



“One hundred haiku for the Olympic Games”

To give a poetic welcome to the world, the citizens of Nagano composed a book of *haiku*, unrhymed three-line poems of five, seven, and five syllables, which often express the essence of a moment linking nature and human nature. Some 1,602 *haiku* were entered in a competition open to the general public on the themes of winter sports, the Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, the Paralympic Winter Games in Nagano, and the nature and culture of Nagano. One hundred of these were selected and translated in French or English, then printed on miniature flags and distributed to foreign visitors in local shops and information centres during the Games. Here are just a few examples:

“This year’s offering
To our mountain Goddess:
Fire arriving from Greece!”
- Hiroko Yoda

“Winter Olympics:
The bell of the temple rings
And the world is one.”
- Michio Uchibori

“Little by little
A girl becomes a flower
Spinning on the ice!”
- Nobuko Agata

“Jumping in the air,
The skier looks like a bridge
Between sky and earth!”
- Sachiko Kusama

“Hakuba village
Echoes with thousands of cheers
In a hundred languages!”
- Totoshi Mesuda