

## **Activities of the Photographic Society of Japan in 2009**

Established with the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1952, the Photographic Society of Japan is an organization whose objective is to “contribute to the promotion of international friendship through photography and the advancement of culture”.

With a membership comprising both full society members and supporting members (groups), the Photographic Society of Japan functions as Japan’s only comprehensive cultural organization.

As of the end of 2009, full members number 1,699 and include professional and amateur photographers as well as individuals involved in photography-related fields of science, technology, education, and journalism. Supporting membership comprises 57 corporations and organizations, including various associations representative of today’s photographic industry, manufacturers, trading firms, photography laboratories, studios, educational institutions, and the mass media.

The basic objectives of the Photographic Society of Japan are as follows.

- To undertake exchange with overseas photographic organizations with the aim of contributing to the promotion of international friendship through photography and the advancement of culture.
- To undertake activities on a national scale with the aim of encouraging the development and advancement of photographic culture.
- To sponsor a variety of activities in which a broad section of the general public can participate with the aim of popularizing and promoting photographic culture.

### **Annual General Meeting**

#### Annual General Meeting Fiscal 2009

Date: May 20 (Wednesday), 2009

Venue: Rooms 601/602 Conference Room, JCII Building

Attendees: 1,158 (Actual attendees: 53; Letters of proxy: 1,105)

Agenda:

- (1) 2008 Photographic Society of Japan Activities Report and Financial Statement
- (2) 2009 Photographic Society of Japan Activities Plan and Budget
- (3) Matter of the election of Directors upon the expiration of their terms of office
- (4) Matter of the approval of the policy of transforming the Society into a public interest

corporation

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

#### 2nd Board of Directors Meeting Fiscal 2008

Date: March 17 (Monday), 2009

Venue: Rooms 601/602 Conference Room, JCII Building

Attendees: 50 (Actual attendees: 28; Letters of proxy: 22)

Agenda:

- (1)2009 Photographic Society of Japan Activities Plan and Budget
- (2)Admission to and Withdrawal from the Society of Supporting Members
- (3)Matter of the transformation of the Society into a public interest corporation

#### 1st Board of Directors Meeting Fiscal 2009

Date: May 20 (Wednesday), 2009

Venue: Rooms 601/602 Conference Room, JCII Building

Attendees: 51 (Actual attendees: 29; Letters of proxy: 22)

Agenda:

- (1)2008 Photographic Society of Japan Activities Report and Financial Statement
- (2)Matter of the election of Directors upon the expiration of their terms of office
- (3)Admission to and Withdrawal from the Society of Full and Supporting Members

#### 2nd Board of Directors Meeting Fiscal 2009

Date: May 20 (Wednesday), 2009

Venue: Rooms 601/602 Conference Room, JCII Building

Attendees: 48 (Actual attendees: 22; Letters of proxy: 26)

Agenda:

- (1)Matter of the election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, and Executive Directors

### **1. 2009 Photographic Society of Japan Awards Ceremony and Exhibition of Prize-Winning Works**

Photographic Society of Japan Awards recognize individuals and groups who have attained outstanding achievements in and made tremendous contributions to photographic culture in Japan.

The selection process begins with Society-appointed nominators (knowledgeable persons) and Society members recommending candidates to the Screening Committee, which then chooses recipients for each of the awards from amongst these nominees. Beginning this year, awards are presented for five categories: International Prize, Distinguished Contributions Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, Scholastic Award,

and Newcomer's Award.

The 2009 Screening Committee comprised the following six members:

(In alphabetical order; titles omitted. Status/position current as at February 2009)

Ryuichi Kaneko (Photographic Critic)

Kazunori Kohno (Photo editor)

Masaaki Nishimiya (Photographer)

Kazuyoshi Nomachi (Photographer)

Norihiko Matsumoto (Photographer)

Shin Yoshino (Photographer)

### **Award Recipients and Reasons for their Selection**

(Titles omitted)

**International Prize:** Teizo Umezu, for his achievements in playing an enormous role in international exchange in the photographic world by planning and organizing many excellent photographic exhibitions over a 20-year period, including the Sebastião Salgado exhibition and World Press Photo exhibitions, as well as acting as a pipeline to the international press photography world.

**Distinguished Contributions Award:** Ichiro Ueno, for his achievements in discovering daguerreotype sketches, which was a particularly valuable discovery for Hikoma Ueno research, and his efforts in perfecting the highly praised Hikoma Ueno photographic collection “Shashin no kaiso Ueno Hikoma: Shashin ni Miru Bakumatsu, Meiji (Photography Patriarch Hikoma Ueno: Late Edo and Early Meiji Periods through Photography)”, as well as his contributions in nurturing young photographers as a member of the Ueno Hikoma Award Screening Committee.

