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Japan Screen Topics

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PORTOPIA '81

139feet 3min. 53sec.

1. (AERIAL VIEW: KOBE, PORT ISLAND, PORTOPIA) In celebration of the completion of Kobe's Port Island, the world's largest man-made island, an international exhibition known as Portopia '81 recently opened there. Pavilions at the exhibition to run until September 15, treat varied themes relating to energy development and the relationship of man and the sea.

Portopia is attracting huge crowds who come to witness the displays of futuristic technology which have been created by dozens of companies and governments from all over the world.

2. (CROWDS: FLOWERS) Visitors have marveled at both the stunning exhibitions and the massive Port Island itself, reclaimed from the sea with earth from Mt. Rokko, a peak towering above Kobe City.

The site has been beautifully landscaped and designed to allow even the largest crowds quick and easy access to the many different displays and pavilions set up for Portopia.

3. (DOME) This is the 'Biomass Dome' housing displays of the Fuyo Group, one of Japan's largest business groupings. Its features include shows devoted to outlining man's relationship with his environment, and include a massive, 40-meter Giant Kelp plant brought all the way from the seabed off the California coast.

4. (MOBILES: AZTEC SUN SYMBOL) At the Sanyo Solarium, emphasis is on the potential offered to mankind's development by solar energy. Dozens of solar-powered mobiles show the ways in which solar energy can be harnessed.

Centuries-old recognition of man that the sun is the giver of life is represented in this ancient Aztec Sun Symbol.

5. (INTERNATIONAL PAVILION) Some 13 nations and dozens of public and private organizations have organized displays at the International Pavilion, which is toured daily by thousands of Japanese and foreign visitors to Portopia.

6. (TRAIN) Carrying Portopia visitors from the centre of Kobe city to Portopia 81, six kilometres away, is the computerised Portliner transport system. The Portliner is operated by remote control through a central computer. This means that it needs no driver or conductor.

7. (MATSUSHITA PAVILION) The pavilion of the Matsushita industrial group is another popular destination for Portopia visitors. Its displays include this computerized music composing system.....

.....a 'Fashion Advice' computer that lets you see just how you would look in various outfits....

.....and the fantastic Tower Vision Screen which displays the origins of the Earth and Man.

The pavilion itself is a huge solar energy complex.

8. (TAKARAZUKA DANCERS) The exhibition offers fantastic entertainment programs, including daily performances by the world-famous Takarazuka all-women dance and dramatic troupe.

Portopia '81 is a colorful and instructive, as well as delightfully enjoyable, introduction to the world we live in and the technological advances that promise so much for the future of mankind.

POWER FROM THE WINDS

72feet 2min.

1. (CARP STREAMERS: WIND GAUGE: LIGHT BULBS) In the search for alternative energy sources, much promise is offered by the wind. Wind is not constant or steady, but it is a 'permanent' resource and totally non-polluting; and the wind holds fantastic amounts of energy which could be tapped and stored to provide huge amounts of power.

2. (AERIAL VIEW: PROPELLER) Northwest of Tokyo, not far from Japan's central mountain region, is an area famed for strong, steady winds. And it is here that extensive experiments on converting the force of the wind into electric power are being carried out. The winds sweep down steadily from the mountainsides in every season, making the region perfect for such experiments.

(GS FACTORY) Atop this factory is a wind-collection device, resembling a weather vane with a propeller fixed to it. This device powers a public sign showing the time and a weather report to passers-by.

3. (WIND COLLECTORS) As the wind turns the energy collecting device, it allows power to flow into batteries, which can then be used to provide hot water, for example. Much promise is offered by this top-like wind collector, which is even more efficient than the standard propeller and can absorb far more energy from the same strength of wind. It employs the same aero-dynamic principle as aircraft wings, to increase the rate of spin.

4. (COLLECTOR: LIGHTS-SYMBOLS) Atop Mt. Rokko in the port city of Kobe is another similar device, which collects wind power to provide electricity for night-time displays of signs and symbols on the mountainside. These displays have become popular as symbols of the port and of the potential energy offered by wind power.

SCULPTING FROM LEFTOVERS

63feet 1min. 45sec.

1. (MAN WALKING: CARRYING TV) This is Toshio Obokata, 28. He lives in a town not far from Tokyo, where he works on rather unusual 'sculpture' created from the leftover items of Japan's industrial society.

2. (WORKING: CLOCK FACE: ETC.) Obokata attended the Tokyo Design Academy and worked for a while on ordinary design jobs. After a while, however, he decided to return to his home town and begin work in a field which had long captured his imagination.

Using cast-off items such as television sets, clocks, toasters, shoes, and other odds-and-ends, he created unique sculptures which depict plants and animals. His works are exceptionally colorful and appealing. "The materials I use cost nothing," he jokes, "but I wouldn't mind at all getting paid for the work." Obokata has had three shows of his works in Tokyo.

3. (VARIOUS SCULPTURES) So far, he has completed more than 30 fully original designs, each of which receives its own name --- generally a form of pun involving a plant or animal and the materials used.

4. (CENTIPEDE FROM BOAT) Obokata's latest work is the creation of a 'centipede' using a discarded model ship as its base.

NEW FORM OF GYMNASTICS

107feet 2min. 59sec.
1. (DANCING MOVEMENTS) This is not a rehearsal session for a musical play. Rather, these young women are practicing a new form of gymnastics which began in Europe and has become popular all over the world.

'Rhythmic Sportive Gymnastics' requires no fixed equipment; it employs only a few simple props which are used in setting gymnastic movements to music.

Tokyo Women's College of Physical Education is the leading center of this new sport in Japan, with more than 100 women seriously practicing the new form. Their goal is to become members of the Japanese team when the new sport is included in the 1984 Olympic Games to be held in Los Angeles.

2. (SOLO PERFORMANCE BY YAMAZAKI) Hiroko Yamazaki, 22, is the current Japan National Champion in this new gymnastic form. Here, she displays some of the exciting movements using one of the allowed props --- a simple jump rope.....

.....Other props used in Rhythmic Sportive Gymnastics are batons, hula-hoops, a ball, and ribbon streamers.

Movements must be both physically strong and graceful. The competitive form of the sport has no 'required' techniques, as does classical gymnastics. 'Free' performances set to music are judged by a panel, just as in other similar sports.

For competitions, there are both individual and team categories. Teams are made up of six members. Individual competition requires a performance from one minute to one minute and a half, while team performances must take from two to two and one-half minutes.

The mat area for the competition is 12 by 12 meters.

3. (TEAM PERFORMANCE) Here is an example of team competition, using balls and ribbon streamers. In team events, the maximum score is 20 points; individual events have a maximum score of 10 points.

Japan will enter a team in the forthcoming 1981 World Championships in Munich this October, and hopes that the strenuous training in the sport now underway at Tokyo Women's College of Physical Education will lead to a good showing at the 1984 Olympics.

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