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## See the world, experience the cultures



Year 2016 marked the 10th anniversary since International Artists Center, IAC, became an NPO organization. To celebrate the occasion, we held the 10th anniversary party on November 3rd at Daikanyama Hillside banquet. About 100 people including IAC members, diplomats from embassies, people from corporations and organizations came to the party and joined the celebration.

The wine and rum that were provided by the embassies were very popular and so were the dishes IAC's food specialists recreated from our "Learning cultures through food" events. There were lottery drawings of the goods donated by embassies and corporations. People were able to look at the various products from our online store closely before they purchased them. Also, people enjoyed the short performance by the IAC Japanese dance troupe "Kokoro-gumi," and participated in their Awa-dance workshop enthusiastically.

The starting point of IAC goes back 65 years, when the dance drama "No more Hiroshimas" was first performed in 1952. It was a dance drama that was created by people from dance theaters who experienced the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, with the hope that no one in the world will experience what they had experienced. They performed the dance drama for 4 years, until 1956, but back then, the memory of the war was so fresh that the dancers were crying on stage while they performed.

So, in 1960, they decided to stop performing this painful dance drama, and started the "International Dance Institute," to contribute to the world peace through dance performances. After a while, embassies who served as special advisors to IAC recommended that we take up other art exchange projects in addition to dance. In 1962, we changed our name to "International Artists Center." We have been organizing many workshops and performances by world famous artists from the very beginning, in the 1960s.

IAC has also been active in introducing the Japanese culture to the world. We made a dance group called, "Japan Folkloric Art Dance Troupe" within IAC and transformed the folkloric dance from various regions in Japan into a stage art so that people all over the world could appreciate Japanese traditional art. The first performance was at the Montreal Expo in 1967 and after that, IAC introduced the Japanese cultures to the people of 154 cities in 49 countries. Using our connections from the the Japan Folkloric Art Dance Troupe's tour in various countries abroad, we also invited cultural missions from various countries and did many performances and workshops in Japan.

Today we feature our new Japanese traditional dance troupe "Kokoro-gumi." At IAC 10th anniversary party, Kokoro-gumi brought a lot of excitement to the audience with their dance and workshop

Since 1960s, IAC's building had been located at a state-owned land in Akasaka. Although we didn't have much money, at least we had a place for international exchange activities. However, in the 1990s, we lost this building because of a dispute over this state-owned land. Unfortunately, IAC remains without a home since then. In spite of this problem, we succeeded in transforming the organization into an NPO organization in 2006 with the help of many people who wanted IAC to survive.

The development of the internet changed the environment of cultural exchange, but we have eventually identified projects IAC should be doing today.

Before we became an NPO, what we did was to organize interaction among artists and to watch the performance of specialists. After becoming an NPO, we are building on our close relationship with various embassies and organizing experience type events such as "Learning culture through food" and "Join us for tea at the embassy." These events are very popular because everybody can participate and the participants can understand other cultures by communicating with other people. By using your five senses; sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch, and by feeling with your heart, please experience different cultures with "see the world, experience the cultures" spirit. We would like to continue our cultural exchange projects where you get to like people no matter what nationality and race they belong to.

We appreciate your continuous support.

International Artists Center's 10th anniversary of becoming an NPO party was made possible by the support of following corporations, organizations, and embassies. We deeply appreciate their kind support.

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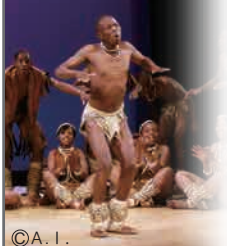
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(Terumi Kanaya, Director-General, International Artists Center)  
(translated by Keiko Hori, IAC)

Dancers from Botswana



## Join the IAC!

International Artists Center (IAC) is a non-profit organization. It was established in 1960 and has been doing its activities in the aim to contribute to the international understanding and the world peace through cultural exchanges programs.



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## Hello, dear embassy vol.23 Bosnia and Herzegovina



**The year 2016 marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Japan**  
**Mr. Tsuneyasu Miyamoto, former member of Japan's national soccer team, founded a soccer school in Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
**Coach Osim is a typical Bosnia and Herzegovina person**  
**Followings are the words from the counsellor who loves cherry blossoms and Onsen (Japanese hot spring)**

Located in the North-eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula, Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country with area of 51,000km<sup>2</sup>, which is about the size of Kyushu and Shikoku combined, and population of more than 4 million people. The capitol is Sarajevo. Agriculture and forestry are its main industries and it exports furniture to European countries. We interviewed the counsellor, Ms. Jelena PASIC at the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is located in Hiroo, Tokyo.

—When we hear the name Bosnia and Herzegovina, we think of the war between 1992 and 1995.

Ms. PASIC: “In Bosnia and Herzegovina, 50% of the people are Muslims, 31% Serbians, 15% Roman Catholic Croats. Today, we live together, paying respect to other groups. We celebrate each other's religious holidays. In this world of globalization, diversity is an advantage for us.”

—I understand that 2016 is a special year for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Japan.

Ms. PASIC: “The diplomatic relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Japan was established in 1996, so the year 2016 is a very special year that marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of our relations. This year, former member of Japan's soccer national team, Mr. Tsuneyasu Miyamoto founded a soccer school for children in Mostar, the southern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Sports play an important role in connecting people.”

—In Japan, I think the most well known person from Bosnia and Herzegovina is Mr. Ivica Osim, the former coach of Japan's national soccer team.

Ms. PASIC: “He is very famous in our country, too. He is a man of character.”

—Do you think Mr. Osim's personality represents the people in Bosnia and Herzegovina?

Ms. PASIC: “He is a typical Bosnia and Herzegovina person. He cares about people; does not hesitate to help others; and communicates sincerely with everyone: these characters are typical of a Bosnia and Herzegovina person. The present coach of Japan's national soccer team, Mr. Vahid Halilhodžić is also from Bosnia and Herzegovina. I think the personality of our people and the Japanese people are very similar. Both people are polite and hospitable. Please come to our country. I recommend that you see our capital, Sarajevo, the old city of Mostar which is listed as the world heritage, and Neum, a coastal town facing the Adriatic Sea.”

—For nearly an hour, Counsellor, Ms. PASIC answered my questions with a beautiful smile. I heard that the Ambassador is also female. It seems that Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country where women's social progress is common.

Organic farming is popular in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It has been exporting its organic wine to Japan for three years. Ms. PASIC showed us some containers of organic cosmetics Bosnia and Herzegovina is planning to export. Each package had a cute owl on its label.

I am sure that the relationship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Japan will deepen further.

(Sakurako Abe, IAC)  
 (translated by Keiko Hori, IAC)

Director General,

On this auspicious occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Artists Center (IAC) as an NPO, I would like to extend to you and your staff, on behalf of the Embassy of Guatemala, our warmest congratulations.

May the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the International Artists Center and the Embassy of Guatemala be further enhanced.

With my best wishes to you and your staff, I take this opportunity to renew the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
 Ángela María Chávez Bietti  
 Ambassador



Ms. Terumi Kanaya  
 Director General  
 International Artists Center  
 Tokyo

**Ms Terumi KANAYA**  
 Director-General  
 International Artists Center

Dear Ms Kanaya,

With reference to your letter date October, I would like to express to you my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Artists Center as a nonprofit organization.

I would like to thank you for your continued cooperation and look forward to working further with you to reinforce the cultural exchange and the friendly ties which so happily exist between Japan and Madagascar.

Sincerely yours,

  
  
 Rosette RASOAMANARIVO  
 Chargé d'Affaires a.i.