

Kaleidoscope Meguro



Vol.003 November 2017

CONTENTS

- Special Interview
- Year End & New Year
- Autumn View
- Information

Interview with Mr. Cheikh Niang Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Senegal to Japan



Mr. Niang has been working and living in Meguro City for three years, and was the honorable guest to the *Bon-odori* Festival held in Jiyugaoka early August. Being a fan of Japan and Meguro City, he kindly accepted our request for the interview.

Q1. What surprised you the most in Japan?

What he thinks stands out the most in Japan is the safety on the street which is secured 100% even at midnight, and the sense of freedom which is assured through respect for differences Japanese people present to foreigners. Also it is amazing for him to find how warm Japanese people can be, though they are shy and withdrawn like any other islanders he is familiar with.

Q2. What would you like the most in Meguro City?

The places he recommends foreigners to visit would be Sugekari Park in Aobadai for cherry blossoms, Ryusenji Temple in Shimomeguro, and Japan Folk Crafts Museum in Komaba. His favorite is Jiyugaoka where his home is and where he enjoys friendly atmosphere with cozy little shops, restaurants, and bars. He loves Jiyugaoka so much that he calls it "a microcosms of Tokyo and Japan", as everything is condensed there.

Q3. What message would you like to convey to foreigners living in Meguro City?

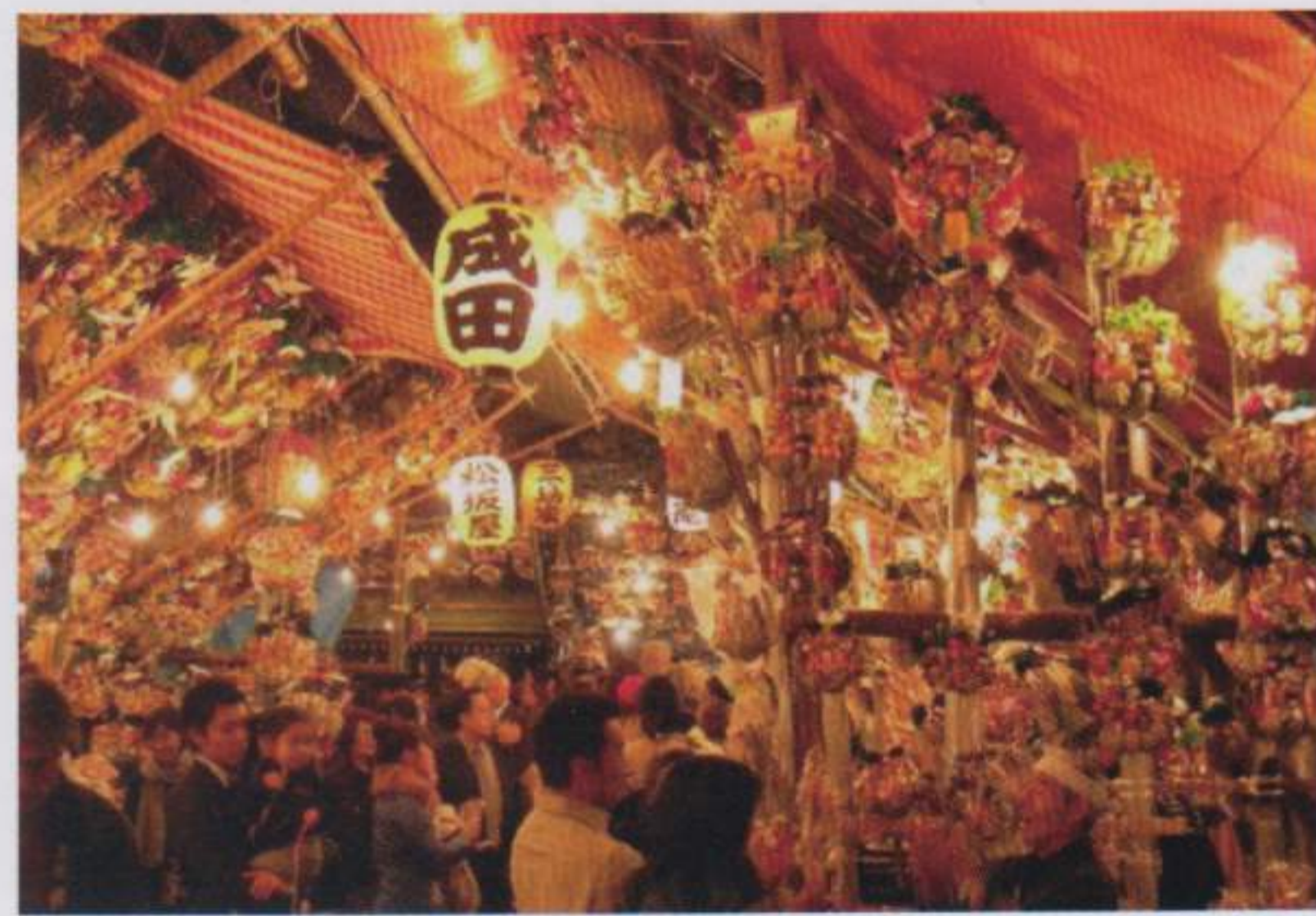
During the interview, Mr. Niang continued to suggest 'we should open up'. For those who come from outside Japan, he says not to be too cautious and afraid of talking to local people. If you get them to understand what you need, they will help you and you will get to know and love Japan more...

We would like to thank Mr. Niang and Mr. Ndiaye (First Counselor) for their time and valuable inputs hoping their insights and experiences would help develop a more matured multi-cultural community in Meguro City.



[Mr. Niang and his family on stage: Jiyugaoka *Bon-odori* Festival]

Tori no Ichi (Cock Festival) Meguro Ootori Shrine



Tori no Ichi is a festival organized on the days of the cock in November every year. This festival is held two or three times a year, as the day of the cock comes around every twelve days. The first festival is called *Ichi no Tori*, the second *Ni no Tori*, and the third *San no Tori*.

Tori no Ichi held at Meguro Ootori Shrine has a long history in Tokyo, which started in the Edo era. This festival has been very popular, as it is the first event for the people to prepare for the coming new year, and to pray for good luck and business prosperity. During the festival, many stalls are lined up to sell *kumade* which is a bamboo rake decorated with various lucky charms. *Kumade* is believed to rake in fortune to the house. And when a customer decides to buy a *kumade*, the seller performs rhythmic hand clapping to celebrate, and this gesture is called *tejime*, a very unique Japanese custom.

2017 Tori no Ichi Schedule

Ichi no Tori: Mon. November 6, around 6 am-11 pm
Ni no Tori: Sat. November 18, around 6 am-11 pm
San no Tori: Thu. November 30, around 6 am-11 pm