No. 251

Hiragana News
ひらがなニュース

Asaka-area International Society
http://ais1989.hp-ez.com
Chairperson: Akiko Suzuki

June Schedule (10:00-12:00)

Date	Subject	Place
June 1 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Asaka Library Shicyōkakushitsu
June 8 (Fri.)	Study through experience of fire and earthquake	Ikebukuro Life Safety Learning Center
June 15 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table Board Meeting	Community Center 2F Gakusyūshitsu 1F Shūkaishitsu
June 22 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Community Center 1F Shūkaishitsu
June 29 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Community Center 2F Gakusyūshitsu

Fire!! Earthquake!!

---Learn through hands-on experience about fires and earthquakes---

Date & Time: June 8(Fri.) From 9:30 to 11:30
Place: Ikebukuro Life Safety Learning Center
Assembly: 8:40 at the exit of Asaka Station
*Please buy a ticket to Ikebukuro in advance.
Please apply to Ms. Satoko Sakai or Ms. Rie Aizawa by June 1 (Fri.)

★…★…★…★…★…★…★…★…★…★…★…★…★…★…★…★…★…★

Workshop report from multicultural key persons

'Easy Japanese'

Helps foreign victims' lives.

Regine Maeda (France)

On March 10th (Saturday), 2012, three multicultural key persons of AIS attended a workshop held by Saitama prefecture.

In the morning, we listened to the presentation on how to provide information when a disaster occurs.

When disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis occur, quick and accurate information helps save peoples' lives. Simple Japanese is much more effective than troublesome translations for foreign citizens. For example, it is more effective to use easy words in short sentences and simple pictures and maps to get the attention of foreigners.

Many disasters occur these days, so I hope 'Easy Japanese' will become popular in local governments. If you have any interest, please ask me (Regine Maeda) as I have various kinds of information.

Minutes of Board Meeting

May 18 (10 Board Members and 2 Observers)

*Schedule and report from each group:

Information

***Japanese group section meeting**: June 22 (Fri.) 9:00 to 9:50

(Talk about teaching Japanese this year)

Notice: There's a change of venue.

I "SAW" the oldest wooden boat in the world!

Mamoru Hayashi (Japan)

Let me boast a little bit about my experience of an encounter with a wooden boat. It happened twenties years ago when I visited Israel to attend the International Association for the Plant Protection Congress. A solitary humble shack caught my eye while I strolled by the Sea of Galilee. Curious, I went inside and found something blackish brown that looked like the remains of a boat (about 5 meters long, 1,5meters wide), which was draped with transparent vinyl curtain for protection from the air. There was a small board beside it which said "This boat was excavated from the muddy bottom of the Sea of Galilee, and was believed to date back to the time of Jesus. It is placed here temporarily until it will be displayed in a Museum." Galilee is well-known as the place where Jesus performed many miracles. The moment I started to think that Jesus may have ridden on it himself, I couldn't help feeling a little strange as if I went back 2000 years. It's probably because the boat was pulled up from the Sea of Galilee and from a 2000 years' sleep that I have such a vivid impression of the boat.

Now the boat is displayed in a splendid Museum where everybody can see it. (You can access the picture through internet.)

Even now I firmly believe that I am unquestionably the first Japanese to see the Jesus boat.

New Members

Ms. Elena Danilova (Russia)
Ms. Kinuko Ito (Brazil)
Ms. Elisabete Pinto Michishita (Brazil)
Ms. Yan Cui (China)

Tea Break (T. O.)

When my first grandchild became three years old, I decided to compete with him that I can speak Chinese fluently by time he speaks Japanese well. He became a third grader in elementary school this year and I lost to him.

After some reflection, when I saw AIS's OB or OG speak Japanese fluently, I think I didn't try hard enough to learn Chinese.

To all of AIS foreigners, let's do our best together!!

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