

Shimane Grassroots Summit 2013 *Flash Report*

The 23rd Japan America Grassroots Summit 2013 in Shimane



Snapshot of Yasugi Session

The 23rd Grassroots Summit was held in Shimane, the hometown of Japanese mythologies, from July 1 to 8, 2013.

The American participants enjoyed the various programs, including the Opening Ceremony at Izumo Grand Shrine which had just completed the renovation done in every 60 years, and spent a week encountering unique culture and warm hospitality of Shimane people.

Number of people: 95 from America (including 83 participants who home-stayed)

2,000 in total (including the American participants, events attendees, sponsors, volunteers, etc.)

Event Attendees:	1) Opening Ceremony	: 230	2) Opening Reception	: 230
	3) Local Sessions	: 500	4) Special Exchange at Schools	: 500
	5) Volunteers	: 80	6) Key Persons & Executive Committee	: 40
	7) Closing Ceremony	: 200	8) Closing Reception	: 220

7/1 (Mon.)	Departure from the United States	
7/2 (Tue.)	Arrival in Shimane	< Overnight at Hotel Ichibata >
7/3 (Wed.)	Morning: Optional Local Tours [A: Deep in the Heart of Matsue, B: Adachi Museum of Art & Yasugi-bushi, C: Yuushien & Gegege-no-Kitaro] Afternoon: Opening Ceremony at Izumo Grand Shrine & Reception at Shimane Winery	< Overnight at Hotel Ichibata >
7/4 (Thu.)	Departure for the local session areas	< Homestay >
7/5 (Fri.), 6 (Sat.)	Local Sessions	< Homestay >
7/7 (Sun.)	Departure from local areas and Closing Ceremony and Reception in Matsue	< Overnight at Tamatsukuri Hot Spring >
7/8 (Mon.)	Return to America / Optional Post Summit Program (Kyoto, Hiroshima, Kochi, Sendai, Tokyo)	

Japanese Summit Participants Reunion (7/2)

A reunion of Japanese past Summit participants was held on July 2 at "Lapita" in Izumo City. About 60 people who visited Shimane from all over Japan attended and listened to a lecture by Prof. Bon Koizumi, descendant of Lafcadio Hearn. They also enjoyed deep culture of Shimane, such as Yasugi-bushi dance (dojo-fish catching dance), Kasa-odori (umbrella dance), etc. They joined the Summit program of July 3 with the American participants and left Shimane on July 4.



Lesson of dojo-fish catching dance



Dinner over umbrella dance

Morning Lecture, Local Tour, and Japanese Tea & Sweets(7/3)

In the early morning of July 3, two guests gave the lectures to the participants. Prof. Bon Koizumi gave the thoughts about his ancestor, Lafcadio Hearn and Matsue, and Prof. Paul Maruyama talked about his father and the book, "Escape from Manchuria".



Prof. Maruyama (left) & Prof. Koizumi



Lecture by Prof. Koizumi



Prof. Maruyama and the participants



Deep in the Heart of Matsue



Yuushien & Kitaro Road



Adachi Museum of Art and Yasugi-bushi

The 3 different optional local tours were offered from 10 am. Each of them had unique taste and introduced the deep local cultures.

Shimane is famous for its green tea and Japanese sweets. With the cooperation of local confectionery, Furyudo, and tea company, Nakamura Chaho, delicious and beautiful sweets and green tea were served to the participants.



Demonstration of making artistic Japanese confection



Volunteer wearing Kimono

Opening Ceremony in Izumo Grand Shrine (7/3)

In the evening of July 3, the participants visited Izumo Grand Shrine and made prayers followed by the Opening Ceremony in its worship hall.



Zenbee Mizoguchi, Governor of Shimane



Takamasa Senge, Chief Priest of Izumo Grand Shrine



Hidetomo Nagaoka, Mayor of Izumo



Taizo Watanabe, CIE Chairman



Kurt Tong, DCM of U.S. Embassy



Matthew Perry, Descendant of Commodore Perry



Impressive presentation by TOMODACHI Callisburg Delegation



The Nakahamas & the Whitfields



Globe Exchange between the two families

Welcome Reception at Shimane Winery (7/3)

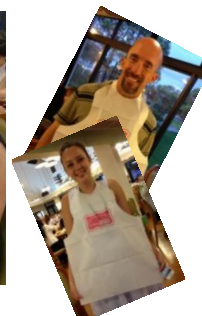
The Welcome Reception was held at Shimane Winery, and the menu was BBQ of Shimane beef, sea food, and fresh vegetables.



