

## ~Komaba Strolling Club Report~

Saturday - June 6, 2011

This year welcomes the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Komaba Stroll presented by the Culture Committee. Mr. Gamo, who teaches Japanese history at Kokusai High School, has explained the historical background of each site in an easy to understand style.

(Itinerary) Assemble at Komaba Todaimae Station — Nell Kell Rice Field in Komabano Park (Komaba Agricultural School's training field — Komaba Elementary School (Emperor Meiji Komabano monument) Komaba Park, marquis Maeda's historical mansion, library, Japanese and Western-style mansions — University of Tokyo faculty of education (Participants) 29 people (Duration: approx. 2.5 hours)

The stroll took place in the early rain season this year. Unfortunately, we had to use umbrellas and without sunshine, the day was cool and bearable (rain gently weakened throughout the day).



One stroll around the block here includes Komabano Park and Kokusai High School make up of 165,000 tsubo or 135 acres (roughly 12 times the size of Tokyo Dome) of land in the old days. Under the leadership of Mr. Nell Kell, a German teacher, this site, Komaba Agricultural School (Department of Agriculture, presently University of Tokyo,) was the basic foundation of our agriculture in Japan today. This park is full of green plantations; pond filled with fresh spring water...are we really in a metropolitan area? A beautiful place that makes you think you are far away from the city.

Our next stop was the Japan Folk Crafts Museum, where a number of nostalgic crafts were on display and was very heart-warming. From the banquet hall veranda of Marquis Maeda's Japanese-styled mansion, you could oversee the wonderful traditional Japanese garden and "would love to come back again" voices were heard. Furthermore, with the remark from the teacher "the feeling of being an aristocrat" in the Western-style mansion, we were able to enjoy the stroll with an graceful and elegant mood. Finally we have entered the University of Tokyo campus at the end and learned about the school insignia. The day passed very quickly with a fulfilling wonderful experience.

Last but not least, we would like to thank Mr. Gamo for sharing his knowledge and experience despite his busy schedule. We also wish to extend our appreciation to our Cultural Committee for their kindness, thank you all.

