

Hiragana News

ひらがなニュース



Asaka-area International Society

http://ais1989.hp-ez.com

Chairperson: Akiko Suzuki



February Schedule (10:00-12:00)

Date	Subject	Place
Feb. 1 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Community Center 2F Gakushūshitsu
Feb. 8 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table Board Meeting	Community Center 1F Shūkaishitsu 1F Washitsu
Feb.15 (Fri.)	AIS Event cooking (Open school)	Community Center 2F Jisshūshitsu
Feb.22 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Community Center 1F Gallery

Event

Japanese Cooking on Doll's Festival Day
(open school)



Menu: Chirashi-zushi (sushi)

and Kenchin-jiru (soup with lots of ingredients)

Lecturer: Ms. Natsue Fukuda (Japanese cooking instructor)

Date & Time: Feb. 15 (Fri.) 10:00 to 13:00

Place: Jisshūshitsu in Community Center

Things to bring: apron, head band and dish cloth Fee: ¥350

※First 25 people (including five non-AIS-members) can attend.

Please apply to Ms. Morita by Feb. 10.

(General application starts on Feb. 1st)

Compare idioms from three countries (Part 1)

Mai Dinh Thi Thuy (Vietnam)

Here are some proverbs in Vietnamese, Japanese
and English that have literally the same meaning:

- 1 Trăm nghe không bằng một thấy
※The same as in Japanese and English
百聞は一見に如かず
Seeing is believing.
- 2 Một mũi tên chết hai con chim
(Killing two birds with one arrow.)
一石二鳥※The same as in English
Killing two birds with one stone.
- 3 Cha nào con nấy ※The same as in Japanese and English
この親にしてこの子あり
Like father, like son.
- 4 Tai vách mạch rừng ※The same as in English
壁に耳あり障子に目あり (Walls have ears, shoji (sliding paper door) has eyes.)
Walls have ears.
- 5 Có thực mới vực được đạo ※The same as in English
腹が減っては戦ができぬ (If you are hungry you can't fight.)
The stomach carries the feet.

Minutes of Board Meeting (Jan. 11)

(10 Board members and 3 observers)

*Schedule and report from each group

*About list of AIS members

*Study of questionnaire for next term's role and activities



Information

*Teaching Japanese to beginners: Feb. 8 (Fri.) 9:00 to 9:50

New Members

Ms. Dao Re Na (Inner Mongolia, China)

Mr. Man Da (Inner Mongolia, China)

Ms. Eerdn Qimug (Inner Mongolia, China)



What I've learned through AIS activities

Régine Maeda (France)

Eight years has passed since I became a member of AIS. At first, I only learned Japanese and enjoyed events, but I was not able to find my place in AIS, and even thought about quitting. However, AIS became more and more interesting to me since I started taking part in board meetings. Over the last two years, I have been helping in planning/organizing events, and also in creating our AIS website.

In the beginning, I didn't understand very well what was going on at the board meetings. But after attending several meetings, I got used to the way of doing/thinking of the Japanese people, and my Japanese vocabulary largely increased. It was a very valuable experience for me in many aspects.

I felt that feedbacks regarding AIS operation from foreign members were limited, and I wanted to contribute to delivering the foreign members' voices to the AIS leaders during board meetings. I hope that, by reflecting on the foreign members' point of view, I can help in making AIS activities even more enjoyable than before.

To foreign members who want to work in Japanese companies, I would like to suggest not only to learn Japanese with textbooks, but also to join in the operation of local community associations like AIS in order to learn the Japanese ways and business terms in an active way.

The time will come when foreigners not only receive assistance passively, but also work together along with the Japanese people to build a multicultural society. I hope that more and more foreign members will take part in AIS operation in the near future.



Following a cow and ending up at Zenko-ji

Toshitsugu Nishizawa (Japan)

There is a big temple named Zenko-ji that belongs to no sect of Buddhism in Nagano city and was built in 644. The existing building was reconstructed 262 years ago (1750), because it was destroyed by fire.

There is a saying "just following a cow and ending up at Zenko-ji temple." A long time ago an impious and greedy old woman lived in the neighborhood. One day, a piece of cloth the woman hung out got caught at the tip of a cow's horn, and the cow started to run. She ran after the cow and ended up at Zenko-ji temple. Tradition says that she went to visit that Zenko-ji to pray since then and followed the path of faith. It means that by going somewhere at another's invitation or advice, you can have an unexpected happy experience as a result.

Our AIS may be a place just like that. . .

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Editor: J.Yanagi, M.Kato Proofreader: B.Kanai

Printed and Posted by Ota group Publicity Group Leader: E. Ihara

Receptionist Group Leader: H. Miura