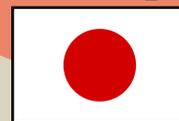


17th CMAS World Championship

Underwater Photography , 17 to 22 September 2019

Arona, Tenerife, Spain - Japan Team



Kyoko Mizuno,

CMAS Scuba Diving Instructor, Restaurateur, Underwater Photographer

Born in Nerima Tokyo, Kyoko at the age of five while observing trout swimming in the river in Akita Prefecture, decided to dive into the water and while observing the fish through her glasses; she asked herself, "why the world beneath the water is so different than on land." The mysteries of the underwater world motivated her to explore more as she imagined herself swimming with the dolphins. That is how her love for the sea was born.

But it was not until the age of thirty that her childhood dreams became a reality. At that time, she became a diving instructor and entered the world of underwater photography. Her mission matured to portraying the beauty of the oceans and the healing power they bring to people, to as many as she could reach. She honed her skills to become the world-class underwater photographer she is today.

At 49, she was diagnosed with Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS). This disease damaged her immune system and debilitated her nerves to almost paralysis. With unparalleled determination, she overcame this hurdle and was ready to compete at the Jeju, South Korea 12th World Championship in 2009. She has won many national and international awards including two silver medals at the CMAS 2016 3rd AUF International Underwater Photograph Competition, in Bali, Indonesia.

Her dream of living by the sea became a reality because of a little puppy she found abandoned near a mountain hut, his name is Lucky and lives with her until today! Because she could not take her little dog to Tokyo, she began looking for a location that eventually brought her to Atami in 2014, and it was the perfect location. She is now well established and is the owner of Beluga LLC that operates the Dolphin School Beluga since 2014 and the Beluga Russian Cuisine and Craft Beer Restaurant since the summer of 2016.

Good luck Kyoko!.





Takahiro Shiroyama,

News Cameraman, Photographer Underwater
Photographer



"Takahiro Shiroyama, from Hiroshima, likes to be called TAKA. He works as a news camera photographer (video) at a television station. He likes to shoot everything, including news, sports, documentaries, and aerial photography. He started underwater photography in 2006 after obtaining his scuba diving license.

He was born with a weaker than the average anatomy, thus engaging in sports in school was beyond his abilities. However, after graduating

from high school, he suddenly stretched to a robust 168 cm. With his renewed strength, he took upon various martial arts disciplines like judo, karate, and even kickboxing.

Accidentally at the age of 35, he cut both legs ligaments, and the world of martial arts closed. Unable to walk, he started swimming and scuba diving. A star underwater photographer emerged from that tragic event, these days he competes internationally among the selected few.

There is an internal debate brewing in

his mind regarding his photographic abilities. He sustains that his photos are not art and says that the results he obtains are because he practices all the time until he can attain the results he wants. He is not quite sure either if he likes photography in general! The reason he continues to take pictures is that he realizes that they make people happy and appreciative of the results he obtains.

The same reason holds for the underwater world, and this motivates him to continue in his underwater photography journey. For him, consequently, it became important to show the attractiveness of the underwater world. He hopes that by extracting images from the ocean, we will surface the beauty of our marine habitats and the precious life it contains.

As of March 2019, Taka's accomplishments include 77 Prime Minister Achievement awards. Won the 10th place in the Close-up with Theme category at the 16th CMAS World Championship Underwater Photography (Mexico), and her daughter was born in Japan during the tournament.

Good luck Taka!



Aya Sakuma - Underwater Model

From Yokohama, Aya is an esthetician owner of the Lomilomi salon "Ola Aloha," a business that she started when she was 25.

Aya had the opportunity to study Lomilomi massage in Hawaii. Lomilomi relaxation massage is a discipline where specialist uses their palms, forearms, fingers, knuckles, elbows, knees, feet as has a long evolutionary tradition. The early Polynesian brought it to Hawaii and evolved as a unique Hawaiian discipline.

The turning point of her life occurred when she was 20, still a novice esthetician, because her work at a major beauty salon was not fulfilling. It was tedious and depleted her drive to improve as a person; she felt that her job had turned her into a machine.

