

Sakura News

Ikebana International
Volume 64 Issue 1



International
President
Miho Okawara

Dear Members of Ikebana International,

It is a great privilege to accept the presidency of Ikebana International for 2019-2020. I am so honored that I will devote myself entirely to Ikebana International as president in order to make I.I. a more progressive and friendly organization. But, at the same time, my term as International President has started with a great sense of responsibility and challenge.

Under our motto Friendship through Flowers, with able and supportive board members, and with your generous support and active involvement, I do believe that we can achieve the advancement of I.I.

I have studied ikebana for about 35 years. My mother who had mastered ikebana skill told me to learn and take ikebana lessons when I was a high school student. At that time, to me, ikebana sounded like a subject taught at a finishing school to prepare oneself to become a good wife and mother. After finishing my ikebana lessons and going home, I did not want to rearrange ikebana and I dumped my ikebana materials into a bucket. Instead, my mother took the floral materials I had used and arranged ikebana without scolding me. I now want to express my deepest apology to my mother who is currently suffering from dementia. And I have two teenaged daughters who are not interested in ikebana at all and have so far never taken ikebana lessons.

This might be the case also with other I.I. members. We might not be able to pass on the tradition of ikebana even to our daughters and sons even as I cannot. Therefore it is ironic that I am writing the president's message to promote ikebana to more than 7000 I.I. members all over the world!

Because of aging membership, the continued decrease in worldwide I.I. membership is our biggest concern, and no one disputes this. It is our great desire to encourage more and more young people to become active participants. We definitely have to work hard to sow the seeds of ikebana to grow around the world for the young generation.

I am going to do my best, and I want to thank all of the members for giving me this wonderful opportunity and look forward to serving as International President.

In friendship through flowers,
Miho Okawara
International President

Visit I.I. Website <http://www.ikebanahq.org>
log in to members' page Password : 1956sakura

Business plan for 2019-2020

1. Face-to-face communication – “Let’s Meet Up”

In this business year, the 18th North and Central American Regional Conference will be held from 27th to 31st October 2019 in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas, in the US.

Hyderabad Chapter in India will host the 15th Asian Regional Conference on 16th -19th November 2020.

Also, the next World Convention will be held in Tokyo in 2022.

Under our motto Friendship through Flowers, at these ikebana conferences, we enjoy and enrich our life through ikebana and flowers by meeting up face-to-face.

However, we live in a digital society. Even without the benefit of membership in Ikebana International, individuals can fulfill our Friendship through Flowers instantly by uploading some photos of his/her own ikebana artworks. People can achieve Friendship through Flowers by themselves without I.I. This urges us in I.I. to reconsider the different ways to increase membership, I think.

Even if I.I. chapters’ websites are brilliant, and even if the digital network among chapter members is well organized, these might not be enough, even though they are necessary.

Attractive gatherings would also bring our new members to I.I. chapters, I believe.

Face-to-face communication should be emphasized more or be paid attention to.

I would like to suggest that each chapter make continuous efforts to give more chances to their members to get together and have fun. This year I would like to encourage each chapter to give more chances for their members to meet up.

This is the first message I would like to convey to all of you as a business plan 2019-2020.

2. Membership.

To address the continued decrease in worldwide membership, we at Headquarters will analyze statistically the reason for that. Breakdown by regions, age, ikebana schools, and by duration of membership will help us make a more logical analysis in detail.

3. Publication

Sakura News, Chapter Activities, and I.I. Magazine which are published three times a year, are the main benefits which members can receive from our Headquarters.

We will not downgrade its quality; I would like to emphasize it.

In fact, since last December, the office staff position of “Publication Manager” has been vacant, because the manager left our office last year. Thus, I have a plan to hire a new publication manager and enhance our publication quality to satisfy our members all over the world.

4. New Year Luncheon

We will hold a New Year Luncheon on 27th January in 2020. Princess Takamado will honor us with her presence, and Mr. Hiroki Ohara, Headmaster of Ohara School, will demonstrate ikebana artworks at this luncheon. This time we have already sent our invitation letters to not only domestic chapters but also all overseas chapters.

We will open our doors to every member in the world to invite them to our New Year Luncheon to implement face-to-face communication with many I.I. members abroad.

5. Website

Communication through the Internet cannot be disregarded. We will enhance our Headquarters' website and try hard to keep Ikebana International members and friends well informed. We will recreate our website and try to promote I.I. to the world.

6. Ikebana Grand Prix

Every year Headquarters is asked to support the Ikebana Grand Prix by awarding prizes to the exhibition winners. This Ikebana exhibition and competition is to be held on 23rd November 2019, and the prize ceremony will be on 11th January 2020.