Performance of Shinto music and dance



Delicious BBQ



Masato Fujihara
Chairman of N.Y. Shimane Kenjin-kai

Local Session – Homestay Program (7/4~7/7)

In the morning of July 4, the participants left Matsue for the local session areas. The local session is a main part of the Summit, and 11 cities and towns all over Shimane offered 10 different programs.

The numbers of American participants are listed in brackets



1. Matsue (9)



2. Yasugi (9)



3. Izumo (8)



4. Izumo / Hirata (8)



5. Unnan(3)



6. Okuizumo (3)



7. Ohda (15)



8,9. Gotsu & Hamada (6)



10. Masuda (9)



11. Oki Islands (13)



★ Comments from Participants ★

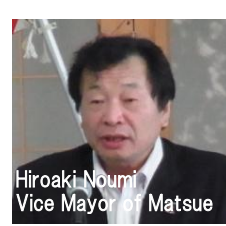
- My Dad took me on this trip for my eighteenth birthday. I've been interested in Japanese culture for a couple of years now and have wanted to visit Japan. During the trip, I fell in love with the culture I experienced and the wonderful people I met. This trip was unforgettably life-changing for me, and I will most definitely be going back to Japan soon. (K.M. / Female)
- What I am most impressed in Japan is the fact that everyday mundane activities are elevated to something very special through the emphasis on ceremony and decorum present in almost every aspect of life. From the gingerly manner by which a shop attendant wraps a purchased good, to intricately prepared dishes, manners and ceremony in the daily meal to the process of taking off ones shoes, and the correct way to place them at the door, to the proper order by which one takes a bath; everything is treated with care and thus is a memorable event in itself. (E.C. / Female)
- My host families were great and I felt very welcomed. Alas, the time was short, but I know for sure that I will return to see my host family and the other friends I made there. (J.E. / Male)

Closing Ceremony & Farewell Reception (7/7)

In the afternoon of July 7, day of Star Festival, the all participants gathered again at English Garden in Matsue. The Closing Ceremony and Farewell Reception started at 4:30 pm with many host families and volunteers. In the ceremony, pictures of each local session were presented, and Keiko Suzuki of Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana gave presentation about the next year's Summit. The reception was the garden party. All attendees enjoyed samurai performances, jazz music, local characters, etc., with delicious food and drinks.



Kiiichiro Arima,
Chair of Summit Executive Committee



Hiroaki Noumi,
Vice Mayor of Matsue



Paul Maruyama
Director of CIE-US



Presentation about San Diego Summit in 2014
by Keiko Suzuki



Tsutomu Karino
Honorary Chair of N.Y. Shimane Kenjin-kai



Scene of
Ceremony



Departure from Shimane, Post Summit Optional Program (7/8)

In the morning of July 8, the American participants left Shimane with a lot of memories. Most of them continued their travel in Japan for some more days, joining one of the Post Summit Optional Programs or on their own plan to explore the different culture and make more friends.

Good-bye to host families and volunteers in Shimane.



Kyoto & Tokyo Program
- at Kyoto Station



Hiroshima/Kochi & Tokyo Program
- at Kochi



Sendai & Tokyo Program
- at Sendai



Shimane Summit Executive Committee Members

Shimane Grassroots Summit Executive Committee :

Senge Takamasa, Zenbee Mizoguchi, Masataka Matsuura, Hideto Nagaoka, Kiiichiro Arima, Shigeyuki Yubuki, Nobuo Nakasa, Hiromichi Fujihara, Kuniyuki Tsubouchi, Masao Nagira, Noboru Kato, Yasuko Takahashi, Kazunari Yamazaki, Yosuke Hazeyama, Yoshiaki Shibutani, Kazuhiro Nobe, Satomi Miyazako, Yuji Moriwaki, Takaaki Naito, Takahiro Fujihara, Toshihiro Sakusa, Mieko Ito, Yoichiro Kurotani, Nobuyoshi Nakazawa

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