Compounded struggles with bulimia and difficult human relationships lead her to seek a privately owned Lomilomi Salon to heal herself. It was the healing powers of Lomilomi and the warm care she received during the treatment that influenced her to



decide to pursue a career in Lomilomi.

Absorbed by this traditional Hawaiian therapy and the magical healing energy from the ocean, Aya harvested these elements to configure her vision of becoming an underwater model. Diving has enormous therapeutic properties and offers her a unique opportunity to relax all her five senses. Her love for the sea comes from these experiences.

She realized that underwater photography had a unique esthetical quality and became fascinated by the idea of modeling through these lenses. This year she will be modeling for the Japan Team at the 17th CMAS Underwater Video and Photography Competition at Tenerife, Spain.

Good luck to you Aya!



Kuniko Tanaka – Team Coordinator, Interpreter



A mother of four children. This successful businesswoman speaks in four languages Japanese, English, French, Arabic and is now challenging Spanish as her fifth language to master. Jovial, ambitious, a problem solver by nature, she is always ready to give a helping hand.

Her abilities with languages have led her to become involved with the diplomatic community in Tokyo, with JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and in Saitama and Chiba Prefecture as a police interpreter. Kuniko is a licensed French, English teacher, and a National Government Licensed Guide Interpreter; holding the prestigious EIKEN 1st grade certificate under her belt.

She has a long tradition of fifteen years as a volunteer for the Chofu International Friendship Association and is resourceful at communicating with people of various backgrounds. In her own words, "I have learned the importance of cooperation and how to adjust to different situations with flexibility."

Kuniko shares our common belief in the preservation of our marine fauna and flora; she hopes that by helping her teammates succeed at the championship, they will surface pictures showing the beauty of our ocean and the precious life it contains. Disclosing these images will positively impact people to care more for this fragile ecosystem. Her interest spread into many outdoor activities like hiking,



cycling, and camping, which top the list of her most enjoyable activities. For traditional relaxation and beauty, she enjoys wearing kimonos, hair styling, and ikebana. Kuniko is always on the go!

These are attributes that she will bring to the CMAS 17th World Underwater Video and Photography Tournament. She is ready to assist her teammates to succeed in their important roles.

Good luck Kuniko!

Cesar Macher – Team Captain



He was born in Lima, Peru, lived in Miraflores, a district that faces the Pacific Ocean. Sunsets over the cliffs that run along the district are magnificent and made an everlasting impact on him. The South Pacific skies change colors across the whole light spectrum until the darkness would set in. As a child, he would ask himself curiously what was beyond the horizon. This inquisitiveness to learn what was beyond the horizon where the harbingers of a life full of travel and exploration.

So far, he has lived in Peru, Brazil, Japan, the USA, and Canada; now Cesar Macher is a Canadian Citizen living in Tokyo; not bad for a kid who wanted to know what laid beside the horizon.

As a Naval Architect and Marine Engineer, he carried his experience as a shipbuilder and maritime consultant across the many shores he traveled. He loves the sea for sure and has centered his livelihood around it. Today he owns a company in Tokyo called CMACH International, a boutique LLC. Consulting firm that provides services to the maritime transportation industries couple to harbor services arrangements.

Meeting the team members was casual; it all started on a BBQ in Atami at Kyoko Mizuno place. Here he met other team members who lead into friendships that resulted in his nomination to become the Captain of the Japan Team. Serendipity may be the proper word to summarize his participation. In that regard, he is grateful for the opportunity that Kyoko Mizuno unlocked and is enormously honored to work with all his fellow teammates.

It was an easy buy for him to participate in this year's CMAS tournament. Macher is supportive of all fronts

that promote sustainability and protection across all marine ecosystems. He envisions that the creation of marine reserves would provide refuge for marine species to recover. New fisheries management centered around marine life preservation and not on optimization for human consumption need to be advanced.

He believes that there is a strong correlation between this year's CMAS underwater photography tournament and the protection of marine ecosystems. Photographers from around the world will compete to extract images that will surface the beauty of our oceans and the precious life it contains. Showing the world how the insides of our oceans look is a way to sensitize humankind to reverse the suicidal trajectory it has chosen to take that could drown us all. He wishes all divers joyful participation and let the best win!

Fair winds and following seas to all!

