

Hiragana News

ひらがなニュース



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

April Schedule 10:00~12:00

Date	Subject	Place
5(Fri)	Japanese/Chatting Table Board Meeting of new and former members 13:00~	Community Center 2F Gakushūshitsu 1F Shūkaishitsu
12(Fri)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Community Center 1F Shūkaishitsu
19(Fri)	Annual General Meeting	Community Center 2F Gakushūshitsu
26(Fri)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Community Center 1F Gallery

April 19th
There's an Annual General Meeting.
Please attend !!



I Enjoy Coming to AIS

Feng Xiang Sato (China)

I came to Japan for the first time with little knowledge about the country, and I had difficulties in my daily life. I consulted with the city office about it and they told me about AIS.

Every Friday, in the Community Center, I'm learning many things in AIS, for example, Japanese language and conversation through practice, and Japanese culture. I also enjoy participating in various events, like cooking class and so on.

Today, we had a Japanese Cooking Class. The menus were *Chirashizushi* with salmon and *Kenchinjiru*. We had six groups of four persons each. I was with Hara *san*, Ihara *san* and Bidiya *san*. We cut the ingredients such as *daikon* and *tofu* neatly according to the demonstrator's instruction. After stir-frying the ingredients in a pot, we added water and seasoned it. We simmered it for 5 minutes and *Kenchinjiru* was done. As for *Chirashizushi*, we just seasoned cooked rice with rice vinegar containing sugar and salt (sushi rice). Then, we spread freshly cooked salmon, scrambled eggs, sesame seeds and squeezed salted cucumbers over the sushi rice and mixed them quickly. I thought it was very easy. I had a really good time talking and eating the dishes with other AIS members.



Minutes of Board Meeting

Mar. 8th (10 Board Members and 2 Observers)

*Schedule and report from each group

*Review of the regulations of AIS

*Schedule and Budget for the following fiscal year

Information

• We will collect the membership fee (¥1,500) for the next 5 months (April, May, June, July and September) in 2013, from April 5th.

• April 14th (Sun.): Japanese classes along Tojo line will have a liaison meeting. Any AIS members wishing to participate in this meeting, please ask Itoh for more information.

Place: Asaka Community Center 2F Gakushūshitsu
Time: 2:00~ 4:00pm For further information: Itoh

My home town, Ikebukuro, since the 1950's

Hideo Miura (Japan)



At that time, Ikebukuro Station was a wooden building. The pathways that connected the east and west sides of the station were: a bridge within the station, that connected

Seibu Ikebukuro Station and JR Ikebukuro Station, a dark underpass in the north (which was in the direction of Ōtsuka), which still exists now as a pathway used by the local people, and what we call the "Bikkuri Gādo" (meaning the startling overpass) in the south, from where we could see the tracks through the gaps of the structure at that time. The bridge was so named because people were startled to hear the roaring sound of passing trains. There was a shop called Musashino Market (which later became Seibu Department Store) in the east side of the station and it was very crowded with people coming to buy fresh products and miscellaneous goods.

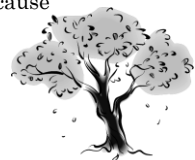
After the Marunouchi line (Ikebukuro-Ochanomizu) started operation, Seibu Department Store was constructed and became a high-rise building next to Marubutsu Department Store. Then a huge terminal building with Ikebukuro Seibu and Ikebukuro Parco Department stores was born. On the site where Sugamo Prison had stood, Sunshine City was built and the east side of the station developed remarkably.

In the west side of the station, there was no large building. After the war, the side was overcrowded with many small shops (black market) and the place was packed with people in worn-out clothes. When Tōyoko Department Store (later became Tobu Department Store) opened with an elevator in it, some people searched for ticket booths to buy tickets to get in the elevator as it was quite new at that time, and some took off their sandals when they rode the elevator.

On the site where Shibaura Kōgyō High School was, Metropolitan Plaza opened. It was combined with Tōbu Department Store and made the west terminal building as huge as that of the east side.

Ikebukuro Station kept expanding and now it has become a gigantic terminal station where many trains leave and arrive, and with underground passages like a maze. From March 16th this year, the Fukutoshin line of the Tokyo Metro and TōkyūTōyoko lines are connected. It makes things more convenient for us because

Asaka and Yokohama are connected with just one line. We can go to China Town in Yokohama to have dinner and come back without changing trains!



New Members

Ms. Parfenova Galina Yurjevna (Russia)
Ms. Airell Otori (Philippine)