

Sakura News

Ikebana International
Volume 68 Issue 3
June 2024



International
President
Tomoko Takada

Dear Ikebana International Members,

This issue of Sakura News is the last one for this fiscal year.

During the year, I have been working with the members of the International Board and the office staff to cope with many issues.

The notice of the Annual General Meeting, including the proxies that our members use to vote for the Directors on the International Board, is going to be published on the I.I. website, rather than sent by postal mail to each member. Using the website to notify members, the only cost that I.I. will have is for entering the information into the website. This will save I.I. a huge amount of money.

All chapter members and individual members have been asked to consent formally to the new method. At this time, I would like to express my gratitude to all the chapters and members who have cooperated with this request. It is difficult to make a big change like this, but if the new method takes root, I.I. will save a lot of money in the years to come. If problems arise from this system, we will have to create another solution.

Other Ikebana organizations, Ikebana schools, and chapters are gradually switching to the internet. The paper-based method is now being reevaluated widely because of the time and expense involved. However, we will continue to publish the magazine three times a year on paper. We realize that the magazine is much looked forward to by members, especially those outside of Japan.

When Ikebana International started this fiscal year, the budget predicted a deficit for the first time ever. Furthermore, due to the extreme depreciation of the yen, all costs went up incredibly high. However, by now, we have taken various measures to rebuild our fiscal situation. With your cooperation, we have managed to make progress. As I.I. continues to be in a difficult financial condition, donations are especially appreciated. The procedure for sending donations to I.I. is explained in "Payment Options" in Sakura News.

The schedule for the next fiscal year is as follows:

- * The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 25, at the International House of Japan, in Tokyo.
- * The 19th North and Central American Regional (NCAR) Conference will be held from October 13 to 17, in Philadelphia.
- * The I.I. 13th World Convention will be held from April 25 to 28, 2025, in Kyoto.

As you know, our Honorary Advisor, Ms. Wakako Ohara, passed away last year. We asked Ms. Midori Purdy, who was the sixteenth International President, if she could take this position. I am happy to inform you that we have received her consent.

With the advice of our two honorary advisors, Ms. Etsuko Hattori and Ms. Midori Purdy, the International Board of Directors and I will devote ourselves to this wonderful association.

I sincerely hope that, through flowers, the bonds of our friendship will expand further.

Tomoko Takada
International President

Future Regional Conferences

Chisato Obikane, International First Vice-President

Registration for the 19th North and Central American Regional Conference closes on August 15th.

- Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
- Host: Philadelphia Chapter #71
- Dates: October 13 to 18, 2024
- Principal Guest Master: Naohiro Kasuya, Headmaster of the Ichiyo School of Ikebana
- Please register on the following website:
<https://ikebanaphiladelphia.org/ncarc-2024>
- The program is available at that link.

16th Asian Regional Conference

- Location: Manila, Philippines
- Host: Manila Chapter #108
- Duration: October 14 to 17, 2026
- Principal Guest Master: Currently under negotiation
- Details will be posted on the “Future Events” page of the I.I. website as soon as they are finalized:
<https://ikebanahq.org/future-events>

10th European Regional Conference

- Host Chapter and dates for the 10th European Regional Conference are currently open for applications from chapters.

For further information about Regional Conferences, please contact First Vice-President Chisato Obikane <i.i.firstvp@ikebanahq.org>

Membership

Tomiko Uesato, International Third Vice-President

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all Chapter Presidents and members for their cooperation in approving the change in the Convocation Notice procedures.

As of 23 May 2024, I.I.'s total registered membership (including individual members) was 6,350 in 137 chapters, including 6 prospective chapters. This is an increase of 120 compared to the previous fiscal year. All chapters have been enthusiastically participating in the Membership Drive Campaign. Thank you for your hard work.

To report the results of the Membership Drive as equitably as possible, we divided the chapters into four categories based on their size. The categories are A: 100 or more members, B: 50 to 99 members; C: 20 to 49 members; D: fewer than 20 members.

