacific Park there are souvenir shops, an aquarium, a food store, a Ferris wheel and the entire amusement park is illuminated at night, so it is very beautiful.

Santa Monica is officially recognized as the western edge of the old Route 66 highway connecting Chicago and Los Angeles.

Near the beach there is the 3rd Street Promenade and Santa Monica Place, so you can also enjoy shopping.

Since there is a Victoria's Secret here, you can buy things that you cannot buy in Japan.

The third famous spot is Hollywood.

Hollywood is the birthplace of the Hollywood movie and it is the capital city of the movie industry.

There is the Grauman's Chinese Theater, which is said to be the most famous movie theater in Los Angeles.

Many of the movies have been previewed there in the past, and numerous Hollywood stars and celebrities have visited it.

There are tiles of many Hollywood celebrity hand-prints, footprints, and auto-graphs in front of the entrance to Grauman's Chinese Theater.

There are also lots of people wearing costumes of movie characters in front of the theater and you can pay some money to take pictures with them.

The Hollywood Walk of Fame passes in front of Grauman's Chinese Theater.

There are star-shaped tiles along the sidewalks of many famous actors, musicians, directors, producers, musical and theatrical groups, fictional characters, and so on.

As you walk down the street from the theater, you can see the Hollywood Murals that appeared in the movie *La La Land*.

The Hollywood sign can be seen from almost everywhere. You can also go behind the Hollywood sign.

When you visit the Griffith Observatory you can see the Hollywood sign and you can also see the view of Hollywood at night.

From Santa Monica Beach you can take a bus to Hollywood in about an hour. The bus passes Beverly Hills, so you can go there on the way from Santa Monica.

These are just three famous spots in Los Angeles, but Los Angeles has plenty of fashionable places as well as amusement parks and tasty food shops.

If you are going to Los Angeles it is best to go in the summer.

Los Angeles is cool and comfortable on the seaside, but Hollywood and Disneyland are much hotter.

Since there are many Japanese food shops around Santa Monica, you can eat Japanese food anytime you want to. Los Angeles is a very nice place to visit.

Discover Vancouver, Canada

By Ayano Nagata

Everyone has heard of Vancouver.

The Winter Olympic Games were held there in 2010.

Mao Asada won the silver medal in figure skating and in 2017 Vancouver was chosen as one of the most livable cities in North America.

Vancouver has a population of 2.1 million, forming the third largest urban area in Canada.

Canada is known as a country with many immigrants, and half of the population of Vancouver are from other countries.

There are also many international students from Asia and South America.

As a result, languages other than English can be heard throughout the city.

The time difference between Vancouver and Japan is 16 hours, and the climate is similar to Hokkaido.

In the late nineteenth century, Vancouver began as a city from the settlement called Gastown in the corner of the present east side of downtown.

People were leaving Vancouver due to deterioration of security for a while, but in recent years redevelopment has progressed by building new buildings and by renovating older structures into fashionable boutiques and restaurants along stone pavements.

It has become a vibrant city again.

There is a souvenir shop and a steam powered clock where tourists gather.

On the other hand, there are still many homeless people on the sidewalks begging for money.

Vancouver has a mild temperature and homeless people come to Gastown from all over Canada.

English Bay is a highly recommended sightseeing spot. It's on Beach Street on the west side near downtown.

In summer, visitors sunbathe, read books, roller blade, cycle, skate board, and run marathons at English Bay Beach while local people can walk their dogs, making it a place of relaxation for citizens.

Vancouver's famous Gastown

Driftwood benches are lined up on the beach and many people relax there.

As the sunset is beautiful, it's recommend to go there in the afternoon.

The flight time from Japan to Vancouver is approximately 10 hours.

The people are very kind and people of different races have a good relationship.

Vancouver has many appealing aspects; the downtown where skyscrapers and towers reach up to the sky, the beaches and mountains, places where you can feel nature and sightseeing spots where many tourists visit.

Getting Around Boston

By Shione Morioka

Many tourists visit Boston every year. There are many interesting and exciting things to experience in Boston.

One interesting place is Quincy Market. Quincy Market near State Station.

Here you can find a lot of delicious foods and cute souvenirs.

Newbury Street

The most famous foods in Boston are lobster roles and clam chowder.

Clam chowder at Boston Chowda restaurant tastes delicious and the price is reasonable.

Newbury Street has a lot of fashionable shops and sweet and delicious restaurants.

The street has many clothing stores and the street and sidewalks are designed beautifully.

Newbury Street has a Japanese food restaurant. Here you can eat sushi, udon, and a bowl of rice topped with beef.

The restaurant is little expensive, but the taste is good.

There are many other good restaurants and chocolate shops and cake shops in that area.

Newbury Street is located near the Boston Public Library.

