

Opening of the Exhibition “Yakishime: Earth Metamorphosis”

On June 19, H.E. Mr. AOKI Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Armenia attended the opening ceremony of “Yakishime: Earth Metamorphosis” at the History Museum of Armenia. The event was also attended by Director of the History Museum of Armenia Mr. Davit Poghosyan, and Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia Mr. Alfred Kocharyan.

The exhibition is being organized in Armenia co-hosted with the History Museum of Armenia under The Japan Foundation’s Traveling Exhibition Program.

In his welcoming remarks, Director Mr. Davit Poghosyan noted that, for the first time in Armenia, around 80 ceramic works created using traditional Yakishime techniques are being exhibited. Deputy Minister Mr. Alfred Kocharyan, who described himself as a great admirer of Japanese culture, welcomed the growing number of Japanese cultural events being held in Armenia and noted the increasing interest in Japanese culture among the Armenian public.

Ambassador Aoki highlighted that the exhibition has been successfully presented in many countries around the world and expressed his pleasure that it is now being showcased in Armenia. He explained that Yakishime pottery originated around the end of the Heian period in the 12th century. The term “Yakishime” literally means “fired and hardened,” referring to the process by which clay becomes dense and durable through high-temperature firing.

The Ambassador emphasized that the exhibition is not only about ceramics as objects of everyday use, but also about a living cultural tradition passed down from generation to generation. The same techniques that were developed centuries ago continue to be used today to create plates, bowls, vases, and other ceramic works, preserving and transmitting the art of Yakishime to future generations.

Guests also enjoyed a performance of the Japanese song “Song of the Seashore” by pianist Anna Aleksanyan, a teacher member of the Romanos Melikyan State Music College, and vocalist Karina Gevorgyan.

The exhibition features more than 80 works, including a 12th-century jar, pieces by Living National Treasures, and contemporary Yakishime ceramics.

The exhibition will remain open at the History Museum of Armenia until July 10.



Exhibition venue



Opening remarks



Performance of the Japanese song
“Song of the Seashore”



Ambassador Aoki and Mr. Poghosyan



Viewing the exhibition display



Visitors observing Yakishime ceramic works