As of 10 May 2024, the ten chapters with the largest percentage increase in membership are, by category, A: Philadelphia #71 and San Francisco Bay Area #31, B: Hyderabad #250 and Manila #108, C: Rochester #53, Cagayan de Oro #163, and Monterey Bay #231, D: Madison #28, Traverse City #165, and St Andrew #156. We will soon send Certificates of Appreciation to the Presidents of those chapters.

We are hoping to have many more members by April 2025 when the I.I. 13th World Convention will be held.

Friendship through Flowers can bring joy to everyone.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at <i.i.thirdvp@ikebanahq.org> or <member@ikebanahq.org>.

Registration for the I.I. 13th World Convention

Miyoko Watanabe, Registration Committee Chairperson

We would like to thank the more than 800 members who have already sent their registration forms for the I.I. 13th World Convention.

Please register as early as possible.

The early registration fee, from April 1 to August 31, 2024, is JPY115,000.

The registration fee from September 1 until the registration deadline, November 30, 2024, is JPY135,000.

How to register:

1. In the I.I. website, <<http://www.ikebanahq.org>>, click on the I.I. 13th World Convention logo in the lower right corner of the page.
2. In the next screen, click on the blue REGISTRATION button.
3. Put the password for I.I. members, 1956sakura, into the REGISTRATION screen, and click on ENTER.
4. In the next screen, click on “View more” (English).
5. Follow the instructions under the heading “How to make Registration/Reservation” to register for the World Convention and to make your hotel reservation.

To pay the registration fee by bank transfer at the time you are registering, please contact the JTBGMT (Japan Travel Bureau Global Marketing & Travel Co., Ltd.) I.I. 13th World Convention desk at <ikebana-int13@gmt.jtb.jp>.

If you have difficulty using JTBGMT’s AMARYS online registration system, please contact us at <ikebanaconvention@ikebanahq.org> for assistance.

Program Committee, I.I. 13th World Convention

Miho Okawara, Program Committee Chairperson

The Program Committee’s responsibilities include the seven Ikebana masters’ demonstrations, the members’ Ikebana exhibition, the cultural programs, the day tours, and members’ demonstrations.

Thanks to your support, the members’ Ikebana exhibition, the cultural programs, and the day tours are already fully booked.

However, it is possible that cancellations may occur.

Regrettably, the application system being used for the World Convention cannot make a “wait list” that would list requests in the order of receipt.

Whenever cancellations occur in any of the fully booked programs, a notice that there is a vacancy will appear in the online registration page. Vacancies will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, so if you are waiting for an opening, please check the online registration page regularly.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, and appreciate your understanding.

We look forward to seeing you next year at the I.I. 13th World Convention in Kyoto.

**Sakura News can be read
on our homepage.**

Visit I.I. Website <https://ikebanahq.org>

Log in to Members Only page, password: **1956sakura**

Business Committee, I.I. 13th World Convention

Nobuko Sakata, Business Committee Chairperson

The working lunch, one of the most popular programs at the World Conventions, is where registrants can voice their opinions and ideas about I.I. in a relaxed atmosphere. In order to have a fruitful meeting, members of all chapters are requested to propose topics for the discussion. Your suggestions are always appreciated. Please send your ideas to Business Committee Chairperson Nobuko Sakata at <ikebanaconvention@ikebanahq.org>, or fax them to I.I. Headquarters (+81-3-3294-2272). You can also send them to Headquarters by postal mail. The deadline for receipt of suggestions is November 30, 2024.

Hospitality Committee, I.I. 13th World Convention

Tamiko Tamura, Hospitality Committee Chairperson

The Hospitality Committee aims to make the I.I. 13th World Convention a delightful and enjoyable experience for everyone. Our main responsibilities include organizing the Welcome Dinner, the Friendship Room, and the Sayonara Banquet, and serving as hall ushers. We are grateful for the support and cooperation of the Nagoya and Okinawa Chapters, who have agreed to manage the Friendship Room. Requests from the Friendship Room Committee:

An area will be set up in the Friendship Room where registrants can view newsletters, magazines, and yearbooks from the chapters. Please have a member of your chapter to bring the chapter's materials to the Friendship Room.

