

The Earth, Humankind, and the Future – EXPO 2005



By Nakamura Toshio

Encounter the Earth

In November 2004, the frozen head of a mammoth arrived from the Russian Federation Republic of Sakha. Over billions of years a diverse variety of species have been created, obliterated or evolved, resulting in the world and lives that we know today. The mammoth, a gift from the world of time immemorial, is an epoch-making drama that nature has woven into our history.

As a part of a joint Japan-Russia project, the frozen mammoth will be on display for visitors during EXPO 2005. The exhibit will be a symbol of “Nature’s Matrix” and research and reports on the cause of the demise of this magnificent creature will be conducted by an academic committee comprised of experts from Russia, The Netherlands, France and Japan established specifically for this event.



Encounter the World

A peaceful world of 6.4 billion people is synonymous with a world that respects the diversity of cultures. See how human culture can contrast with nature. Understand how it diverged through differences in regions and languages. View cultural customs against the background of natural science. Come face-to-face with cultures as art which transcend customs and common knowledge to create and offer possibilities for a new generation. And now, once again, a lifestyle which respects and exists in harmony with nature, The Art of Life for a Sustainable Society is about to be born.

The Super World Orchestra and the Toyota Masterplayers Vienna conducted by Sato Yutaka will play “global music.” *Noh* and *Kyogen*, Japanese traditional performing art and the world’s oldest extant professional theater will grace the stage at the EXPO. Seven of the world’s premier young artists will explore the “form of happiness.” Eric Clapton, Yo-Yo Ma, Sarah Brightman and other Earth-loving, world-class musicians will send their message, “Love the Earth,” through the global language of music. EXPO 2005 will feature cultural events representing the world’s regions from a total of more than 120 countries.

We must learn and understand the varying ideas and lifestyles that exist on our planet and develop a mutual respect for other groups. This is the strongest hope there is for taking the first step to creating a peaceful world.

Encounter the Future

To demonstrate a model society in the 21st century, various futuristic technologies will be utilized at the venue.

One example is solar-powered batteries. MCFC (a fuel cell that uses a methane fermentation system combined with gas produced from methane fermentation) is one of the keys to developing 3R (Reuse, Reduce, Recycle) resource-circulating Eco-Communities. Roof top gardens, wall gardens and “bio lung” projects that facilitate healthy environments. Portable information terminals and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) that will realize more convenience for humankind. Next-generation robots that work beyond the factory floor and support our daily activities in public places, buildings, offices and homes. Our role in future generations will be to seek and realize a variety of technological possibilities in order to achieve the goal of developing a Sustainable Society.

The world is connected to the future by its past. The world’s diverse cultures and creatures co-exist, connected in their differences, and they will continue to develop. **JS**

EXPO 2005 will open on March 25, 2005.

While recognizing the diversity of creatures and cultures – the diversity of life – we will reflect on our Earth as a united body of life and strive to make EXPO 2005 the first self-portrait of the 21st century for the Earth, humankind and the future.

Nakamura Toshio is a Secretary-General of the Japan Association for the 2005 World Exposition.