

The Spirit of Tea

The Japanese Language Program of the Centre for Language Studies hosted a lecture and demonstration on Chado, The Way of Tea, by the former Grand Master of Urasenke on 13 March 2009 at NUS Lecture Theatre 13. This event was co-organized by the Embassy of Japan and Chado Urasenke Tankokai Singapore, supported by The Japanese Association of Singapore and The Japanese Teachers' Association in Singapore, as a pre-opening event of the Japan Creative Centre in Singapore, which will be officially launched by the end of this year.

The distinguished speaker from Kyoto, Dr. Sen Genshitsu, was the 15th Grand Master of Urasenke Chado, for thirty-eight years up to 2002. He is widely known as a global-minded promoter of the culture embraced by Chado and of world peace. He has been named Honorary Citizen of numerous cities around the world, and has received many national and international awards and decorations, including, in 1997, the Order of Culture from the Emperor of Japan. At this lecture, Dr. Sen spoke about “The Spirit of Tea – Peacefulness through a Bowl of Tea” and followed by hands-on demonstration by the Tea Masters beautifully costumed in kimono on the Tatami straw mat on the stage of Lecture Theatre 13. Throughout the lecture and demonstration, the spirit of tea, that is the spirit of peace, and the principles underlying this approach to life, that is Harmony, Respect, Purity and Tranquility, - universal principles that can guide us toward the realization of genuine peace, were demonstrated in a graceful and humorous way. Over 350 participants including 140 NUS students and staff participated in this event and enjoyed the lecture and experienced the taste of tea and Japanese traditional sweets.



Dr. Sen Genshitsu