Greek Community Praises Humanitarian Acts of Japanese Ship in Smyrna in 1922

In Appreciation To The Japanese People

The design of the plaque, which is presented by Greek community, shows a Japanese commercial vessel picking up Greeks before the Kemalists' entry into Smyrna, Friday, September 8, 1922.

Smyrna 90-Year Commemorative Event was held on September 13 at Duke Realty Corp. Auditorium in Rosemont. The commemoration was to honor the thousands of victims, who lost their lives during the September 1922 fire, and to learn how to prevent similar events from happening by remembering the historical tragic incident. The event was presented by the Asia Minor and Pontos Hellenic Research Center and the Pontian Greek Society of Chicago.

One of the topics in the event was expressing gratitude for humanitarian actions taken by a Japanese captain and his sailors amid the tragedy of Smyrna. The crew of an anonymous Japanese commercial ship threw the cargo overboard without any hesitation and took the victims on board. The Greek community presented Consul Kato and Masuzawa a plaque, which read, "In appreciation to the Japanese People."

Located in the west side of Aegean Sea, Smyrna prospered as an international commercial city, which had multiethnic population of 500,000. At the time of 1922, Smyrna was under the reign of Greece.

'Ama' Women Divers in Tohoku Keep Hunting for Quake Recovery

Traditional Japanese "ama" divers Yasuko Nakagawa and Hiroko Omukai, who harvest sea urchins without modern dive equipment, were back at work only four months after the devastating March 2011 earthquake and tsunami hit the coastal city of Kuri, Iwate Prefecture.

The two said they thought they would long to make the coast flourish as before and preserve the (ama) tradition that has been kept for about 100 years.

"I find this job rewarding and satisfactory when I bring sea urchins to the surface and the audience breaks into a cheer," Nakagawa, 55, said.

"This job is tough and challenging, but I want people to see us as we are hanging in instead of escape," Omukai, 52, said.

The Kosoode coast of Kuri is a popular tourist spot known as the northernmost place in Japan where tourists can see traditional ama divers catching urchins from July to September. Ama, all women, dive without scuba gear or air tanks to collect urchins, shellfish and other marine products.

On March 11, 2011, the tsunami struck a vast area of northeastern Japan, sweeping away almost all fishing boats and fishing nets on the beach where the two women work, but their wetsuits and tools somehow survived.

Nakagawa and Omukai said they were scared to go into water for the first time since...
Smyrna
from page 1

but Greece and Ottoman Turks had been long fighting over the city. While the infighting of the Greek government undermined its power, the Turks were revitalized by the leadership of Kemal Ataturk, founder of modern Turkey, and defeated Greece on August 26, 1922. Victorious Turks entered Smyrna on September 8, 1922, and the troops began to murder, rape and deport Anatolian Christians.

On September 13, Turks set fire to the Christian residential areas and the fire lasted for three days. More than a half of Smyrna's population was Greek at that time.

At the commemorative event, Dr. Constantine G. Hatziotis and friends of Smyrna in New York, said in his letter, "My friend's mother, who was nine years old, her family was rescued by a Japanese ship. She recounted that she had seen dead bodies being laid in the bow which were thrown into the sea before she reached Piraeus." Hatziotis explained that his witness showed that some of the refugees were very exhausted and in very bad shape.

Hatziotis's other friend said in his e-mail, "My mother Soma and her brother George were saved by a Japanese ship. She was 11 and, George was two years younger. They lived outside of Smyrna and were abandoned by guardians. They walked several days to get Smyrna. They were hiding themselves most of the time and just started moving forward. My family found them after they were rescued."

Ama
from page 1

the tsunami, as they knew that much has been changed in the ocean. Since breakwaters were all gone, high waves washed them away and they struck rocks many times, they said.

But one and a half years after the Great East Japan Earthquake, the amount of sea weeds on the floor has been recovering and sea urchins that eat them has got back fresh and are shining in orange, they said. Dr. Nakagawa has 30 years of experience as a sea urchin diver, while Omukai has just 10 years. Despite the gap in experience, they call each other by first name and get along like sisters.

Both have been greatly encouraged by the recent formation of an ama club by seven local high school girls. Nakagawa and Omukai, both natives of Kujii, said that they feel happy when diving together with members of the club, who may take over the tradition in the future.

They are also looking forward to a TV program "Ama chan," scheduled to be aired on public broadcaster NHK starting next spring, which is based on women divers in Kujii and centers on a girl who wants to be a diver (Sept. 21 Kyodo).

Hatziotis, author of the book "American Accounts Documenting the Destruction of Smyrna", spoke about the process that led to the massacre of Anatolian Greeks, the Turks' responsibility for the tragedy, and the humanitarian acts by Japanese. He said that his mother narrowly escaped from Smyrna when she was two.

According to Hatziotis, about 5 million Anatolian Christians including 2 million Greeks were expelled from Asia Minor between 1914 and 1922. About 200,000 Greek men were deported and sent to concentration camps as slave laborers. Under the harsh circumstances, most of them died from starvation or execution. The deportation meant a death march. By the year of 1921, Hatziotis assumed that more than 700,000 Greeks were killed by Turks.

