

Opening of the International Traveling Exhibition "JAPAN: Kingdom of Characters"



Exhibition entrance

I am delighted to talk about the opening day of the above exhibition which opened at Young At Art Museum in the City of Davie on July 5th, 2014.

At the opening ceremony, Ms. Mindy Shrago, Executive Administrator of the Museum, thanked the Japan Foundation and the Consulate General of Japan in Miami for making this wonderful exhibition possible. I then had the opportunity to give some remarks in which I commented that the people in the world could not think of Japan without imaging at least one or two anime or manga characters nowadays. This special exhibition takes you through the world of anime and manga characters of Japan from 1950's through 2000's. Some 50 years ago, a number of American anime TV programs were aired in Japan, and I disclosed that even I was glued not only to Japanese, but also to American anime when I was a child. It was gratifying to introduce to the visitors an exhibition of Japanese characters, including those from the 1950's, which made me feel how far I had come from the days of my youth. Lastly, I wished that everybody would enjoy the exhibition.

The YAA staff then presented me with a frame full of cutouts of anime characters which represented each one of them individually. After which, Ms. Shrago and I officiated in the tape cutting, and we visited the exhibition together.

The venue was the largest hall of the museum, where visitors were able to enjoy various anime statues, big and small, panels, videos, and goods relating to anime and manga which were displayed together. There were also craft sections where kids could enjoy themselves and explore their creativity.

Additionally, in order to help the little ones understand anime characters better, a staff member of the museum had a talk with kids showing a "Pikachu bus" and "character bentos (lunch boxes)" which seemed to further intrigue their parents.

There were also a couple of university students in cosplay saying they had just come back from their study abroad trip to Japan and they told me of their exciting experiences there. I came to think about the benefit of young Americans who love anime and manga, and their ability to further expand their perspectives of Japanese lifestyles, ways of thinking, and values. With greater understanding of Japanese culture, they would be able to mingle with the Japanese youth casually, and together, they would create a better future for us all.

Since this exhibition will continue till September 7th, please come and enjoy if you are interested.

For further details, please visit:

http://www.miami.us.emb-japan.go.jp/documents/kingdom_pr_en.pdf



Mindy Shrago and Hello Kitty