Annual General Meeting, September 5, 2019

Junko Nakajima, *Recording Secretary*

Date: September 5, 2019

Place: The International House of Japan, Lecture Hall
5-11-16 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Annual General Meeting of Ikebana International was opened by Acting International President Miho Okawara. Acting International President Miho Okawara called Annual General Meeting to order at 10:30 am.

Recording Secretary Junko Nakajima reported the total number of attendees including received proxies. Total attendees were 692.

1. Business Report for 2018-2019

Acting International President Miho Okawara presented the 2018-2019 Business Report.

2. Financial Report for 2018-2019

Treasurer Rieko Kawamura made the report on financial statement for 2018-2019 business year, which was audited by Accounting Auditor of Ikebana International.

3. Announcement of candidates

Nominating Director Nobuko Matsubara announced the candidates' names of 19 Board Directors and 1 Auditor and 1 Accounting Auditor.

4. Election of nineteen (19) Directors of the International Board

Election took place for each candidate by raising hand. Tellers Kazuko Yano and Yumie Sasaki counted the voting numbers.

Acting International President announced that the 19 elected Board Directors for 2019-2020 were approved by a majority of affirmative votes. All elected Board Directors accepted to assume office.

5. Election of one Auditor and one Accounting Auditor

Auditor Yoshimasa Usui (2019-2021) and Accounting Auditor Mikio Koyano (2019-2020) were approved by a majority of affirmative votes. They accepted to assume the office.

6. Annual General Meeting Recess

The Annual General Meeting went recess. New Board of Directors left the room to hold the first Board of Directors Meeting.

7. The Annual General Meeting 2

International President Miho Okawara called to order the Annual General Meeting second session and made a greeting to all participants.

International President Miho Okawara introduced newly elected International Board of Directors, Auditor and Accounting Auditor.

Business	Name
First Vice-President	Nobuko Sakata
Second Vice-President	Midori Murayama
Third Vice-President	Shizuko Okubo
Recording Secretary	Junko Nakajima
Corresponding Secretary	Kumiko Kameoka
Treasurer	Reiko Inumaru
Assistant Treasurer	Kumi Okamura
Historian	Ikuko Tsuchiya
Development Director	Yoko Sowa
Convention Director	Wienaczylawa Sato

Business	Name
Nominating Director	Tamiko Tamura
Protocol Director	Noriyo Nagasaki
Publication Director	Yoko Ueda
Public Relations Director	Chiaki Sugimura
Translation Director	Yoriko Kosano
Coordinating Director	Chisato Obikane
Website Director	Rieko Kawamura
Amendment Director	Keiko Matsutani
Auditor	Yoshimasa Usui
Accounting Auditor	Mikio Koyano

8. Acceptance Speech and Business Plan

International President made an acceptance speech and presented the business plan for 2019 – 2020 business year.

9. Proposed Budget

Proposed Budget for 2019-2020 business year was reported by Treasurer Reiko Inumaru.

10. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

International President Miho Okawara expressed her gratitude to all participants. This concluded the Annual General Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

The Oedo Cultural Art Festival 2019

Ikuko Tsuchiya, Historian

The Oedo Cultural Art Festival 2019 was held at the Hamarikyu Garden in Tokyo on August 23, 24 and 25. The world-famous fashion designer Junko Koshino assumed the role of general producer for the entire event. Various events were arranged for visitors to enjoy Japanese culture in the garden with the support of the Agency for Cultural Affairs and Chuo Ward Office.

Ikebana International used the falconer's house called "Taka no Ochaya" to display the board members' ikebana arrangements of six schools as well as two fantastic works by Junko Koshino. And in the garden, a contemporary work of driftwood was boldly displayed outside of the falconer's house.

There were performances of several Japanese martial arts and Japanese comic story telling (rakugo) on the ship departing from the park. A wide range of performances including Japanese traditional music (hougaku) and tea ceremony were given.

The ikebana exhibition showing the sophisticated culture in Edo period was well accepted by the visitors. They seemed to be impressed that I.I. consists of various different ikebana schools. It was a wonderful opportunity to introduce Ikebana International to the visitors.



International Board Directors (2019-2020)



Miho Okawara Int'l President

I've spent my life as a typical expat family life such as moving out and moving back, London UK twice, and New York US once. I love cooking, karaoke, Korean drama, mindfulness meditation, humor, and undoubtedly IKEBANA!



Midori Murayama Second VP

I live in Tokyo. I would like to have lots of friends in and out of Japan through Ikebana International. My family includes; my husband, a son-in-law, a daughter and a 17-year-old miniature dachshund named Pao.



Junko Nakajima Rec. Secretary

My admiration of American culture started when I was in junior high. I.I. activities give me opportunities to enhance my interest. I will work hard as Recording Secretary. My hobbies are Ikebana, cooking, and studying English. I also enjoy swimming.



