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Help beauticians spiff up Shibuya

The face of Shibuya will get a good polishing early next month when Merry Clean Up Project joins hands with local beauticians to beautify one of Tokyo's most vibrant shopping and fashion districts. And you can lend a hand.

On Dec. 2, participants in the one-day cleaning project will gather to pick up trash from the streets of Shibuya. Project sponsors are hoping that about 1,000 people will turn out for the event.

Merry began in 1999 as a series of photographs of smiling women taken by Koji Mizutani. In March 2002 an exhibition was held to cheer up Kobe, and similar shows have been held in New York, London and Tokyo.

Participants are asked to

gather at 1 p.m. at the SHIBUYA@FUTURE cafe across from NHK, where they will be divided into 20 groups and issued litter bags, metal tongs and vests with the Merry logo. The project starts at 1:30 p.m.

After the cleanup concludes at 3 p.m., Takeru Kawabata from Beautrium beauty salon will participate in a live talk show at the cafe. The event is expected to end at 5 p.m.

Anyone interested in joining Merry Clean Up's operation in Shibuya is requested to register by Dec. 1 by calling 0120-45-0215, faxing (03) 5431-3392 or sending e-mail to merry@seyfert.co.jp. You can also register by cell phone at www.seyfert.co.jp/merry/

For more information see www.21merry.net