The tragedy of Smyrna happened in front of the world's eyes. There were 27 European ships including three American destroyers at the harbor, and the great fire became headlines in the world's newspapers. Hatziotis said that Turks, however, have denied the systematic massacres until today.

Tragedy of Smyrna

When Greek troops left and Turks took control of Smyrna on September 8, 1922, about 300,000 Christians were told that the city was safe and under control, but murders and rapes started on the day the Turkish troops arrived.

The ships from 21 countries had been ordered by their governments not to intervene in the happenings in Smyrna and only boarded the victims with passport like documents. Consul General of the U.S. in Smyrna asked the U.S. government if he could take actions for a rescue attempt, but the U.S. government said, "No."

On September 13, Turks set fires in the Armenian quarter, and the flames spread to the Greek quarter. The Christians tried to escape from the fire, but Turks set machine guns at the exits of the city and closed the roads. About 200,000 Christians crowded into the waterfront.

Japanese Ship

A Japanese commercial ship had just entered the harbor on September 13. The crew threw its cargo into the water and took aboard 700 victiis and safely landed them at the harbor in Piraeus, Greece. The humanitarian acts of the Japanese happened on the first day of the fire while other ships were still watching the tragedy.

Hatziotis described the scene by quoting some eyewitnesses' words.

"Consul General Horton said, "An anonymous heroine..."

"Japanese captain saved lives of innocent victims, unlike all the other ships in the harbor, who simply watched the horror."

"American Anna Birge of International College of Smyrna spoke about the incident in a newspaper interview and said, "The men and women were swimming around the harbor in hope of rescue before they were drowned. In the harbor at that time was a Japanese freighter, which had just arrived, loaded with very valuable cargo of silks, laces, and china representing many thousands of dollars. The Japanese captain, who realized the situation, never hesitated. The whole cargo on board was thrown into the harbor, and the freighter took aboard 700 refugees, who were taken to Piraeus and landed in the safety of Greece."

Hatziotis's friend, president of Asia Minor Memorial Society in New York, said in his letter, "My friend's mother, who was nine years old, and her family was rescued by a Japanese ship. She recounted that she had seen dead bodies being laid in the bow which were thrown into the sea before she reached Piraeus." Hatziotis explained that his witness showed that some of the refugees were very exhausted and in very bad shape.

Hatziotis's other friend said in his e-mail, "My mother Soma and her brother George were saved by a Japanese ship. She was 11 and, George was two years younger. They lived outside of Smyrna and were abandoned by guardians. They walked several days to get Smyrna. They were hiding themselves most of the time and just started moving forward. My family found them after they were rescued."
Japanese Scientists Win Spoofof Ig Nobel Award for "Speech Jammer"

Two Japanese researchers won the spoof Ig Nobel acoustic prize on Thursday for creating a device that confuses people speaking by sending the speaker a delayed recording of their own voice.

"One scenario is that you can use this in a meeting room where chairs have buttons to stop excessive speaking," Kazutaka Kurihara, researcher at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, told Kyodo News ahead of the award ceremony, adding that the device could make such meetings more pleasant.

The 22nd annual event to award the prizes, which the science humor magazine Annals of Improbable Research gives in 10 categories as a parody of the Nobel Prizes, was held at Harvard University's Sanders Theater. It was the sixth straight year for an Ig Nobel prize to go to Japanese recipients.

Kurihara and his partner including Hatztidimitriou's mother to Greece, the family reported that about 190,000 Greeks were saved, and 100,000 of them were killed or deported. About 5 million Greeks were affected by the Turks' systematic mass murder and deportation of Greeks in Asia Minor since 1914.

After the tragedy of Smyrna, it became a domain of Turks by the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923. As a consequence, all Greeks disappeared from Smyrna where they had lived for thousands of years.

Editor's note: The event was presented by the Greek community, and it was viewed by Greek side. As it is widely known, massacres occurred because the Turks were afraid during the Greek-Turkish War. Further study of the history is in your hands.
積み荷を捨ててギリシア人を救助
日本の商船に感謝 スミチュラの惨事90周年で

東京為替市場
77 円台後退

26日の東京外国為替市場の為替相場は、1ドルasaが77円台後退で小動揺の軽減だった。

スミチュラの惨事から90年

スミチュラの惨事から90年を記念する式典が9月15日、リゾーストメントにあるDuke Realty Corp. Auditoriumで開催された。主催者は、アリゾナヒルトン・スイーツ・ヘレシキ家、旧アメリカ合衆国政府、ニューヨークタイムズ社、etc.

1922年9月、2マイルにわたって積荷を逃すスミチュラ。船体の写真はギリシアのイメージのみで、スミチュラの言葉は映画が開催の。

もっと美味しいことも簡単に

「もっとおいしいものを手に入れるとおもに便利だ」ということ。

日系ホットライン：614-389-2406
Email：3dcad@gytech.com

Global Vision Technology, Inc.
ウェブサイト：www.gytech.com

ITalian Restaurant
1859 W. Central Rd., Arlington Heights
DINE IN * CARRY-OUT * DELIVERY * CATERING
847-222-1989

Open 7 days

Homemade Pasta
Baked Dishes
Seafood with Pasta
Chicken
Steaks, Chops & Fish
Homemade Pizza