Reiko Inumaru Treasurer

My hobbies are IKEBANA and TEA CEREMONY in English. This summer, I traveled to Melbourne, Australia to meet my host family and visit my memorable high school after a 40-year absence!



Ikuko Tsuchiya Historian

I love eating and trips. Seeing various flowers and flower decorations in visiting countries is the joy of my trips.



Yoko Sowa Development D.

My hobby is reading books, especially historical novels and fantasy filled with adventure. I am now going back and reading The Tale of Genji! I have been a regional book club officer for parents, children and young adults for 25 years.



Noriyo Nagasaki Protocol D.

I'm so happy to have many Ikebana friends all over the world. I love skiing same as Ikebana. I enjoyed skiing not only in Japan but also in Europe and Canada. I hope to enjoy Ikebana and skiing with you.



Chiaki Sugimura PR D.

I am deeply intrigued by Ikebana and my life revolves around it. I am happy to play with all kinds of materials, whatever I find in my daily life and create them into an art form.



Chisato Obikane Coordinating D.

My fondest memory of being part of Ikebana International was at Floriade World Horticultural Expo in 2012 where I took part in organizing a flower arrangement exhibition, workshop, and demonstration at the Japan Booth.



Wienczyslawa Sato Convention D.

My engaging passion for flowers led me to study two Ikebana schools and get teacher's licenses of both Sogetsu and Ikenobo. Also, I became a master of the Japanese tea ceremony. This love for Ikebana also led me to join I.I.



Nobuko Sakata First VP

I started piano lessons when I was over 40 years old. Since then my piano has become one of my best friends. Playing the piano is therapy for me. Of course Ikebana too.



Shizuko Okubo Third VP

I am in charge of membership. I like cooking and washing but am not very good at cleaning. Tips appreciated on how to lose some weight.



Kumiko Kameoka Corres. Secretary

When I was a child I was impressed with my mother's Ikebana and I had a dream to spread Ikebana all over the world. Now my dream has come true. I enjoy reading Chapter Activity Reports sent from all over the world.



Kumi Okamura Assis. Treasurer

I love getting together with others and enjoying delicious foods and drinks. My husband and daughter also take Ikebana lessons from the headmaster of an Ikebana school. We are an Ikebana-loving family.



Keiko Matsutani Amendment D.

I appreciate the opportunity to engage with Ikebana International. I work part time at a female-only medical clinic and my pet toy poodle heals my daily fatigue. I enjoy playing golf and going out for lunch with friends.



Tamiko Tamura Nominating D.

I am a biochemist, researcher of pancreatic disease. I was a presenter at the VIII World Congress of Anatomic and Clinical Pathology in Munchen. I am also the founder of Indonesia Chapter of Ikenobo in 1980 and the founder of London Surrey Study Group of Ikenobo in 1989.



Yoko Ueda Publication D.

It is very exciting to learn that many people around the world love our Japanese culture of Ikebana. I can't thank everyone enough who is and has been involved in Ikebana International.



Yoriko Kosano Translation D.

I was born in Yokosuka and I still live there. My father has helped a lot of American people, asking "Is there any problem?" Later I noticed he could "lend his hand" to give them communication to better their life in Japan.



Rieko Kawamura Website D.

I like baking sweets, but I am very careful not to eat too much.

The 15th Asian Regional Conference

Nobuko Sakata, *International First Vice President*

The registration has already started for the 15th Asian Regional Conference in Hyderabad, India.

This conference will be held from 16th to 19th November 2020 in Hyderabad, India under the theme of “Prakriti Laya,” Rhythm of Nature. For further information and the registration form, please visit our website or contact ii15arc2020@gmail.com

Membership

Shizuko Okubo, *International Third Vice President*

Your membership dues are vital for us !

Ikebana International has 6,235 members as of October 10, 2019. There are still several chapters which have not submitted membership dues to Headquarters for this year (2019-2020). The deadline was July 1. If you have not submitted your dues, we earnestly request you to do so no later than December 1, 2019. We are sorry to say that if the dues are not received by December 1, 2019, all I.I. publications (including I.I. Magazines) and membership number (membership cards) will no longer be retained. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact the 3rd vice president at i.i.thirdvp@ikebanahq.org

In Memoriam: Allie Uyehara

Stephanie Tomiyasu, *Past International President*

Allie Uyehara was an original member of Ikebana International, having attended Ellen Gordon Allen's founding meeting at International House in Tokyo in 1956. Allie was a strong advocate for the art of ikebana and a devoted member of I.I. With her warm and cheerful personality, she was a powerful force for I.I. wherever she lived.

Allie grew up in a small Montana town, Chinook, a town that now has a population of around a thousand. She met her husband Cecil when they were students at the University of Minnesota. After they moved to Japan in 1955, she began to study ikebana, earning teaching certificates in both the Sogetsu and Saga Goryu Schools.