We also welcome donations of drinks and specialty snacks from where you live.

From the Hall Ushers:

Before and after the iemotos' demonstrations, there will be a complete changeover of the stage. During those times, we ask for your cooperation with instructions from the hall ushers. They will be wearing pink sashes.

Chapter Anniversaries 2024 Congratulations

65th Anniversary

Seattle #19	Mar.
Cleveland #20	May
Milwaukee #22	May
Hong Kong #24	Sep.
Pittsburgh #25	Sep.
Sacramento #26	Sep.
Chicago #27	Sep.
Madison #28	Sep.
Melbourne #29	Sep.

60th Anniversary

Sapporo #69	May
Philadelphia #71	May
Kuala Lumpur #72	May

55th Anniversary

Busan #99	Sep.
Ottawa Centennial #120	Oct.
Minneapolis-St. Paul #121	Mar.
Miami #131	Jan.
Lansing #134	Sep.
Singapore #135	Jan.
Geneva #143	Sep.

50th Anniversary

Kobe #181	Sep.
Columbia #182	Sep.

45th Anniversary

Helsinki #193	Sep.
Asuncion #198	Sep.
Frankfurt #199	Sep.
Karachi #204	Sep.

35th Anniversary

Castillon Du Gard #225	Jan.
Monterey Bay #231	Apr.

15th Anniversary

Panama #257	Jan.
Mumbai #258	Apr.
Hiroshima #261	Sep.
Sri Lanka #262	Oct.

Donations

Kumiko Kameoka, International Treasurer

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:

* JPY598,000 from Hong Kong Chapter #24 in memory of the late Ms. Lucille H. Evans

* JPY10,000 from Ms. Carol Hutton, Washington D.C. Chapter #1, in memory of the late Ms. Noriko Matsudaira

We appreciate your continued support.

Correction to Donations notice in Sakura News 68-2:

* USD400 from Ms. Celia G. Lazaro, Manila Chapter #108, in memory of the late Ms. Carmen S. Guevara and the late Ms. Noriko Matsudaira

On behalf of Ikebana International, I apologize for the errors.

Payment Options

Kumiko Kameoka, Treasurer

No Foreign Currency Checks

No major banks in Japan accept checks in foreign currency that are drawn on overseas banks.

Make Donations to I.I. by Bank Transfer

If you would like to make a donation to I.I., please send the funds to Japan by bank transfer. We apologize for any inconvenience that this might cause. Thank you for your understanding. You have to use bank transfer because laws and regulations do not allow PayPal to process donations to organizations like I.I.

How to Send Payments to I.I.

1. Credit Card - PayPal on I.I. Website

For membership dues and online shopping

PayPal Handling Charge: 5%

1) Credit card: Visa, Master Card, American Express, etc.

2) PayPal account transfer: <account@ikebanahq.org>

2. Money Transfer - Mizuho Bank, Ltd.

For membership dues and donations from anywhere in the world

Amount charged by bank in Japan: JPY4,000 per transfer

Name of bank : Mizuho Bank, Ltd., Kudan Branch.

Address of bank: 2-4 Kanda Jimbo-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0051, Japan

Bank branch's number: 532

Account number and name on account: 0719019, Ikebana International

SWIFT code: MHCBJPJT

3. Money Transfer - Japan Post Bank

Only for membership dues and donations from within Japan

Account number and name on account: 00170-4-719272, Ikebana International

Important information about bank charges

All payments to Ikebana International must be made in **Japanese yen**.

In addition to the amount that you are paying I.I., please also pay all of the **sending bank's** charges, charges applied by any **intermediary banks**, and, importantly, the **Japanese bank's** charge (JPY4,000).

