

Activity Report of the Environmental Special Publicity Ambassador

Ms. Ko Shibasaki, Environmental Special Publicity Ambassador of Ministry of the Environment, dedicated her singing performance to Ise Jingu at its Sanshuden (a rest house) in the Naiku precincts, Mie Prefecture on Wednesday, September 19, 2018.

The song she dedicated was “Tsuki No Shizuku (Moony dewdrops).” She sang the song with AUN J CLASSIC ORCHESTRA, an internationally active group of Japanese musicians who deliver unparalleled music using traditional Japanese instruments such as wadaiko and shamisen. The graceful music resonated with the pristine air of Naiku.

Ms. Shibasaki said:

“I was greatly honored and humbled by the opportunity to offer a music performance to Ise Jingu. It is the most special shinto shrine for many Japanese people and also a place from which we can learn a lot about the preciousness of the environment which I feel attached to. In the sustainability-focused microcosm of Ise Jingu as represented by its long history of ceremonial shrine rebuilding (Shikinen Sengu), I sang my heart out with deep appreciation to our ancestors.”

Ise Jingu stands out as an important place in Ise-Shima National Park. Its central wooden shrine buildings are renewed every 20 years in a series of the most venerable rituals.

Ise-Shima National Park lies on the Shima Peninsula, which is set in the center of Mie Prefecture, and its surrounding areas. It expands over the cities of Ise, Toba, and Shima, and the town of Minami-Ise, occupying a vast area of nearly 60,000 hectares.

Ise-Shima National Park is broadly divided into two areas. One is the inland area where the Ise Jingu is situated surrounded by a forest environment. The other is a coastal area noted for complex terrain and geological features dotted with a myriad of inlets and capes as typified by a ria coast.

In stark contrast to other national parks, Ise-Shima has an extremely high proportion of privately owned land (over 96%) and has a large residential population within the park. For that reason, its biggest feature is that visitors are able to come in close contact with local people’s livelihoods, history, culture, and customs, and appreciate the beautiful landscapes as well as the relationship between people and nature.

Please come to Ise-Shima National Park to pay a visit to Ise Jingu, a site where a long and multifaceted history unfolds, and to experience Satoyama and Satoumi, a land of enrichment interwoven with the workings of people and nature.