**Distinguished Contributions Award:** Norihiko Matsumoto, for his achievements in endeavoring to enhance photographic culture in Japan through such activities as compiling histories of photography in Japan, such as the “Shashin 100 Nenten (Exhibition of 100 Years of Photography)”, “Nihon Gendai Shashinshi-ten (Exhibition of Modern Japanese Photographic History)”, and “Shashin 150 Nenten (Exhibition of 150 Years of Photography)”; devising and establishing the Month of Photography, Tokyo; working to establish photographic art museums such as the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography; and working to establish the Japan Photographic Preservation Center.

**Lifetime Achievement Award:** Toshio Shibata, for his achievements and the future expectations for his work represented by his photographic collection “Landscapes”, the culmination of a quarter of a century of his work, ranging from early to recent works, that portrays landscapes of nature interwoven with man-made structures through a

unique vision.

**Scholastic Award:** Kotaro Iizawa, for his unceasing writing activities, from “Art Photography in Japan 1900~1930” to his latest work “101 Japanese Photographers”, as well as his tremendous achievements as a navigator of the photographic world passionately discovering young photographers.

**Newcomer’s Award:** Yasuhiro Ogawa, for his deep insight into his photographic subjects and highly finished expressive techniques in his documentary photographic collection “Slowly Down the River: The Last Days of the Ancient Three Gorges”, which is about the construction of the Three Gorges Dam in China.

**Newcomer’s Award:** Shintaro Sato, for the creativity and effort behind his photographic collection “Tokyo Twilight Zone”, which creates a mysterious yet nostalgically beautiful world of images through the original concept of taking photos from the emergency exits of buildings.

The 2008 Photographic Society of Japan Awards Ceremony was held on June 1st at the Sasakawa Hall as part of Annual Day of Photography festivities. In conjunction with the awards ceremony, an exhibition of Photographic Society of Japan Award-winning works of 2009 was held at the Fuji Photo Salon Tokyo from May 29th to June 4th.

## **2. The Month of Photography, Tokyo 2009; the Month of Photography, Osaka 2009; and the Month of Photography, Nagoya 2009**

### The Month of Photography, Tokyo 2009

Organized jointly by the Photographic Society of Japan and the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, the 14th the Month of Photography, Tokyo was held in May and June to coincide with the Annual Day of Photography on June 1st. The event was realized with the generous sponsorship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Agency for Cultural Affairs, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and the Embassy of Malaysia; the kind support of 27 other businesses and organizations; the special support of Tourism Malaysia, START Lab Inc., and YUKI TORII; and the cooperation of the Photo Gallery Liaison Committee.

Month of Photography events in 2009 included the domestic photographic exhibition “Why Do People Go on a Trip?”; the international exhibition “Photographers Asia 2009: Malaysia”; the special exhibition “Found! Photographed! Wonderland; “The 1,000 Photographers’ Show: My Best Shot”; “The Memorial Contest of Annual Day of Photography, 2009 Awards Exhibition”; and the “Photographic Society of Japan Awards Exhibition of Prize-Winning Works”.

**—Domestic photographic exhibition: Why Do People Go on a Trip ?—**

- Yoshio Kataoka: “Tokyo of One Photographer”; Pentax Forum
- Takenori Iizuka: “DISCOVER JAPAN”; Epson epSITE Gallery 2
- “Five Young Photographers: A Breath of Quest”; Konica Minolta Plaza
- Yuya Yamasaki: “Romantic Railroad”; Canon Gallery Ginza
- Mitsuyuki Shibata: “Toward the Sea”; Olympus Gallery Tokyo

**—International exhibition “Photographers Asia 2009: Malaysia”—**

- Alex Moh: “QUIET LIGHT”; Fuji Photo Salon Tokyo
- “THROUGH THE EYES OF MALAYSIANS”; Kodak Photo Salon
- “A NEW WAVE OF RESPONSIVE IMAGES”; Ginza Nikon Salon

**—Special exhibition “Found! Photographed! Wonderland”—**

Three exhibitions were held at the Midori-no-I Plaza/Gallery: the “Child’s Eyes” photographic exhibition; exhibition of the winners of the “Children and Reading” photo contest; and “Life of Earth” exhibition. In conjunction with these exhibitions, three more events were held to kick-off a special Month of Photography program: the “Bursting Outside Photographic Exhibition”; “Take Great Photos of Family and Friends” photography workshop; and “Fascinating Camera Laboratory”.

