

Japanese entertainer to perform at UMS

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KOTA KINABALU: Tokiko Kato, one of Japan's renowned entertainers, will enthrall audiences in Kota Kinabalu with an evening of song and music at 7pm on August 23 at Pusat Dewan Kuliah, University Malaysia Sabah.

The concert is brought to you by the Consulate-General of Japan in Kota Kinabalu and coordinated by Sri Pelancongan Sabah Sdn Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sabah Tourism Board under the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment Sabah.

Its minister, Tan Sri Datuk Chong Kah Kiat, is the guest of honour.

Tokiko is also in Sabah under the capacity of Special Envoy for the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and will be visiting areas under environmental protection while promoting conservation efforts in the State.

Her concerts are known for carrying environmental themes, using music as a channel to express her sentiments. A traditional music ensemble called the "Sound of Borneo" will be accompanying her.

Tokiko will be performing several of her Japanese hits such as Nada Sousou, Hanagatami and Hyakumanbon No Bara.

She has scored numerous hit songs and performed in dozens of concerts a year in Japan, as well as overseas namely France, Russia, China and at the prestigious Carnegie Hall. In 2000, she recorded her album "Tokiko Sky" in Johannesburg with South African musicians, and then finalized a 10-album series titled "Farewell To My Loving 20th Century".

She released "My Best Song" in 2001, and "Hanagatami", a song composed by Mr Tetsuya Murakami of Gospellers in 2002. She has also recorded a collection of popular songs of Okinawa and a collection entitled "Passionate



Tokiko Kato ... to visit areas under

Songs of Okinawa" in May 2003. In 2003, she released the song "To You" which received favorable reviews.

Tokiko began her singing career in 1965 while she was a student at the University of Tokyo, Japan, in which she has won many awards, including the Grand Prix of the Amateur Chanson Singing Contest, the Best New Talent award of the Japan Record Grand Prix in 1966 with her song titled "A Red Balloon", the Best Singing Artist award for "Lullaby for Sleeping Alone" in 1969 and for "Traveler" Sentiment in Shiretoko" in 1971.

Last year marks the 40th anniversary of her career. In celebration of this, she performed memorial concerts and held pottery and calligraphy exhibitions in Japan. She has published many books, including new two ones issued in March 2003, entitled the autobiography "Aoi Tsuki No Ballad (Ballad of Blue moon)" and calligraphic works entitled "Hitori Wa Hitori Jya Nai (Being Alone Is Not living Alone)."

This is a free concert open to members of the public. For tickets admission, please contact the Consulate-General of Japan at 088-254169, Sabah Tourism Board and Sri Pelancongan Sabah at 088-232121 and 088-232121 respectively.