



12<sup>th</sup> World Convention Chairperson  
Wienczysława Sato

It was with great sadness on February 15, 2022 that we announced the cancellation of the 12th World Convention because of the Covid-19 pandemic that had been affecting the world for the past three years. This difficult decision was made to avoid a huge financial risk to our organization as well as the danger of spreading the virus among convention participants.

### **To review:**

The Committee of the Convention (COC) committee began their work in September 2019. Three months later, the pandemic started in Wuhan and spread throughout the world, not bypassing Japan. The COC committee worked hard on the program, registration procedures, negotiation with hotel and setup company to build the stage and provide light and sound as well as recordings of all Ikebana demonstrations and workshops, etc. In January 2021, the COC committee requested that the 12<sup>th</sup> World Convention, which was originally planned to be held in May 1-4, 2022, should be postponed for one year, hoping that pandemic would soon improve as well as the Japanese border would open for tourism flow and allow overseas to join the world convention. The battle against the coronavirus pandemic posed a challenge as we attempted to organize a convention on an international scale, adapting to new circumstances and requirements. As a result, several changes compared to previous world conventions were introduced into the program. However, by the end of 2021 the world was hit with the next pandemic and at this point, no one could guarantee that year 2023 would be free of pandemic or that tourist traffic would return to normal. The complete cancellation of the 12th World Convention allowed us to begin anew to plan the 13th World Convention. Thus and however reluctantly, Ikebana International assured all members that the world convention will be held as soon as safety could be ensured.

### **Overview of the plan:**

The 12<sup>th</sup> World Convention was planned to be held in May 2022 at the New Otani Hotel, which is one of Tokyo's finest hotels with a tradition of accomplished service. Nestled in the heart of Tokyo, the hotel is convenient to many forms of transportation yet is quiet and restful, offering a center of repose in the metropolis. May has Japan's best weather; days are dry and warm with generous sunshine, trees are in blossom, and many flowers in the hotel's ample garden do an excellent job at being beautiful.