

## Participation Report: Minka Summit in Kyoto

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Attending the Minka Summit in Kyoto was a thoughtful experience. The event, focused on the restoration and preservation of traditional Japanese houses, gave me a deeper understanding of how easily damaged, yet important and valuable, cultural heritage can be.

The summit included a series of presentations and site tours. What left the strongest impression on me were the tours. I particularly remember the French couple who bought and restored a traditional thatched-roof house. Hearing about their plans—to open the house to connect the rooms and yard, plant more greenery, and create space for the future—made me realize how passionate some people are about preserving these traditions. It was inspiring to see how Westerners could not only appreciate Japan's cultural heritage but also treat it as a treasure and integrate it into their everyday lives. We also visited other *Minka* houses, some of which had been restored as public spaces, and a tool museum highlighting traditional craftsmanship.

As for the presentations, they were a bit different from what I expected. I remember one presenter talked about how his work not only focused on history but also involved building business models to attract investment. This way of thinking is different from just preserving culture, but it seems to help make sure these old homes get the care and attention they need.

Overall, this event made me see the importance of balancing tradition with modern needs to keep cultural heritage alive in today's world.