

Japan Universal Poets Association  
**International Poetry Festival**  
*Royal Park Hotel - Kyoto - Japan*

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Dear poetry lovers and culture promoters,

This is Naji Naaman, “The mad about gratis culture” and the President of the Foundation for Gratis Culture (FGC).

Let me first of all thank you for inviting my Foundation in order to grant a special support to your International Poetry Readings held at the Royal Park Hotel (Kyoto – Japan).

I would like then to say that I am honored being requested to address this message on the occasion of my 2018 Literary Prizes Celebration Party.

I can see that the Japan Universal Poets Association, founded by Mr. Takashi Arima, has many similar aims with the FGC I am presiding. Therefore, I am looking for further co-operations.

My latest quotes about free of charge culture has been: “Let’s keep the book alive!”; my first one was fifty years ago: “Free and open culture makes peace”. I believe that, in these days, “It is useless to revert to the saber, once the plume is defeated”, and that we have to spread culture for free because “Culture can’t be purchased or sold”, and I think that gratis culture could be generalized because “To give for free is contagious too”.

My sincere congratulations to the chairmanship group: Kikumi Shimoda, Ikuyo Yoshimura and Tamara Litvinenko; as well as to the sponsors, all poetry readers, and the awardees: From Russia, Vyacheslav Kupriyanov; from Ukraine, Dymtro Chystiak; and from Japan, Mariko Sumikura and Taeko Uemura (Chairwoman of the Organizing Committee). I am really proud of you, and I think that you are all ambassadors of my Foundation for Gratis Culture on this planet.

Good luck. Long live poetry and culture!

And, as I hope we will meet one day, I say to you: *SAYONARA*.

*February 7, 2019*

**Naji Naaman**  
*President*