

# The Awaji Flower Festival 2025 SDGs International Symposium

~Shaping the Future with the Region's Rich Natural Landscape~



## Awaji Flower Festival 2025 Official Ambassador



### HANNA

(Born in Hyogo Prefecture)

She is the center of WHITESCORPIN, an 11-member idol group produced by Yasushi Akimoto. She was selected through the IDOL 3.0 PROJECT audition, which had approximately 10,000 applicants and debuted in December 2023.

Date: **2025.3.20 Thu.**

Registration Time: 10:00~

Opening Time: 10:30 Closing Time: 13:00

Languages:



Venue: Awaji Yumebutai

Int'l Conference Center

Max. Capacity of Audience: 400

Fees: Free

# Program



Flowers Arrangement on the Stage : **Kahu YAMAGUCHI**

Welcome

Performance: : **Tsuyoshi WATANABE** (The Awaji Flower Festival 'MUSICVISOR' - Music Advisor)

**Salut d'Amour** composed by E. ELGAR

**TWIN ARROWS·WALKIN' TOMORROW** composed by T. WATANABE

Welcom

Remarks: **Motohiko SAITO**, Governor of Hyogo Prefecture

Honorary Chairperson of the Awaji Flower Expo 25th Anniversary Flower Festival

Opening 2025 Executive Committee

Remarks: **Ken ISHIMURA**, Chairperson of the Awaji Flower Expo 25th Anniversary

Flower Festival 2025 Executive Committee and the Awaji Island

Kuniumi Association

**[Part I]**

Keynote Speech: **Timothy M.A. UTTERIDGE**, Director of Botanical Research

Singapore Botanic Gardens

**"The History of Singapore Botanic Gardens and Their Significant**

**Contribution Towards Achieving the SDGs."**

**[Part II]**

Panel

Discussion: **"Shaping the Landscape in the Era of SDGs"**

Facilitator: **Isamu NAKASE**, Honorary Director, Museum of Nature and Human Activities, Hyogo

Panelists (in the same order as the Japanese Program) :

- **Kyoko ISHIMARU**, Biodiversity Coordinator, Hyogo Prefectural Amagasaki Forest Central Green Park Center
- **Akihiko ONO**, Associate Professor Graduate School of Design, Nagoya City University
- **Shozo SHIBATA**, President and Principal of Hyogo Prefectural Awaji Landscape Planning & Horticulture Academy
- **Chisato SHIMADA**, Senior GIS Developer & Planner New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
- **Timothy M.A. UTTERIDGE**, Director of Botanical Research Singapore Botanic Gardens

# Flower Arrangement on the Stage



**Yamaguchi Kafu** is an esteemed first-degree master professor at the Ohara School of Ikebana Foundation. She serves as a researcher and lecturer for the Ohara School of Ikebana and is a special member of the Japan Ikebana Art Association. Additionally, she is the representative lecturer for Kafu (Culture Classroom Yusui).

The head of the school has recognized Yamaguchi school for her exceptional skill and knowledge in the Ohara School of Ikebana. She is qualified to act as a professor at the Ohara School of Ikebana Research Institute, where she teaches members at 144 branches nationwide. Since 2008, Yamaguchi has also been involved with the Traditional Culture Children's Classroom, a project commissioned by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, where she educates children about the coexistence of humans and nature.





## Welcome Performance



### **Tsuyoshi WATANABE**

Graduating from Tokyo University of the Arts, Tsuyoshi Watanabe's career is not just about his achievements but also his support for other artists. He made his debut with 'G-CLEF' while still a student and his talent was recognized when he participated in the NHK Red and White Singing Festival as part of the white team in 1990. Over the years, Watanabe has supported various artists, including movie music directors, and has been involved in plays, dramas, and musicals. His contributions to the music industry go beyond his performances. Notably, he performed Yukiko Inui's solo free song during the 2023 World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, which contributed to her winning the gold medal. Since joining in 2006, he has been an active Tokiko Kato's band member.



