



December 15, 2015

Request for Cooperation with the Sugihara UNESCO Project

The town of Yaotsu, the birthplace of Chiune Sugihara, established and runs the Chiune Sugihara Memorial Museum in memory of his actions, and is now trying to register Sugihara visas and related documents with the UNESCO Memory of the World Program. Our hope is to win UNESCO Memory of the World status for records documenting the deeds of Sugihara's mass visa issuance in Kaunas, Lithuania in 1940. We believe that this bright memory among the tragedies of WWII and the Holocaust should be properly preserved and passed on to future generations.

We will be submitting the final application by the end of May 2016, and currently we are trying to produce an as comprehensive as possible a list of original Sugihara visas which are scattered around the world. We would be very grateful if you could inform us of the current situation regarding the original Sugihara visa that you or your family received, even if you are no longer in possession of the original visa.

If you still have the original Sugihara visa, we would like to ask your permission to include it as part of our application. The registration with the UNESCO Memory of the World Program would not affect your ownership, possession, control, or copyright of the visa in any way. We would only request your permission and that you provide us with digital images of the passport and visa. We believe that you and your family's cooperation would strengthen the chance of our application being registered.

We are happy to discuss the matter in more detail as needed. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have about this project or to clarify any other issues.



YAOTSU TOWN

3903-2, YAOTSU, YAOTSU-CHO

GIFU PREFECTURE, 505-0392 JAPAN

TEL : 0574-43-2111

FAX : 0574-43-0969



Shingo Akatsuka

Shingo Akatsuka

Mayor of Yaotsu Town / Advisory committee, the Sugihara UNESCO project

Ma. Sugihara

Madoka Sugihara (Granddaughter of Chiune Sugihara)

Vice Chairman, NPO Chiune Sugihara Visas For Life / Advisory committee,
the Sugihara UNESCO project

Contact

Masaru Nakayama (Mr.)

Ken Takashima (Mr.)

Yaotsu Town Office / WG member, the Sugihara UNESCO project

Tel : +81-(0)574-43-2111 ex.2350

Fax : +81-(0)574-43-0969

E-mail : n-masaru@town.yaotsu.lg.jp / t-ken@town.yaotsu.lg.jp



YAOTSU TOWN

3903-2, YAOTSU, YAOTSU-CHO

GIFU PREFECTURE, 505-0392 JAPAN

TEL : 0574-43-2111

FAX : 0574-43-0969

For Your Information

The UNESCO Memory of the World Program, also known as “Documents Heritage,” registers important world documents such as notes, paintings, music, and pictures to ensure they are not damaged or lost. It is one of three UNESCO world heritage projects, the others being World Heritage Sites and Intangible Heritage Sites.

1. The Purpose of the Memory of the World Program

- 1) To promote the protection of world heritage as best possible.
- 2) To increase accessibility to heritage resources.
- 3) To increase awareness and emphasize the importance of heritage among member countries.

2. Registration

- 1) There are 348 subjects currently registered, including five from Japan.
- 2) Examples of items registered as part of the “Memory of the World”:
 - Ludwig van Beethoven, Symphony no. 9, D minor, op. 125, Germany, registered in 2001.
 - The Diary of Anne Frank, Netherlands, registered in 2009.
 - Pages of Testimony Collection, Yad Vashem Jerusalem, 1954 – 2004, registered in 2013.

3. Our nominating documents

- 1) Sugihara visas which were written and issued by Chiune Sugihara in Kaunas, Lithuania in 1940.
- 2) Diplomatic telegrams, including the list that shows Sugihara issued at least 2139 visas to European refugees. These documents are preserved by the Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and a replica is on display at the Archives.
- 3) Sugihara’s hand-written memoir, preserved by the Japanese non-profit organization “Chiune Sugihara Visa for Life.”