

This newsletter is sent only to those who have registered at
<http://www.candle-night.org/>

To unsubscribe from the list, please visit at:
<http://www.candle-night.org/2005winter/english/home.php>

The Candle Night Newsletter--#6
December 20, 2005, Copyright (c) 2005
Candle Night Committee

The "Candle Night Winter 2005" will be held from 8 to 10 p.m.
(your local time) on the evening of December 22nd.

We hope to expand globally "a gentle wave of darkness," on "a night without
excessive lights." Let's join us!

What's New!

*The website of "Candle Night Winter Solstice 2005" is now open!
Please visit at: <http://www.candle-night.org/2005winter/english/news/>

*As of December 20, 2005, 137 events all over Japan are registered at
the Candle Night website.

*The "Candlescape" platform can monitor how the participants across Japan increase on a real-time
basis, together with their messages. Please visit at
<http://www.candle-night.org/2005winter/home.html> and click "candlescope." (Only in Japanese)

In this issue, we will introduce a "Candle Night" report from Sapporo, Japan.

A Living Organism--Candle Night in Sapporo
Candle Night Committee

During "Candle Night" events, each person enjoys their own time under the candlelight. Some
of the Candle Night events have become very large with many participants gathering to form a

connection under the candlelight. In Sapporo, the Candle Nights seem to be "growing" in quality.

At Candle Night Summer Solstice 2005, nearly 500 people gathered at one of the event sites in Odori Park, Sapporo, to enjoy their candle night. They sat on the lawn, decorating candles they brought. Everyone enjoyed drinks and snacks and listening to Mongolian matouqin and throat songs. The concert was "Joint Live--Haruhiko Saga and Nergui," organized by Seikatsu Club Consumers' Co-operative Union in Sapporo.

Ms. Akemi Okazaki, chairperson of the organizing committee of Candle Night in Sapporo said, "People can enjoy a Candle Night event in their own way. I felt the significance and potential of the Candle Night from the flexibility it carries."

Sapporo City is the capital of Hokkaido, the northern island of Japanese Archipelago. Its population is around 1.87 million, which is a third of the entire population in Hokkaido. It is the fifth largest city in Japan. Hokkaido's climate is cool and less humid than that of the mainland. It is blessed with nature under the blue sky, natural forests and green farms rolling to the horizon. It has an abundance of wildlife, many of which live in no other part of Japan.

The Candle Night events started in Sapporo several years ago by different organizers, individually. In 2004, the City of Sapporo started to support the events as part of its CO2 reduction initiatives. Since then the Candle Night in Sapporo has been gaining momentum among citizens.

Ms. Okazaki said, "At that time the city consigned the public relations to a business entity. The company created the PR materials and asked for the organizing committee's comments. Then in 2005, it turned out to be a more proactive initiative. The city joined the organizing committee with private organizations and businesses. The company responsible for the public relations was selected and contributions were raised."

In summer 2005, 33 events were held in Sapporo. Forty-nine restaurants offered dinner services under the candlelight. Six major facilities in Sapporo, including Sapporo Clock Tower, Sapporo City Archives Museum and JR Tower dimmed their lights. In addition, about ten thousand or more candles were delivered to the citizens, and 51 companies encouraged their employees to turn off the lights at home.



The unique item in Sapporo's Candle Night 2005 was a hand-made lantern made of a milk carton. "Milk cartons are made of quality paper. After ripping out the coating and cutting out various patterns, it turns out to be a beautiful lantern," Ms. Okazaki said.

"For making lanterns," she continued, "seven stores and shops including organic vegetable shops and restaurants offered the materials and spaces. The lanterns and stained-glass candle holders were decorated on the street. This year, people enjoyed coloring lanterns and decorating them with washi (Japanese paper) and marbles. The cutting patterns were also elaborate with varied shapes."



"Many participants in the Candle Night events in Sapporo, from children to adults, enjoyed quality "slow time" together under the candlelight--from having dinner, listening to the music to enjoying the festival-like events," she added.

Ms. Okazaki expressed her hopes for the future as follows:

"Each one of the events we had this year could provide people with many chances--chances to meet new people, to feel a sense of unity and to renew our views. One of the churches that held a Candle Night event in the summer of 2005 held a Candle Night Concert on December 3, 2005. I am looking forward to seeing this kind of ripple effect with Candle Nights with other participants, too. It is then necessary for us to create a flexible system, in which all different actors of the Candle Night can cooperate with each other. I have just started to call the organizing committee to present ideas and plans for the coming 2006 summer events."

How the Candle Night, a living organism, can grow bigger from now? Will there be any new ways to enjoy the Candle Night?

We are also looking forward to giving other Candle Night reports to readers in the future issues.

<http://www.sapporo-candle-night.com/>

Other event information in winter 2005-6 in Hokkaido

In Hokkaido, where the temperature often goes below zero in winter, many events using ice-candles and snow lights are held, too.

Shimokawa Town, where ice-candles originated, holds an annual "Ice Candle Festival" in the middle of February. In this event, ice lampshades were made, using a bucket full of water that had been left outdoors overnight. These ice lampshades and candles create a fantastic world.

<http://www.shimokawa.ne.jp/icpark/>

In Otaru City, "Otaru Yukiakari no Michi" (Street of Snow Lights in Otaru) is held every year. (2005 event was held from February 10 to 19.) In this event, about 400 floating candles in glass balls, 20 centimeter in diameter, were put in the Otaru Canal. The Otaru Canal is one of the tourist spots in the city. Many regular candles are lit during the event, too.

<http://www.city.otaru.hokkaido.jp/kanko/akari2/akari-top.htm>

(Staff Writer: Yuko Kishikami)

We hope you enjoyed this issue of the Candle Night Newsletter.

If you find the Candle Night Newsletter interesting, please forward it to friends and suggest that they start their own free subscriptions at

<http://www.candle-night.org/2005winter/english/home.php>

This newsletter is sent only to those who have registered for it.

We do not rent, loan or sell this e-mailing list to any other party.

Back issues of the newsletter are also available.

<http://www.candle-night.org/2005winter/english/news/>

We welcome your comments. Please send them to: eninfo@candle-night.org.

Copyright (c) 2005, Candle Night Committee.

All Rights Reserved.

Candle Night Committee

eninfo@candle-night.org
