

Kanazawa, JAPAN

The Utatsuyama Artist-in-Residence Program in Kanazawa

Ms. Siripohn Sansirikul is a dyeing artist who took part in the artist-in-residence program in Kanazawa in 2022. In her work for the Koyori Project, she visited Utatsuyama Kogei Kobo with the Thai minister and other delegates from the Lanna Culture and Crafts Association.

It was not long before she decided to apply for the artist-in-residence program which she found in a promotional leaflet. Chiangdao Blue is the dye studio she had established in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The studio's concept is "from seed to dye" and she did not hesitate to apply to the program to acquire different techniques from artisans in Japan.

Kanazawa became a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the field of crafts and folk art in 2009. Since then, an artist exchange program has been implemented to strengthen relations among UCCN members. Participants spent most of their time at Utatsuyama Kogei Kobo.

This facility is divided into five studios: ceramics, *urushi* (lacquer) work, dyeing, metalwork, and glass. Ms. Siripohn Sansirikul learned Japanese indigo dyeing at the dye studio of Utatsuyama Kogei Kobo. During her three-month stay, she visited other studios several times to learn batik and *kakishibu* dyeing in addition to indigo dyeing.

Fermentation is the key to natural dyeing including indigo and *kakishibu*. As Kanazawa is a "rainy city," the process depended on the temperature. There were some delays in the process due to the weather, but she completed her artworks before she left Japan in November 2022.

After returning to Chiangdao from Kanazawa, she has been working to grow the indigo plant "Hom" under the concept of "from seed to dye" as previously mentioned. She believes that providing workshops for children and the elderly will lead to sustainable creations.

As the focal point of Kanazawa, we are looking forward to seeing how she will adapt her experiences here to her studio in Thailand.



Yoko Kawa
(Focal Point of Kanazawa)