**—“TASTE OF SINGAPOREAN PHOTOGRAPHY”; RING CUBE—**

A special photographic exhibition was held featuring the works of Chris Yap and Chan Bin Kan, who also took part in the well-received “Photographers Asia 2008: Singapore” exhibition.

**—“The 1,000 Photographers’ Show: My Best Shot”—**

A board was erected in the exhibition venue, the Shinjuku Park Tower Gallery 3, and 1,000 photographs taken by 1,000 photography enthusiasts were displayed. In the open atmosphere, exhibition visitors and photographers freely enjoyed conversation and exchanged opinions.

**—“The Memorial Contest of Annual Day of Photography, 2009 Awards Exhibition”—**

Winning and selected works were displayed at the Shinjuku Park Tower Gallery 3, and the awards ceremony took place on May 30. Outstanding works were displayed in five locations nationwide as part of a traveling exhibition.

The Month of Photography, Tokyo 2009 Reception took place at the Sasakawa Hall on the Annual Day of Photography, June 1st. The event was attended by Photographic Society of Japan Awards recipients, representatives of various areas of the photographic world, the Cultural Attaché of the Embassy of Malaysia in Japan, and Photographic Society of Japan members, and friendships were made and deepened.

### **The Month of Photography, Osaka 2009**

Now in its 8th year, the Month of Photography is organized predominantly by the Executive Committee of the Month of Photography, Osaka, and co-sponsored by the Photographic Society of Japan with the support of the Osaka Prefectural and Metropolitan governments, and cooperation and special cooperation of many businesses and organizations. Five events were held during May and June.

- The “3.3 m<sup>2</sup> for 150 Photographers” exhibition

The exhibited works were divided between galleries in six locations in Osaka, from Umeda in the north of the city to Shinsaibashi in the south.

- “The 1,000 Photographers’ Show: My Best Shot”

This exhibition of photographic works by amateur photographers was held at Gallery Sen Space.

- Month of Photography, Osaka, High School Photo Awards

An exhibition of the photographic works of high school students was held at the Nikon Salon bis Osaka.

- Photographic classes for elementary schoolchildren: “Parents and Children Trying Their Hands at Black-and-White Photography Together”

This event was held at the Visual Arts College Osaka.

- Open public symposium

Photographer Miyako Ishiuchi was the main guest at this symposium, which featured discussions about photographic expression and an interview with photographer Shunji Dodo.

### **The Month of Photography, Nagoya 2009**

With the cooperation of the NHK Culture Center, a charity exhibition was held at the Photo Salon Saint Lou as a Month of Photography event, and a slide and talk show by photographer Shin Yoshino was also held in addition to the sale of exhibited works.

### **3. Celebration for Recipients of Decorations, Medals, and International and Photographic Awards, and Party for Members of the Photographic Society of Japan**

The Photographic Society of Japan hosts a special end-of-year dinner to honor recipients of decorations and medals for services to the photographic world in Japan (presented the previous spring and autumn), as well as of other official arts and culture awards in Japan and overseas, and of Photographic Society of Japan Awards and various other photographic awards.

The 2009 Celebration Dinner for Award Recipients was held on December 11th (Fri.) at the Dai-ichi Hotel in Shimbashi, Tokyo. The event was attended by the following invited prize-winners (titles omitted).

### **Decoration and Medal Recipients for 2009**

#### **Spring Awards**

The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays: Isamu Tanimoto  
Medal with Purple Ribbon: Kazuyoshi Nomachi

#### **Autumn Awards**

Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun: Mayumi Moriyama  
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star: Shigetaka Komori  
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays: Taizo Uemura  
Medal with Yellow Ribbon: Yoshiaki Suzuki

#### **International Awards 2009**

Austrian Decoration for Science and Art: Hideo Haga

#### **Public Awards 2009**

Praemium Imperiale: Hiroshi Sugimoto  
Education, Science and Technology Minister's Art Encouragement Prize:  
Takeshi Mizukoshi

#### **Photographic Award Recipients 2009**

Photographic Society of Japan Awards for 2009 were presented to 7 individuals (awardees are listed in Section [1]).