Allie founded three chapters of Ikebana International: Chinook #8, Boston #17, and Dayton (Ohio) #33. She served on the Board of Directors of Washington, DC, Chapter #1 from 1972 to 2014. She even taught ikebana in Kabul, Afghanistan, when Cecil's work took them there.

Allie made many trips back to Chinook to hold ikebana workshops. This chapter, in a rural part of a mainly rural state, continued to be active until Allie's final illness prevented her from travelling.

Allie died on February 5, 2019, at 92.

Ikebana International 'New Year Luncheon 2020

You are all cordially invited to attend the Ikebana International Annual New Year Luncheon on 27th January 2020 at the Palace Hotel, Tokyo. Our Honorary President HIH Princess Takamado will honor us with her presence. We would like you to join us to celebrate the New Year 2020 and enjoy a special Ikebana demonstration by **Mr. Hiroki Ohara, Headmaster of Ohara School**. In addition, we have prepared a program for a workshop of Origami on the next day, January 28th. Seats are limited and will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

New Year Luncheon: January 27, 2020 (Mon) 11:00-14:45

Fee: JPY 14,000(Member) JPY 15,000 (Non-member)

RSVP: by November 29, 2019 (Fri)
Reservation will be secured after your payment is confirmed.

Cancellation: Deadline January 16, 2020 (Thur) No refund after January 16.

Workshop: January 28, 2020 (Tues) 11:30am~3:30pm

A workshop of Origami followed by a tasting of matcha (green tea) and Japanese lunch at an authentic Japanese restaurant "Shimakin" (<http://shimakin-w.jp/>) will be held. The fee is JPY 5,000 including everything.

International members who plan to attend, please send inquiries to Shizuko Okubo, *shizuko.okubo@gmail.com*.

We look forward to seeing you at the New Year Luncheon in Tokyo,

Donations

Reiko Inumaru, Treasurer

We gratefully acknowledge donations made by:

¥ 50,000 from Ms. Fujiko Masuda, TFC

¥ 54,820 from Ms. Junko Koshino, producer of Hamarikyū Oedo Cultural Arts Festival 2019

On behalf of Ikebana International, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your continued support.

Payment Options

Reiko Inumaru, Treasurer

Chapters and Individual Members paying directly to Headquarters are requested to pay and remit the annual dues of JPY 6,000 (per person) plus the bank charge or the handling fee. All payments should be made to Ikebana International in Japanese yen. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

1. Money Transfer: Mizuho Bank LTD
Bank Charge: JPY 4,000

Bank: MIZUHO BANK LTD

Kudan Branch

2-4 Kanda Jimbo-cho, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 101-0051, JAPAN

Branch Number: 532

Account Number: 0719019

Swift Code: MHCBJPJT

2. Credit Card: Through PayPal on I.I. Website
PayPal handling fee: 5%

Credit Card: Visa, MasterCard, American Express,
etc.

PayPal Account Transfer: account@ikebanahq.org

3. Money Transfer: Japan Post Office

Japan Post Office: No. 00170-4-719272

As of December 3, 2018, Mizuho Bank Japan will no longer accept personal checks.

Due to this change, we ask that all dues sent to Japan, be made by bank transfer or through our PayPal account on our website.

We apologize for the inconvenience this might cause, and thank you for your understanding in this matter.

In Memoriam

May - September 2019

Chapter	Chapter No.	Name
Washington, D.C.	1	Ms. Kathleen Skip Wilkinson
New York	7	Ms. Toshiko S. Alden
Boston	17	Ms. Frances Sadler
Pittsburgh	25	Ms. Karen Yee
Chicago	27	Ms. Suzuko Shimosawa
Fort Worth	38	Ms. Beverly Harden
Buenos Aires	40	Ms. Susana Kurokawa
San Antonio	46	Ms. Mary Ann Short
Portland	47	Ms. Lou Ellen Barnes-Willis
Rochester	53	Ms. Julianna Hart
Adelaide	61	Ms. Mary Jessup
Fukuoka	76	Ms. Musoyo Sano
Fukuoka	76	Ms. Kimiko Kakehashi
Columbus	84	Ms. Mary Sullivan
Fayetteville	140	Ms. Lorette Hollinshead
Cebu	145	Ms. Betty Eustaquio
St. Andrew	156	Ms. Joan Rose
Cagayan de Oro	163	Ms. Myrna Eloisa Varias Ramos
Paris	219	Ms. Atsuko Kato
Paris	219	Ms. Catherine Le Guay
Basel	227	Ms. Annegrete Herzog
Saitama	260	Ms. Mitsuko Kawasaki

❁ Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends.

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