

Photos (clockwise from top left): Byodo-in Temple, Itsukushima-jinja Shrine, Ryoan-ji Temple and Itsukushima-jinja Shrine, © Katsuyoshi Miyoshi/PPS

“World Heritage Photo Panels from Japan: Two Thousand Years of Legacies” Photography Exhibition

January 15-March 13, 2011 at the Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio

On the evening of Thursday January 13, 2011, UTSA’s East Asia Institute and the Institute of Texan Cultures jointly held an opening reception for the *World Heritage Photo Panels from Japan: Two Thousand Years of Legacies* Photo Exhibition. The exhibition features over 60 photos of Japan’s beautiful World Heritage Sites taken by world-renowned photographer Katsuyoshi Miyoshi.

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) established the World Heritage Convention in 1972 to encourage the preservation of historical sites and cultural heritage. Japan joined the World Heritage Convention in 1992 and currently has 14 sites inscribed on the World Heritage list.





A Dome show (left) that features the images from the exhibit can be seen on various screens with traditional Japanese music playing in the background at the reception.

The exhibit is made available through the collaboration of UTSA's East Asia Institute, the Institute of Texan Cultures, H-E-B, the Japan America Society of San Antonio and the Japan Foundation.

The co-sponsors of the exhibit include H-E-B, the Japan America Society of San Antonio and the Japan Foundation. The opening reception was held at the Institute of Texan Cultures and over 100 guests attended, including Mr. Kazuyuki Akiyama, Vice Consul for Information and Cultural Affairs of the Consulate General of Japan in Houston; partners and guests from H-E-B; the Japan America Society of San Antonio; the Ikebana International's San Antonio Chapter; Toyota Manufacturing Company in San Antonio, Texas; Toyota Suppliers; EAI board members and UTSA administrators.

To promote awareness of Japan as well as preservation of historical and cultural legacies, EAI and ITC also co-hosted a photography contest and an essay contest prior

to the exhibition. The theme of the photography contest was "Tea, Zen and Garden" and was open to all K-12 and college levels. The essay contest was on "The Importance of Preservation" and was open to middle school, high school and college levels only. Essay and photography judges were invited to the reception as well as the first-place winners who were later presented an award and a certificate.

The doors opened at 6:00 that evening and guests entered the Dome Area where a buffet was waiting. In the background, a dome show played with images from the exhibit, a preview of what was to come.

The East Asia Institute's associate director Mimi Yu gave the opening remarks. She started by thanking all of our sponsors. She also

thanked Dr. John Davis, Executive Director of the Institute of Texan Cultures; Dr. Bryan Howard, Director of the Exhibits, Danielle Xu, EAI Program Coordinator; Dr. Don Lien, EAI Director; and Prof. Julius Gribou, Senior International Officer for their leadership and support for the exhibit.



Dr. Harriet Romo (above), first lady of UTSA, gave welcoming remarks on behalf of President Ricardo Romo. Romo, an active researcher in Latino immigration issues, has been a great supporter of the international programs. “This kind of exhibit is extremely important to UTSA as we move forward towards a tier one university,” She began. “We need to provide global experiences for students.” She explained that this includes not only exchanges, but also “exhibits such as these that bring cultures to our campus.” She further expresses gratitude for everyone’s participation in this event. Romo also mentioned that there will be future activities and exchanges with Kumamoto, San Antonio’s sister city in Japan. After seeing some of the photographs, she stated that she is “ready to go to Japan as well.”

The next speaker was Mr. Katsuyuki Akiyama (below), Vice-Consul for Information and Cultural Affairs. A graduate of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Akiyama has been very enthusiastic and supportive of programs that have a focus on Japanese language and culture education. He mentioned that he feels a “certain amount of pride that Japanese culture has always been focused on preserving nature.” The country has been building around natural landscapes while trying to maintain natural harmony. “Japan’s UNESCO World Heritage Sites are special places where nature, culture, and beauty harmonize,” he said. “Katsuyoshi Miyoshi captured the beauty of these locations.” Akiyama expressed excitement for the exhibit and encouraged anyone who is interested in Japan to visit these World Heritage sites.



