

Japanese Fair at Water's Edge (13th June 2015)



The picturesque Grand Lawn at Water's Edge, Battaramulla, a popular venue for relaxation and entertainment, played host to the first ever Japanese Fair to be held in Sri Lanka, on Saturday 13th June 2015. The event was organized by Waters Edge and Japanese restaurant "Ginza," in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan, together with associations and groups of Japanese culture lovers. The fair was open to the public free of charge and featured workshops on Aikido, Ikebana floral art, Bonsai planting, Origami paper folding and Archery, each located in designated areas of the venue.

A large crowd of Sri Lankans streamed into the venue and showed great enthusiasm in participating in the activities and enjoying the various cultural features of Japan. This cultural exhibition provided an excellent opportunity for local people to engage actively in trying out Japanese culture at first-hand. Taking the bow and arrow into one's own hand or witnessing sophisticated movements of throwing one down were both an enjoyable experience for many, while trying out one's hand at arranging flowers in Ikebana style, at learning the art of planting Bonsai or at folding Origami, under the direction of experts also proved to be very popular and entertaining.

The Japanese Fair also featured three musical performances by Japanese residents in Sri Lanka. They were women's Chorus group, women's Flute group, and Taiko drum group. The "Ginza" food outlet dished out succulent Japanese cuisine and many Sri Lankans were seen enjoying the delicacies of finest Japanese food.

Above all, the event was a precious opportunity of fellowship among Japanese and Sri Lankans and contributed greatly to promoting our friendship.