Nominees for 2024-2025 International Board of Directors and Accounting Auditor

Ikuko Tsuchiya, International Nominating Director

1) Directors	
01 Takada, Tomoko (President)	Born in Yokohama, Japan. Sogetsu School. Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 1990. TFC: Protocol Chairperson (2002-2004), 2nd Vice-President (2003-2004, 2007-2008). International Nominating Director (2005-2006). International Development Director (2006-2007). International Protocol Director (2020-2021). International President (2023-2024). I.I. 11th World Convention Protocol Chairperson (2017).
02 Akagawa, Sumiko	Born in Tochigi, Japan. Sogetsu School. Joined I.I. Saitama Chapter in 2018. Saitama Chapter: Historian (2019-2021), President (2021-2023). International Publication Director (2023-2024).
03 Arai, Mikie	Born in Tokyo, Japan. Sogetsu School. Joined I.I. Saitama Chapter in 2008. Saitama Chapter: 2nd Vice-President (2017-2019), President (2019-2021). International Publication Director (2021-2023). International Development Director (2023-2024).
04 Ehara, Kyoko	Born in Shizuoka, Japan. Ohara School. Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 1991. TFC: Assistant Treasurer (1995-1997), Fair Raffle Chairperson (2017). International Historian (2007-2008). International Nominating Director (2020-2021). I.I. 7th World Convention Video and Photo Director (1996). I.I. 9th World Convention Photo Director (2006).
05 Hamada, Kazuhiro	Born in Nagano, Japan. Shinpa Seizan School. Joined I.I. Shinano Prospective Chapter in 2016. Shinano Prospective Chapter: Secretary-General (2021-2024).
06 Hamanaka, Mika	Born in Yokohama, Japan. Koryu Katabamikai. Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 1999. TFC: Reception Desk Chairperson (2019-2021), Hospitality Chairperson (2021-2023). International Historian (2023-2024).
07 Inumaru, Reiko	Born in Tokyo, Japan. Ohara School. Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 2006. TFC: Protocol Co-Chairperson (2014-2015), 2nd Vice-President (2015-2017), Fair Co-Coordinator (2016). International Public Relations Director (2017-2019). International Treasurer (2019-2021). International Amendment Director (2021-2023). International 2nd Vice-President (2023-2024). I.I. 11th World Convention General Affairs Information Co-Director (2017).
08 Kasuga, Kaeko	Born in Tokushima, Japan. Ikenobo. Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 2005. TFC: Secretary (2010-2011), Treasurer (2011-2012, 2013-2014), Office Manager (2012-2013, 2014-2015), Ways and Means Chairperson (2015-2017). International Assistant Treasurer (2022-2024).
09 Mori, Kyoko	Born in Tokyo, Japan. Ohara School. Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 2014. TFC: Protocol Committee (2015-2019), Green Campaign Chairperson (2017-2018).
10 Mukasa, Reiko	Born in Kanagawa, Japan. Ohara School. Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 2016. TFC: General Affairs Chairperson (2018-2020), Recording Secretary (2020-2021).
11 Obikane, Chisato	Born in Tokyo, Japan. Koryu Shookai. Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 1986. TFC: Treasurer (1987-1988), Public Relations Chairperson (2005-2007), Ways and Means Chairperson (2007-2009). International Third Vice-President (2010-2012). International Assistant Treasurer (2019-2020). International Coordinating Director (2019-2021). International Nominating Director (2021-2022). International First Vice-President (2023-2024). I.I. 12th World Convention General Affairs Chairperson (2019-2022).
12 Otsuka, Hiroko	Born in Yokohama, Japan. Sogetsu School. Joined I.I. Kamakura Chapter in 2009. Kamakura Chapter: Treasurer (2014-2015). Program Chairperson (2017-2018), 1st Vice-President (2018-2019, 2022-2023), President (2019-2020). International Amendment Director (2023-2024).

