Architecture and Culture through the Silk Road Galleries Opening Ceremony

Opening ceremony of the “Architecture and Culture through the Silk Road Galleries” of the Institute of Turkish Culture Studies took place at Koshien Hall on Sunday, October 30, 2011.

The galleries consist of the ceramic gallery, the Turkish culture gallery, and the carpentry tools gallery. The ceramic gallery was newly set up to display ceramics related to architecture and culture in regions along the Silk Road, e.g. Persian tiles, architectural terracotta, Chinese pottery warriors, Japanese traditional tiles, bricks of Japanese modern architecture, tiles of Koshien Hall and so forth. Along with the opening of the ceramic gallery, the existing Turkish culture gallery and the carpentry tools gallery were remodelled and reopened.

Many guests were invited to the ceremony, including Ms. Aysegul Atmaca, cultural and information counselor of Turkish embassy, Dr. Senay Yalcin, president of Bosphorus University, and Mrs. Yalcin, Dr. Ahmet Eyuce, dean of faculty of architecture and design of Bosphorus University, and Mrs. Eyuce, Mr. Hideo Tamai, former commissioner for Cultural Affairs, Mr. Akiharu Manabe, superintendent of schools of Nishinomiya city, Mr. Ryo Okawara, chair of the board of trustees of Mukogawa Women’s University(MWU), Dr. Naosuke Itoigawa, president of MWU, and the people who helped with the opening of these galleries, including Dr. Tomoko Masuya, professor of the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia at University of Tokyo, Mr. Masahiko Shibatsuji, Mr. Daisuke Mitsumoto and Mr. Kunihiko Honjo.

After a ribbon cutting ceremony at the ceramic gallery, the attendants were invited to see each gallery.
After the tour of the galleries, gratitude and congratulatory addresses were exchanged between the host and the guests at the West Hall. Chair of the board of trustees of MWU, Mr. Ryo Okawara said, “I am deeply appreciative of the people who helped with the opening of the galleries. I hope, through these galleries, more people become interested in the architecture and culture of the countries along the Silk Road including Japan and Turkey.” Then, congratulatory speeches were delivered by Ms. Aysegul Atmaca, cultural and information counselor of Turkish embassy, Dr. Senay Yalçın, president of Bahçeşehir University, Mr. Hideo Tamai, former commissioner for Cultural Affairs, and Mr. Akiharu Manabe, superintendent of schools of Nishinomiya city. To conclude Dr. Senay Yalçın’s speech, Turkish traditional tiles from Bahçeşehir University’s collection were donated to Mukogawa Women’s University to be newly displayed at the Turkish culture gallery.