



Collaboration with Relais & Châteaux and Bunraku

Lunch event with Relais & Châteaux

July 23rd, Les Clefs d'Or members and local concierges in western Japan were invited to the luncheon party by Relais & Châteaux Japan, held at French restaurant La Becasse in Osaka.



Ms. Miwako Fujimoto, President of Ryokan GORA KADAN in Hakone commenced the party with a warm greeting on behalf of Relais & Châteaux. Mr. Yoshimura, the Chief Concierge of the RIHGA Royal Hotel Osaka followed with a thank you speech along with a message from our President Ms. Tajima.



【Relais & Châteaux】

Established over half a century ago, Relais & Châteaux is an association of the world's finest hoteliers, chefs and restaurateurs that has set the standard for excellence in hospitality.

『Key News』

Writer: Kazuyoshi NISHIKAWA
Kazushi KAWAMURA

Editor: Adrian FAUTT
Misa YAMAMOTO

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During this party we had shared the wonderful time with the members and were shared out thoughts about what we can do to better develop our industry for each other.

This was a good opportunity to recognize both our memberships having the same direction.



A very special thank you to Grand Chef, Shibuya Yoshinori for the wonderful creation dishes at La Becasse.



(by Kazuyoshi Nisikawa)

Japan Concierge Association Monthly meeting “Bunraku viewing”

Japan Concierge Association (JCA) monthly meeting took place on July 26th at National Bunraku Theater in Osaka.

It was the hottest record day in summer, however, there were more than 40 participants enrolled in the meeting.

Before Bunraku (puppet play) viewing, JCA members had a chance to have a special lecture on its history and back stage story by the puppeteers.

Bunraku is the form of puppet play to the accompaniment of musical ballads known as Joururi.



(National Bunraku Theater)

History of puppet play can be traced back to 12th century called Heian era.

Its peak was the time when narrator Takemoto Gidayu and play writer Chikamatsu Monzaemon were appeared on the history during the 17th century in Osaka.

Puppet doll is around 1.20 cm to 1.50 cm. It is manipulated by three puppeteers.



We have learned that there are three puppeteers who are not fixed but working different staff depending on the schedule.



Bunraku depicts real life of commoners during the Edo era and takes about 90 minutes to complete the story.

Thanks to the cooperation by the National Bunraku Theater staff and our organizer Mr. Yoshimura, Chef Concierge of RIHGA Royal Hotel Osaka, we had a wonderful and a very important experience to learn about our World Heritage Cultural not only the surface of the story but its real charm and history and how people make the puppets come alive!

(by Kazushi Kawamura)