

33rd Volunteer Activity for Passing on Hope for the Future



Date	Saturday, March 7
Activity site	Taito ward, Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum)
Participants	24 (11 men, 9 women, 4 administration office staff)

● Activity Details



This time, we worked in collaboration and as volunteers with an NPO named Wonder Art Production for its Wonder Art Stage for Children event for 400 people (200 people comprising 100 parent and child pairs for 2 shows).

Preparations for the event held at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum started at 9:45 a.m. but there were all sorts of issues, like the costume for the Pen-kun mascot from the Bouquet of Children's Stories being too big and suddenly having to change dressing rooms, guides outdoors struggling in the rain and cold and hall staff having a tough time lining up all the people arriving for the event. Yet everything was in place by the time the performance started. A Bouquet of Children's Stories space was set up near the middle of audience seats with panels introducing the stories.

From 11 a.m. the first show started with Noppo-san who used to appear in the Dekirukana arts and crafts program once broadcast on NHK Educational TV. Following his first one-man skit (Chumon no Oi Ryoriten; The Restaurant of Many Orders) time was set aside for performers and the audience to mingle, and the volunteer staff ascended to the stage. During dialogue with master of ceremonies Kimiyo Furuya there was an introduction of the JX Group and the Bouquet of Children's Stories and a volunteer staff read Itazura Mahotsukai (Mischievous Witch) from the Bouquet of Children's Stories Vol. 45. Later, volunteer staff went onstage during the Parent-Child Playtime set to the Onbu Obakechan, and the parent and child pairs joined in on the fun while remaining in their seats.

Noppo-san then performed his second one-man skit, Oinomori to Zarumoriu, Nusutomori (Forest of Wolves, Forest of Bamboo Baskets, and Forest of Thieves). When the performance was over, everybody in the hall went onstage and took a commemorative photo with Noppo-san, the master of ceremonies, and volunteer staff. Volunteer staff lined up near the exit and presented the children with gift bags containing a copy of the Bouquet of Children's Stories and Pen-kun merchandise.

The second show began from 2 p.m. and was the same as the first show except after it was finished, Noppo-san led the audience in a sign language performance of a song he had written, with volunteer staff joining in and having a wonderful time together to the end.

Among the comments volunteer staff made after the event included, "I was pleased to have been able to interact with the children and the people from the group," "It was great that the JX Group employees could get up on the stage" and "How about taking this kind of event to places all over Japan?"