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Cutline (photos by Dr. Thayumanasamy Somasundaram):

Photo 1: EPCOT's Maturiza Taiko Drummers perform at the Experience Asia Festival

Photo 2: Performers photographed during a traditional Indian dance at the Experience Asia Festival

Photo 3: Martial artists pose for a photo after their high-energy demonstration at the Experience Asia Festival

12th Annual Experience Asia Festival Returns to Downtown Tallahassee

The free festival welcomes guests of all ages and showcases Asian and Asian Pacific cultures

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (September 22, 2016) – The 12th Annual Experience Asia Festival will return to Lewis and Bloxham Parks on October 8, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival showcases Asian and Asian Pacific cultures and heritage through cultural performances, hands-on activities, cuisine, music, dance and more. Admission is free for guests of all ages.

Organized by the Asian Coalition of Tallahassee (ACT), the festival features more than 60 vendors of food, arts, crafts, jewelry, clothing and other items. Guests will enjoy performances from China, Japan, the Philippines, India, the Middle East, Indonesia, the Polynesian Islands and Hawaii.

Featured performances include EPCOT's Maturiza Taiko Drummers, Japanese dance group Wakafuji-kai, Filipino Bamboo Chimes of Tampa, Manya School of Dance and 30 other local teams. Sponsored by the Consulate-General of Japan in Miami, Maturiza will perform during the festival's opening ceremony and finale.

Additionally, the Japanese community's booth will show guests how to write their name in Hiragana and Katakana, create Tanabata decorations, make origami, try on a Yukata (kimono), learn about Ikebana (the art of flower arrangement), purchase Japanese crafts and take photos with no-face panels of a Sumo wrestler and Ukiyo-e. A portable Shinto shrine will also be paraded by students of FSU and Georgia State University.

The Asian Coalition of Tallahassee is a non-profit organization with more than a dozen member associations and student groups including FSU Center for Global Engagement, Asian American Students Union, Chinese Student Scholar Association, Japanese Student Association, Vietnamese Student Association, Filipino Student Association and others.

The Experience Asia Festival attracts more than 14,000 people each year from North Florida and South Georgia. Co-sponsored by the City of Tallahassee's Special Events Grant Program for the next two years, the festival aims to increase the awareness and understanding of Asian culture and heritage among the local public. For more information, please call 850-339-5227, email cldiao2@gmail.com or visit <http://www.asiantlh.org/>.

For more information about the Consulate-General of Japan in Miami, please contact Miwako Patton at culture@mi.mofa.go.jp or Stephany Cuellar at webmaster@mi.mofa.go.jp and visit http://www.miami.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/index.html.

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