Mainichi Art Prize (sponsored by Mainichi Shimbun): Miyako Ishiuchi  
Photography Award of the Kodansha Publication Culture Award (sponsored by Kodansha Ltd.): Yukihiro Otsuka  
Ihei Kimura Award (sponsored by Asahi Shimbun): Masashi Asada  
Nobuo Ina Award (sponsored by Nikon Corporation): Junichi Ohta  
Ken Domon Award (sponsored by Mainichi Shimbun): Mitsuhiko Imamori  
Higashikawa Prizes (sponsored by the town of Higashikawa, Hokkaido)  
Overseas Artist Prize: Anne Ferran (Australia)  
Japanese Artist Prize: Toshio Shibata  
Newcomer's Prize: Naoki Ishikawa  
Commendation Prize: Keiji Tsuyuguchi  
Tadahiko Hayashi Prize (sponsored by the Shunan City Culture Promotion Foundation): Naruaki Onishi  
Photo City Sagamihara Awards (sponsored by the city of Sagamihara, Kanagawa):

Sagamihara Photo Award: Eiji Ina

Asia Award: Amit Mehra (India)

Newcomer's Award: ERIC, Osamu Funao

At the Celebration for Award Recipients, the recipients of art and culture-related decorations, medals, government, public, and international awards were introduced following congratulatory remarks by Photographic Society of Japan Chairman Masayuki Muneyuki, and each award winner spoke a few words in response. The recipients of photographic awards were then introduced.

Following the celebration for award recipients, the venue shifted to another room at the hotel for the annual end-of-year party for Photographic Society of Japan members. Following greetings from special guest Mr. Kenjiro Monji, Director-General of the Public Diplomacy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and an introduction of new Society members, pleasant conversation was enjoyed among the attendees, the party providing a valuable opportunity for interaction and information exchange.

#### **4. Periodical Publications**

Periodical publications of the Photographic Society of Japan are the *Japan Photo Almanac*, which is issued to coincide with the Day of Photography on June 1st each year, and the *Journal of the Photographic Society of Japan*.

*The Japan Photo Almanac* was first issued in 1958, making the 53rd edition in 2009. It not only reports on events and developments in Japanese photographic culture during the previous year, but also provides information about photography-related organizations and art galleries, information on new products, and photographic industry news. As such, it is a resource widely used not only in photography-related industries in Japan, but also by government agencies, media organizations, and educational institutions and is well-received in various circles. In 2009, *the Japan Photo Almanac 2009* was published.

*The Journal of the Photographic Society of Japan* is a quarterly publication issued in February, May, August, and November. Articles in each issue introduce timely news of the Society's activities and future plans, as well as a diversity of information relating to photographic culture. During 2009 volumes 436 to 439 were published.

In addition, a photographic catalogue summarizing the events of the Month of Photography, Tokyo is produced every year. The 2009 catalogue includes introductory greetings from Hirofumi Nakasone, then-Minister of Foreign Affairs; Shintaro Ishihara, Governor of Tokyo; His Excellency, Mr. Dato' Mohd. Radzi Abdul Rahman, the Ambassador of Malaysia to Japan; Yoshiharu Fukuhara, Director of the Tokyo



Metropolitan Museum of Photography; and Masayuki Muneyuki, Month of Photography, Tokyo 2009, Organizing Committee Chairman and Photographic Society of Japan Chairman. The 2009 edition also features commentaries on representative events and introduces various photographers and photographic works. In this way, the catalogue provides a comprehensive record of the “Month of Photography, Tokyo 2009.”

## **5. International Exchange through Photography**

Representative Cuban photographer Mario Diaz jointly held a slide lecture with JCII entitled “Cuba’s Modern Photography” (with the cooperation of JPS and support of the Embassy of Cuba) in conjunction with a photographic exhibition commemorating the 80th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Japan and Cuba featuring the works of Diaz and Eikoh Hosoe, “Japan and Cuba” (November 3rd to 29th, 2009; JCII Photo Salon). Around 80 people attended the slide lecture, following which there was a gallery talk in the photographic exhibition gallery on the First Floor, and there was a lively exchange of questions and answers.

Sebastião Salgado, the winner of the 2003 Photographic Society of Japan International Prize, held a lecture on October 24 in conjunction with his photographic exhibition “AFRICA” at the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography. Tickets to the lecture were distributed to 20 people selected from the 78 who applied for them.

## **6. Implementation of Photography and Film Classes for Children**

Some 20 photography/imaging classes utilizing the booklet “Photography is Fun!” were held in 2009 with 956 participants. Now in its fourth year, the program has enabled more than 5,000 participants to experience first-hand the fun and fascination of photography.

Photography classes included “Hands-on Black-and-white Photography Classes” using film cameras, “Hands-on Hand-made Pinhole Camera Classes”, and “Photography Classes” using only the “Photography is Fun!” booklet. In the latter half of 2009, a program using digital cameras was created and “Hands-on Digital Camera Classes” were also implemented.

