



Asaka-area International Society

http://ais1989.hp-ez.com

Chairperson : Akiko Suzuki

Minutes of Board Meeting

Dec.14th (9 board members and 1 observer)

Subjects : Information about the schedule from January to April and report from each group



Information

★ AIS will start its activity from January 11th (Fri) 2013

★ Teaching Japanese to beginners:

Jan. 18th (Fri.) from 9:00 to 9:50 amJanuary Schedule (10:00-12:00)

Date	Subject	Place
Jan. 11 (Fri.)	New Year's Gathering Board Meeting 13:00~	Community Center 1F Shūkaishitsu
Jan. 18 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Community Center 2F Gakushūshitsu
Jan. 25 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Community Center 1F Shūkaishitsu

New Year's Gathering

on January 11 (Fri.)

It's the start of a new year.

Let's expand the wave of exchange by playing games.

Please bring any extra 2013 calendars you may have at home! On Jan. 11, we will have a calendar exchange.

If you have any questions, please ask Yaeko Watanabe

The fun time at
Asaka Shimin Katsudo
Matsuri !

Akiko Suzuki (Japan)

AIS participated in the 3rd Asaka Shimin Katsudo Matsuri held on November 17th (Sat), and performed Philippine dance, exhibited photos of Nepal, had a worldwide tea display, worldwide word quiz and a bazaar.

Approximately 600 visitors came to the festival, and the AIS's booth was thriving with people, getting acquainted with multicultural things through interaction. Both Foreigners and Japanese joined together to make this event a wonderful success. We heard from foreigners who attended the festival that, "It was fun, and so we would like to participate again next year." For this, we believe that participating in the festival was very meaningful for AIS, and we would like to send our deepest gratitude to many of AIS members who cooperated.

(Pictures and descriptions are posted on AIS's HP Blog)

New members

Welcome to AIS!

Ms. Feng Xiang Sato (China)

Ms. kumiko Yamaki (Japan)

Funeral Manners

Yu Kuen Seung Matsumura (China)

18 years already have passed since I came to Japan. Time flies like an arrow.

Year by year I feel it passing quicker.

Like many other foreigners, I often think about "manners" so as to

comfortably live with others here in Japan.

When people get old, we have more occasions to attend a funeral or a Buddhist memorial service. Although there are only a few occasions to attend a funeral service, foreign people tend to be puzzled at these services. How much should we prepare for "Koden" (money brought to a funeral)? What should I write on "Koden-bukuro" (a special envelop for Koden)? We do not know how to use "Kiyomeshio" (salt thrown to purify) or the procedure of "Oshokoh" (burning incense). When I attended a funeral for the first time, I was so tense all the time until my turn came. I carefully watched people who lined up to try to see how to do the burning incense from behind, but I could not see. How should I pinch incense powder? Listen? Look? Unexpectedly I was able to join this event in November. The instructor brought a lot of things such as a Buddhist rosary and a table for the burning incense. I practiced burning incense. Also I learned how to write Koden-bukuro. That was a great experience for me, even though it was not easy for me. The instructor answered our questions and explained things carefully. It was very helpful in understanding Japanese funerals. Thank you very much.



Tea Break



View of South Alps from Japanese Tyrol,
Shirabiso Highland

K.Y.



My husband and I joined a one-day bus trip in the beginning of November.

It was a beautiful day. At first, we took a motor coach from Kawagoe to Iida, where we switched to a microbus for our final stop, Shirabiso Highland. The pass to Shirabiso was very narrow, so I felt sorry for our driver who was forced to share a mountain road with oncoming traffic.

On arriving there, we encountered a splendid view of Southern Alps covered with brightly colored leaves. I was very impressed by such a breathtaking scenery as "Toyamago" or Shirabiso no Sato (a village called "a star in the sky") in Japan.