It is the oldest library in the U.S. You can use it to concentrate on your studies.

If you want to see art, you should go to the Museum of Fine Arts.

It's a huge place. It takes about three hours to see everything.

The museum has a collection of more than 500,000 items from all over the world.

Quincy Market

Boston has many historical buildings and places. Boston Common is a very popular place to relax outdoors.

Boston Common is a public park in the center of downtown Boston and one of the oldest parks in U.S.

It has been the stage of major incidents that changed history, but now it is a place to enjoy and relax.

Boston is a great place for tourists. It's beautiful, cozy peaceful and quiet.

Miffy Café

By Tomoko Ishizuka

Miffy Café was open for a limited time from Sept. 9 to Oct. 29 at PARCO Department Store.

There was an original menu with Miffy motif and a special Sapporo limited menu.

There was an area where you could take photos and buy original goods and limited edition goods and you could take commemorative photos with Miffy.

Miffy Café was also open for a limited time in Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya and Fukuoka.

The dishes at the cafe are Miffy's tomato chicken curry, chicken schnitzel burger, pancakes, chiffon cake and mango parfait.

The drink menu included fresh mint tea, cotton candy soda, Miffy Latte (hot or iced), hot coffee with waffles and hot tea with waffles.

There was a limited menu in each region. In Sapporo the limited menu was Miffy's carrot doria and Miffy's hide-and-seek Mont Blanc.

The original goods included stuffed toys, masking tape, clear plastic folder sets, lunch tote bags, cross handkerchiefs and more.

The edible goods were marshmallows, sponge cake, flavored tea, Matuzaki Japanese-style cookies and dorayaki.

Miffy is the main character of a picture book drawn by Netherlands designer Dick Bruna.

The Dutch name is Nijntje, which is a short form of konijntje which means a little rabbit. Miffy is the English name.

One day, Bruna saw a small white rabbit running through the garden at his family villa in Egmont aan Zee, a seaside village in the northern part of the Netherlands.

Nijntje was created in 1955. Nijntje became popular with children using simple lines and clear colors.

In 1959 Bruna changed the texture of the picture and the shape of the book. He used red, blue, white, green and yellow as the colors called "Bruna Colors."

In 1963 he reworked Nijntje and it was newly translated into various languages.

The picture books of Nijntje is popular with all over the world and it has been translated into about 40 languages worldwide.

In Japan, it was translated by Momoko Ishii and published in 1964 as "Chiisana Usako Chan" and was received enthusiastically by many children.

Early Nijntje drawings has the ear sideways and the character design is different from the current one.

The ear design was revised in 1963 and after the revision the outline became elliptical and the ears were long and sharp, but with each change the ears and contours were rounded into the present form.

Miffy's ghost chiffon cake was delicious. Miffy's face was on the carrot chiffon cake along with a small bear.

Miffy's TV show was shown throughout the cafe, and a stuffed Miffy doll sat in a chair.

You could see Miffy dolls in various places in the café.

Moerenuma Art Fireworks Display

By Haruka Shudo

This firework display began in 2012.

At first it was called Moere Summer Festival.

In 2014, it changed its name to Moerenuma Art Firework Display and it has become one of the top firework displays in the country.

Many working adults and students prepare and run this fireworks display.

More than 20,000 people come to saw this firework display last year.

Moerenuma Art Firework Display was held on Sept. 9 of this year.

The wind was strong this year and pyrotechnic smoke filled the air.

Accordingly, the fireworks were sometimes delayed or cancelled.

This year is the sixth time for the event to be held and they set off 18,000 fireworks.

It has become a popular event and is the second most popular fireworks display in Hokkaido.

Of course, it is very crowded on that day.

People can take a free shuttle bus or they can come by car, bus or taxi.

The day after the event is spent picking up all of the garbage left by the crowded.

Premium seats are the nearest to the fireworks launching area and cost 7,000 yen. The lawn seats are 3,500 yen. People can see well enough from lawn seats.

Primary school children can watch for 500 yen from the lawn seats.

The fireworks are set to music and Moerenuma Park is very wide, so it's a three-dimensional show. The fireworks light up the summer night sky.

It's very beautiful! It will be an unforgettable memory for you. You should try to experience it yourself

The day after the event is spent picking up all of the garbage left by the crowd.

Toko Nuburi Exhibition

By Yusuke Utsumi

The Toko Nuburi Exhibition was held from Sept. 30 to Nov. 12 at Kushiro City Art Museum and the admission was free.

This exhibition displayed about 40 of his masterpieces.

Toko Nuburi (1937-2014) was born in Kushiro.

After graduating from junior high school he made accessories and wooden bear sculptures.

Later he applied for an apprenticeship to Tasuke Yamamoto, a traditional Ainu artist in Kushiro.