## Symposium Overview

In Japan, there are many large-scale flower beds and beautiful landscapes. However, from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) perspective, landscaping that utilizes native and indigenous species while promoting biodiversity is becoming the global standard. Additionally, interest and understanding of biodiversity in Japan are on the rise, as demonstrated by initiatives like "Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECM)" and "30 by 30." At this symposium, we will be discussing not just local but global trends in the landscaping field. This symposium will help us understand our role in the more significant movement towards biodiversity and sustainable landscaping. We will also propose a future direction for our country, knowing that our actions contribute to a global cause.



## Keynote Speech

### **Dr. Timothy M.A. UTTERIDGE**

Dr. Utteridge is the Director of Botanical Research at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. His research focuses on understanding the plants of tropical Asia and emphasizes the essential role of a modern research botanic garden in enhancing knowledge and public awareness of plant diversity, and encompasses three main areas: the discovery, description, and conservation assessment of woody tropical trees and climbers. Additionally, he is involved in publishing guides and handbooks and teaching plant identification and taxonomy. A key aspect of his research includes the naming, curation, and enhancement of herbarium collections.



# Panel Discussion



## Dr. Isao Nakase, Facilitator

Dr. Nakase is the Honorary Director of the Museum of Nature and Human Activities in Hyogo and a Professor Emeritus at the University of Hyogo. He is a board member of the Japanese Society of Landscape Architects and previously served as the president and principal of the Hyogo Prefectural Awaji Landscape Planning and Horticulture Academy. Dr. Nakase is actively involved in community development and non-profit activities aimed at earthquake recovery. He is also the chairman of the National Dragonfly Citizen Summit Executive Committee and serves as a director of the Hanshin Green Net Secretariat.

# Panelists (in the same order as the Japanese Program)



## Dr. Kyoko ISHIMARU

Dr. Ishimaru is the Biodiversity Coordinator at the Hyogo Prefectural Amagasaki Forest Central Green Park Center (AFCGPC) in Hyogo. She has been actively promoting regional biodiversity. Since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, the AFCGPC has committed itself to creating a biodiverse forest by planting only local seedlings for next the 100 years. The center offers a variety of environmental education programs for schools and companies, along with courses on forest building. The significance of these efforts and the methods used are shared and actively implemented by the dedicated staff and volunteers. Their role is essential to the center's mission of raising residents' awareness and understanding of biodiversity conservation.

## Dr. Akihiko ONO

Dr. Ono is an Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Design at Nagoya City University and serves as the representative director of SfG Landscape Architects Inc. He is a registered landscape architect who, in 2009, participated in a program in the Netherlands through the Agency for Cultural Affairs' emerging artist dispatch system, a significant milestone that broadened his international experience. Ono works on a diverse range of landscape design projects, both domestically and internationally, including designs for residential buildings, large-scale developments, and civil engineering spaces such as station plazas. Additionally, he operates a small farm in Gifu, where he cultivates seeds collected from the project sites he works on, returning them to the designed spaces.



## Dr. Shozo SHIBATA

Dr. Shibata is the President and Principal of the Hyogo Prefectural Awaji Landscape Planning & Horticulture Academy. He is a leading figure in landscape research in Japan, specializing in landscape architecture, greening engineering, landscape ecology, forest cultivation, and bamboo ecology. His research primarily focuses on restoring *satoyama*, traditional rural landscapes, and bamboo forests. He emphasizes the importance of managing and innovatively utilizing natural resources, mainly restoring secondary nature. Additionally, Dr. Shibata explores the environmental mitigation functions and biodiversity conservation roles of green spaces in urban areas, especially in extreme heat and heavy rainfall. He is dedicated to discovering the most effective methods for managing these green spaces.



## Chisato SHIMADA

Shimada is a Senior GIS Developer and Planner at the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. She began her career in the Mayor's Office of Manhattan and later worked at a construction company before joining the Parks Department in 2009. Her work primarily focuses on parks and urban greening initiatives, where she utilizes Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for analysis. In 2012, she became the chair of the Economic Development Committee for the New York branch of the American Institute of Urban Planning.