In 2009 the photography classes were held at (hosted by) the Bunkyo Ward Komamoto Elementary School, Kodaira City No. 13 Elementary School, Suginami Ward Amanuma Elementary School, BumB Tokyo Sports Bunkakan (three times: one pinhole camera class and two film camera classes), Prefectural Flower Center Ofuna Botanical Garden, Shonan-Oba Community Center, Machida City Museum of Photography, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Yokohama Municipal

Higashikamoi Junior High School, Hamura City Museum, Nagoya City Science Museum, Nagoya City School Education Association, and Shinjuku Historical Museum.

The classes held at the Bunkyo Ward Komamoto Elementary School took the form of career education (work experience), and in addition to black-and-white photography classes, the work of a cameraman was explained, with the children all listening with deep interest.

## **7. Agency for Cultural Affairs Scholarships and Overseas Exchange**

### **Student Awards**

Each year, the Agency for Cultural Affairs provides scholarships for a select group of Japanese trainees wishing to study overseas and overseas trainees wishing to study in Japan. As part of its international activities, the Photographic Society of Japan acts as application and nomination window for candidate trainees in the photography field for Agency for Cultural Affairs scholarships in the Fine Arts category.

The candidate selected for the 2009 overseas trainee dispatch, Jun Itoi (1 year dispatch), is currently in Finland on the Kemijärvi Sculpture and Culture Foundation Artist Residency program studying photography production using light as a subject.

There were no overseas applicants selected for study in Japan in 2009.

## **8. Exhibition Sponsorship**

The Photographic Society of Japan sponsors (supports or provides cooperation for) photographic exhibitions that are held under the auspices of government, academic, mass media, and photography-related organizations and that contribute to the promotion of culture, education, and international exchange. In 2009, the Society sponsored the many outstanding exhibitions and events listed below.

- “Toyo’s Camera: Japanese-American History during WWII”  
(Feature-length documentary film on Miyatake Toyo’s photographic documentation on life in wartime internment camps) Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography Hall and other locations nationwide
- “Photo City Sagamihara 2009”. Various locations throughout Sagamihara and Shinjuku Nikon Salon
- “Photo Imaging Expo 2009”  
March 26th to 29th; Tokyo Big Sight
- “Japan: A Self Portrait”  
May 2 to June 21; Setagaya Art Museum. August 27th to October 28th; Ken Domon

Museum of Photography. November 6th to December 13th; Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art

- World Press Photo 2009

June 13th to August 9th; Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography. August 11th to August 20th; Herbis Hall, Osaka. September 13th to 20th; Mistukoshi Department Store, Sapporo. October 1st to October 14th; Ritsumeikan University International Peace Museum, Oita. October 17th to November 1st; Ritsumeikan University Biwako/Kusatsu Campus, Shiga. November 3rd to 29th; Ritsumeikan University International Peace Museum, Kyoto

- “2009 Eight Views of the Minamisatsuma Ocean Road: ‘Torupa 226’ Photo Contest”

- “25th Higashikawa International Photographic Festival: Photo Fiesta 2009

July 28th to September 6th; Higashikawa, Hokkaido

- “Photo 575: A Photography-Haiku Class for Parents and Children”

August 5th, 19th, and 26th; Shotaro Akiyama Photo Art Museum

- “CBD/COP10 Memorial Photographic Collection”

- “World Heritage Sites in Bangladesh” Exhibition

August 25th to September 6th; Gallery Cosmos

- “Shomei Tomatsu Exhibition: Hues and Textures of Nagasaki”

October 3rd to November 29th; Nagasaki Prefectural Art Museum

- “Onaeba”

October 13th to 18th; CASO (Contemporary Art Space Osaka)

- “Color of Japan through Diplomats Eyes”

October 27th to November 3rd; Hills Cafe, Roppongi Hills. November 21st to December 3rd; Central Gallery, Central Park, Nagoya. December 16th to December 24th; Osaka University of Arts Hotarumachi Campus Gallery

- “25th All-Japan Sight-Impaired Photographic Exhibition”

November 16th to 21st; Tokyo Shinjuku Monolith Building

- “Heisei Family Album Exhibition” commemorating the 100th anniversary of Ken Domon’s birth

December 10th, 2009 to January 31st, 2010; Yamagata Museum of Art 3rd Floor Exhibition Hall

- “6th DAYS JAPAN International Photojournalism Awards”