“Japan’s UNESCO World Heritage Sites are special places where nature, culture, and beauty harmonize.” Katsuyuki Akiyama, Vice-Consul for Information and Cultural Affairs

“As tangible evidence of humanity, historic places give us value, provide essential continuity on our quest for natural and cultural sustainability.”

William Dupont, San Antonio Conservation Society Endowed Professor, UTSA



Professor William DuPont (above) gave the keynote speech. He is a San Antonio Conservation Society Endowed Professor and he is also the Historical Preservation Program Coordinator. He opened with a quote. “As tangible evidence of humanity, historic places give us value, provide essential continuity on our quest for natural and cultural sustainability.” He explained that we experience this through observation and other tactile senses. Places can also be felt emotionally, with “great power and clarity.” He commented that some of the places photographed for this exhibit hold such power. “On occasion,” he continued, “people do gather to share ideas about cultural heritage. They reach conclusions that some things have outstanding universal value and are worthy of everyone’s combined efforts to protect and conserve perpetually. We call these places World Heritage Sites.”

Following the speeches was the awards presentation at which the first-place winners of photography and essay contests were presented

their prizes. EAI received more than 100 entries in the two categories combined, many of which were extremely high quality works. EAI Associate Director Mimi Yu thanked all the participants as well as the judges. Yu announced the names of the first-place winners as they approached the podium to receive their certificate and prize from the EAI Director Dr. Lien. The list of the 1st-place winners is as follows.

Photography Contest

1st-place middle school level:

James Collier III, Nimitz Middle School

Title: Timeless



1st-place high school level (tie):

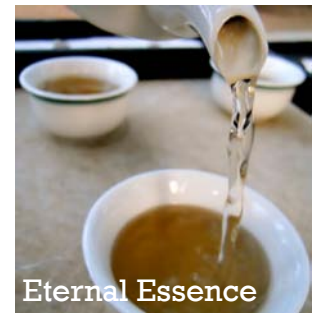
Melissa Bradley, Churchill School

Title: Tranquil Moment



Photography Contest (Cont.)

1st-place high school level (tie):
Aleksa Diaz, Churchill High School
Title: Eternal Essence



Diaz

Eternal Essence

1st-place college school level:
Schuyler Costello, UT-San Antonio
Title: Living Lanterns



Costello

Living Lanterns

Essay Contest

1st-place high school level:
Brooke Nowakowski (left), Johnson High School

1st-place college level:
Victor Hernandez-Jayme (right), UT-San Antonio



Nowakowski

Hernandez-Jayme



“World Heritage Photo Panels from Japan: Two Thousand Years of Legacies” Photography Exhibition at the lower gallery at the Institute of Texan Cultures. This exhibit is free and open to the public.

After the conclusion of the speeches and awards, the guests moved downstairs to the lower gallery, which hosts Katsuyoshi Miyoshi’s World Heritage photographs from Japan, as well as the works done by the first-place contest winners. “Those photos are exquisite,” said Julius Gribou, Senior Officer for the International Programs at UTSA and a photographer himself. “The wealth of cultural and historical information illustrated in each photo is beyond what words can describe. I have been to so many different countries and Japan is definitely on my next



世界遺産

World Heritage



destination list.” Patty Brown, President of Ikebana International’s San Antonio Chapter and one of the essay judges said, “These photos at the exhibit are simply beautiful—both culture and heritage are well exemplified. San Antonio is lucky to be hosting this exhibit!”



“The World Heritage Photo Panels from Japan: Two Thousand Years of Legacies” Photography Exhibition and the photography/essay contests are part of the “Access to Japan” series hosted by the East Asia Institute. The third part of the series is “On Zen” lecture, to be given by Associate Dean and Prof. Taeg Nishimoto of UTSA’s College of Architecture at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at ITC. Additionally, the fourth part of the series is “Family Day on Japanese Culture” which will be conducted 12:00-4:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 26, 2011 at ITC as well. Interactive and hands-on activities on Japanese culture, language, art, craft, history and customs will be conducted for family fun and education. Both events are also co-sponsored by the Center for Global Partnership at the Japan Foundation. For more information on these programs please visit <http://www.utsa.edu/eai> or call 210.458.4943.

Photos (top two): Lower Gallery at ITC that hosts the “World Heritage Photos from Japan” exhibit; bottom: a zen garden replica on the exhibit floor