

23 ICV Meets in Yokohama, Japan

To the strains of popular music from several countries and the *Marcia Vexillum*, played by Yokohama's fire department band, the opening



ceremonies of the 23rd International Congress of Vexillology took place in a shore breeze strong enough to knock over the temporary flagpoles.



Over the next five days in mid-July, delegates from the members of FIAV (the International Federation of Vexillological Associations) convened to hear 27 papers, tour important flag-related sites, and consider matters of import to the federation.

The more than 50 participants came from 17 countries, with the largest contingents from Japan and Australia.



Over a dozen NAVA members attended—NAVA is a founding member of FIAV.

Held during the 150th anniversary of the opening of the port of

Yokohama to the West, the congress appropriately met in the elegant and historic Port-Opening Memorial Hall, built in 1909—a survivor of the 1923 Kanto Earthquake and the 1945 air raids.



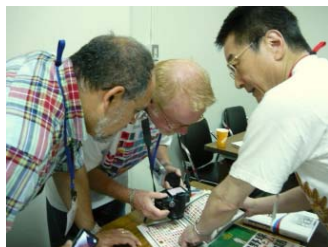
JAVA, the Japanese Vexillological Association, hosted the congress and dedicated it to the memory of Harry Oswald, the NAVA member who had helped organize JAVA. It flew a special flag in his honor and displayed photos of his participation in JAVA and FIAV events.



The Wednesday tour took participants to Tokyo's controversial Yasukuni shrine to Japanese war dead, where they received the rare privilege of participating in a ceremony in the shrine's inner sanctum and viewed flags and other objects in the shrine's museum (see cover). They also visited to the impressive Edo-Tokyo museum, where several tried hoisting



the 15 kg. vexilloid representing one of the city's many traditional fire brigades.



Local flag merchants offered flags and a grand assortment of flag-related publications for sale. Participants

tried, and usually failed, to add less to their suitcases than they had brought to share in Yokohama!



During its General Assembly, FIAV re-elected as FIAV officers Kin Spain, U.S.A. (secretary-general), Michel Lupant, Belgium (president), and Graham Bartram, U.K. (secretary-general for congresses), shown officiating, above.

FIAV also confirmed Washington, DC as the venue for the 2011 congress, and selected Rotterdam, The Netherlands for 2013 and Sydney, Australia for 2015.



The Vexillon award, for the greatest contribution to world vexillology in the past two years, went posthumously to Andries Petrus Burgers, for his master work *The South African Flag Book*.

NAVA now sponsors the award for best paper, which went to Akira Kumagai (below) for "Flags of Higher Schools in Imperial Japan 1894-1950".



JAVA honored Alain Raullet of Brittany, France (shown at left having presented a Breton flag to a waiter), for his presentation about his weekly radio show "The Voice of Vexillology", now entering its 4th season.

At the final banquet, FIAV president Michel Lupant and 23 ICV organizer Nozomi Kariasu presented the FIAV flag to Ted Kaye and Gus Tracchia, NAVA officers and members of the organizing committee for 24 ICV (NAVA 45) in Washington, DC.



Plans are under way for that congress. For more information about helping with the organizing committee, contact Ted Kaye (treas@nava.org) for overall coordination matters or Peter Ansoff (pastpres@nava.org) for local arrangements.