After that, he went to Asahikawa in pursuit of knowledge.

In 1954, he came back to Kushiro and became an independent artist.

While he was in Asahikawa he met the Ainu sculptor Bikki Sunazawa, and it was the beginning of a deep friendship.

Sunazawa influenced him greatly, and he stopped making accessories.

Thanks to the help of many people, he was able to hold a private exhibition of his wood carvings in Ginza, Tokyo in 1962.

He made use the bark and created the image of the God Chikisani Kamui (Goddess of spring elm) from an epic Ainu story.

Toko would breathe life into a tree by creating an image from the tree.

He felt it was very important to sit face to face with the tree and listen to find the form while communicating with the tree.

Mostly, he long and hard for his creation about which determined the direction of his creations.

He caved an epic story to the Ainu. It shows how they see all of the whole world as a God.

He caved owls and female figures in the piece.

The flowing curves and powerful straight lines come together smoothly.

Toko's artworks are not shown very often, so the next time there is an exhibition you should make every effort to see it and feel the power of nature through Ainu art.

Opinion: *The Future of Japanese Education*

By Akihiro Kudo

The Japanese education system is going to make two big changes from 2020.

One change is that the contents of the university entrance examination will become more complicated.

The name of the current Center Examination will change to The University Entrance Common Examination, and the style of the examination will also change.

In addition to these changes, some descriptive questions for Japanese language and math will also be included.

From now on children will be required to have the ability to think, to express themselves and to make judgements, and many adults think that these three skills will be very important for the future of Japan.

So, we can imagine that Japanese education is in for some drastic revision.

Another big change is that the English examination will consist of questions from TOEIC or Eiken tests.

The current Center Examination only tests for reading and listening skills.

The new test will test for all four skills—reading, listening, speaking and writing.

Finally, not only test scores, but also extracurricular activities, personality, qualifications and volunteer activities will become more important for entrance into university.

Introducing this system will help to integrate school life more and everyone from children to older people will be happy to have high school students conduct volunteer and extracurricular activities.

It is hoped that the Japanese educational revolution in 2020 will be able to bring good results to society.

Real Escape Room in Sapporo

By Mayu Kasai

Recently, Real Escape games are popular among young people.

A Real Escape Room is real version of Escape Game computer game.

In the game, a player is locked up in a room and must solves the riddles, hints, and secrets before time is up.

You can actually experience these in various situations.

In the past, there were escape games made using amusement parks and former schools.

The name of the store is "Ajito of Scrap." This store specializes in Real Escape games for small groups of people.

The maximum number of participants is ten. It's possible to go with friends, go alone, or with strangers.

There are different types of Games.

For example, the room type, the hall type and the field type.

In Sapporo there is a place where you can experience a Real Escape game almost every day.

In a game room.

The field type has no time limit. You can try to solve a mystery while walking around the city at your own pace.

The setting could be in an area such as a specific city or facility.

This is one of the enjoyable points because each type of game is different.

This shop collaborated with various animations such as Detective Konan, Attack on Titan, Pokémon, Jojo's Bizarre Adventure and more.

Recently, SEKAI NO OWARI collaborated with Real Escape Game to rent out an. amusement park at night depending on the performance, the escape success rate (game clear rate) is roughly ten percent.

At an outdoor stadium.

But, depending on the game, you can choose the difficulty level.

There are many games without age restriction, so both children and adults can enjoy it.

When you join as a team, you can make memories and deepen your friendships.

University Baseball League

By Kengo Iguchi

Do you pay attention to university baseball?

High school baseball is very popular in Japan, so most people know a lot about high school baseball but they don't know so much about University baseball.

In university baseball, there are two league tournaments– one in the spring and one in the fall.

The league consists of three sections and the first section is the strongest.

In Hokkaido, Section 1 consists of six teams: S.U, Dohto U., Tokai, Hokushou , Hokkaido U. and Hokkai Gakuen.

Each team plays the other teams twice for a total of ten games.

The team that wins the league tournament in Section 1 can participate in the national tournament at Meiji Shrine Stadium.

The 2017 Big Six University Baseball League Tournament was held from Aug. 23 to Sept. 22 at Maruyama Stadium and Sapporo Dome.

Many people thought Tokai University would win because Tokai won the league tourna-ment and made it into the best 4 in the national tournament this spring, but Dohto defeated Tokai and won the league tournament without losing a single game.

Dohto then went on to participate in the national tournament that was held from Nov. 10 at Meiji Shrine Stadium where they finished second.

This is the first time any team from Hokkaido has finished in second place.

The next league tournament will be held next spring.

There are some players who have a possibility of joining a professional baseball team in the future.

Sapporo University Baseball team members at practice.