

*Remarks by Consul General
Eiichi Kawahara
At Iwami Kagura Performance
At his residence*

From 7:30 pm on September 20, 2012



Dear my colleagues, Consuls

Generals of Italy, Mexico ,Chile and France. I also welcome Provost of FIU Dr Warzok and his wife, Univ. of Miami Prof. Byrnes, Prof. Dreyer, Ogiwara Sensei, and my dear friends,

Good evening everyone, and thank you for coming on this special demonstration of Iwami Kagura. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the citizens of Masuda, Shimane Prefecture to visit Miami and perform special Kagura.

I recognized that every performer is company people and not a Shinto priest. This Kagura was said to be already performed in late Muromachi era in 15th century at Iwami region. This Kagura has been performed every year since then on special occasion.

As will shortly be explained, the stories that are performed in Iwami Kagura are well-known myths and legends from Shimane Prefecture. This unique combination of folk dance and storytelling has become a famous form of traditional theater throughout Japan.

I invited all of you as guests here tonight to witness and appreciate an



important part of Japanese culture that is little-known outside Japan.

As you watch, you will have the opportunity to

experience not only Japanese ancient stories, but also our ancient music, our costumes, and creativity, which, I'm sure, still have impacts on us living in modern society.

I am happy to share this traditional part of my country and culture with all of you. I hope you enjoy it, and I hope that you will perhaps consider



going to Japan to see such spectacles at its proper place.

Please enjoy special performance

(end)

