



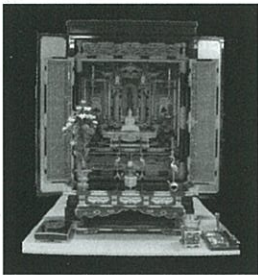
Exhibition on

# Wisdom of Japanese Culture of Kyoto

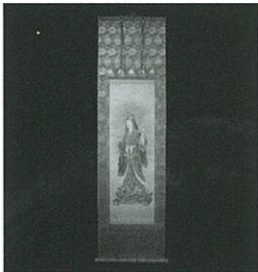


A capital was established in Kyoto some 1,200 years ago and was called Heian. Meaning "peace," the name expresses the wish that both the lives and hearts of the people will be filled with peacefulness.

The Heian capital, or Heiankyo, attained great cultural prominence by fusing diverse cultures, arts, and religions. In the spirit of harmony, as promulgated by Prince Shotoku in his 17 Article Constitution, Heiankyo crystallized native Shinto beliefs with the teachings of Buddhism that came from abroad to achieve a deep syncretistic fusion that resulted in the ultimate flowering of Mahayana Buddhism.



The world today is rife with ethnic conflict and global-scale problems, such as climate change. The highest goal of the United Nations to increase awareness for the *history* and *culture* of various nations and promote respect cultural diversity is perfectly aligned with Japan's cultural and spiritual traditions of syncretistic fusion and emphasis on harmony.



The principles of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol seeking environmental conservation and the coexistence of humankind, too, incorporate these traditions that have been nurtured continuously over 1,200 years in the religious capital of Kyoto. Kyoto is the cultural heart not only of Japan but also of East Asia. The Wisdom of Japan exhibit highlights the artifacts of both the handcrafting tradition and leading-edge technologies that the spirit of syncretism and harmony in Kyoto has nurtured over the years. It is an attempt to introduce the heart and wisdom



of the Japanese people to audiences in Paris a cultural capital of Western civilization and Kyoto's sister city and in Colombo, Sri Lanka, as part of a series of events sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Sri Lanka. It is hoped that in introducing the Wisdom of Japan to the international community, the exhibit will light a new path for humanity to follow.