



アフガン人の女性(中央)にヘナを塗ってもらった新嫁役の女性(右) (広島市中区の中央公民館で)

### 研修受ける技師ら、日本人と交流

戦災からの復興のため、アフガニスタン政府で出迎えられた参加者は、研修を受けるアフガニスタン職人や技師ら19人と、日本人19人。

「ユニタール広島事務所」が主催する「結婚式」が、広島市中区の中公民館で開かれ、アフガニスタンでの婚式が再現された。

参加したのは、ユニタール広島事務所が主催する「結婚式」が、日本人参加者が務め、他の日本人は新郎の親戚役で、新郎の親戚役のアフガニスタン参加者が待つ座敷に招かれた。掘土の後に抱き合ったり、アフガン風のあいさつを交わすなど、交流が盛んだった。

### アフガニスタン風婚約式再現

人(35)の手には、繊細な花の模様が書き込まれた。二人は「とても美しい。これまで知らなかったアフガニスタンの文化を知ることができた」と喜んでくれた。

また、広島人のけん玉選手も参加し、アフガニスタン参加者もけん玉を血に染める「けん玉」を血に染めるのに四苦八苦していた。

準備を進めてきた技師の一人、アフガニスタンのグール・アフガン・サリキンは、「けん玉はまだまだできなかったけれど、日本人の皆さんと深く交流でき、我が国の文化を知ってもらえたと思う」と満足そうだった。

Yomiuri Shimbun Newspaper, 9 November 2008

## A Recreation of an Afghan Style Marriage Ceremony Technicians Under Training Exchange With Japanese

November 8<sup>th</sup> saw an exchange activity, a recreation of a marriage ceremony as held in Afghanistan, with Afghans receiving training in order to reconstruct after war damage, at the Hiroshima Central Community Center in Central Ward (hosted by the UNITAR Hiroshima Office, amongst others.)

Those taking part included 39 Afghan government workers and technicians attending training at the UNITAR Hiroshima Office and 19 Japanese. For the marriage ceremony, the roles of the groom and the bride were filled by Japanese participants, with other Japanese acting as the grooms family and the role of the brides family being filled by the Afghan participants who invited them into their “house.” After shaking hands and hugging each other in the Afghan fashion, the participants who had been greeted enjoyed chai, nuts and dried fruit. “Henna”, a natural dye, was applied to the palms of the participants. Henna, holds the meaning of “great luck” and once applied, does not fade for one or two weeks. A delicate flower pattern was drawn on the hand of 35 year old Chiaki Miki, a company employee from Higashi-Kannon in West Ward who played the part of the bride. Ms. Miki stated “It’s very beautiful. I am happy to have been able to see a gorgeous side of Afghanistan that I had not known about until now.”

In addition, members of the Hiroshima University *Kendama* Circle “DAMAKen” gave a *kendama* demonstration in which the Afghan participants took part, with them struggling to get the ball in the cup.

“We couldn’t do *kendama* so well, but we were able to interact deeply with the Japanese here and I think they got to know the culture of our country.” said a satisfied looking Mr. Gul-Afghan Saleh (51) a technician who helped with the preparation.

Photo description: An Afghan woman (center) applies henna to a woman acting as a bride (right) (at the Hiroshima Central Community Center in Naka Ward)