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- 13 Sato, Hanako** Born in Tokyo, Japan. Sogetsu School. Joined I.I. Boston Chapter (USA) in 1987. Boston Chapter: 1st Vice-President (1988-1989). Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC): 3rd Vice-President (2000-2002), Reception Desk Director (2003-2005). International PR Director (1990-1992). International 3rd Vice-President (1994-1996). International Website Director (1995-2004). International Historian (1996-1997). International Treasurer (2007-2009). International Recording Secretary (2023-2024). I.I. 8th World Convention PR Director (2001).
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- 14 Sugimura, Chiaki** Born in Tokyo, Japan. Ichiyo School. Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 2012. TFC: Recording Secretary (2015-2017, 2018-2019), Parliamentarian (2017-2018). International PR Director (2019-2021). International Development Director (2021-2023). I.I. 12th World Convention Recording Secretary (2019-2022).
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- 15 Uesato, Tomiko** Born in Okinawa, Japan. Ohara School. Joined I.I. Kobe Chapter in 1995. Kobe Chapter: Treasurer (1999-2001). Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC): Protocol Chairperson (2005-2007). International Publication Director (2009-2011). New Association Preparation Committee (2009-2012). International 3rd Vice-President (2013-2015, 2022-2024). International Treasurer (2015-2017). I.I. 11th World Convention Program Co-Chairperson (2015-2017). I.I. 12th World Convention Protocol Chairperson (2019-2022).
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- 16 Usui, Nobuko** Born in Tokyo, Japan. Ohara School. Joined I.I. Columbus Chapter (USA) in 1983. International Treasurer (2001-2002). International 2nd Vice-President (2003-2004). International President (2013-2015). I.I. 10th World Convention Chairperson (2007-2012). I.I. 13th World Convention Start Up Committee Chairperson (2022-2023). I.I. 13th World Convention Chairperson (2023-2024).
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- 17 Yamagiwa, Midori** Born in Tokyo, Japan. Ohara School. Joined I.I. Toronto Chapter (Canada) in 1999. Transferred to Kamakura Chapter in 2002. Kamakura Chapter: Treasurer (2019-2020), President (2023-2024).
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- 18 Yamazaki, Akemi** Born in Osaka, Japan. Mami Flower Design School. Joined I.I. Kobe Chapter in 1988. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC): Office Manager (2009-2010), Historian (2010-2011), Nominations (2012-2013). International Public Relations Director (1998-1999). International Coordinating Director (2023-2024). I.I. 9th World Convention Lunch and Dinner Director (2006). I.I. 10th World Convention Historian Director (2012).
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- 19 Yanagisawa, Kimie** Born in Tokyo, Japan. Sogetsu School. Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 1986. TFC: Protocol Co-Chairperson (2012-2013). International Protocol Director (2022-2024). I.I. 12th World Convention General Affairs Public Relations Director (2019-2022).
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2) Accounting Auditor

- 01 Koyano, Mikio** Certified Public Accountant, Koyano CPA Office
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In Memoriam February 2024 - May 2024

Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends

TFC	Tokyo Founding	Ms. Riho Miyamoto	San Francisco Bay Area	31	Ms. Mieko Taketa
TFC	Tokyo Founding	Mr. Takashi Yoshizaki	Sydney	36	Ms. Lynda Gaskell
New York	7	Ms. Shigeno Okamoto	Kamakura	51	Ms. Junko Saotome
Seattle	19	Ms. Mei-Lan Huang	Geneva	143	Ms. Myriam Maystre
Seattle	19	Ms. Shigeeko Price	Netherlands	215	Ms. Corrie van der Meer
Hong Kong	24	Ms. Nancy Chung	Basel	227	Ms. Erika Steiger
Hong Kong	24	Ms. Lucille H. Evans	Mexico	228	Ms. Selma Eckstein
Melbourne	29	Ms. Rosemary Farrelly	Berlin	246	Ms. Marianne M. Pucks
San Francisco Bay Area	31	Ms. Annemette Sorenson			