

Hiragana News

ひらがなニュース



Asaka-area International Society

http://ais1989.hp-ez.com

Chairperson: Akiko Suzuki

May Schedule



10:00 – 12:00

Date	Subject	Place
May 10 (Fri.)※	Japanese /Chatting Table Board Meeting (13:00-)	Asaka Library Shichōkakushitsu Community Center 1F Shūkaishitsu
May 17 (Fri.)	Japanese /Chatting Table	Community Center 2F Gakushūshitsu
May 24 (Fri.)	Event	Community Center 1F Shūkaishitsu
May 31 (Fri.)※	Japanese /Chatting Table	Asaka Library Shichōkakushitsu

※May 10th's and 31st's AIS will take place at Asaka Library

Let's Talk About AIS!



Did you know all there is about AIS?

What would you like to do in AIS?

Let's talk about these things with other members!

What color is a giant panda's tail?



Kayo Yokoi (Japan)

“What color is a giant panda's tail?” I asked

nearly a hundred Chinese people about it and only about fifty percent of them could answer it correctly. I

suppose the result is almost the same for Japanese people. “What is the shape of its tail?” Many people think it is round.

Where on earth does this image come from? I think it is largely affected by illustrations and character goods. They must have seen the correct color and shape of the panda's tail from actually seeing pandas with their own eyes or through pictures. I suppose there are many cases in which people think they've seen it, but actually have not. However, maybe it is due to a trick of the brain such as optical illusion and they see what they want to see. In that case, it may be better to not destroy their adorable image of pandas.

In a manga titled “Shirokuma Café”, there is a character called “Panda kun” which looks almost real and is fairly charming. I recommend reading it since it's written in relatively easy Japanese.

For your reference, giant pandas' eyes are not round and drooping. If you look closely at the black haired area, you'll see that their eyes are thin and turned up a little at the corners.



Minutes of Board Meeting

· April 05 (14 Former and New Board Members and 2 Observers)

· April 12 (13 Former and New Board Members)

*Next term's schedule

*Report from each group

*Preparation for annual general meeting

*May Event

· On March 24 (Sun.), 8 AIS members participated in Kurome River Embankment Clean UP

· On Apr. 14 (Sun.), 4 AIS members attended to the liaison meeting of

“Japanese Classes along Tojo line”

· On Apr. 19 (Fri.), AIS's Annual General Meeting was held and 30 Japanese and 9 foreign members attended. There was a report on the previous term's activities and we talked about this term's budget and activities.

Information

· Study Group : “Let's think about Japanese Language”

Date: May 17 (Fri.) 9:00-9:50 ♪ We're waiting for you!



Welcome to AIS!

New Members:

Ms. Sylvia Yamamori (Australia)

Ms. Keiko Yamagishi (Japan)



Had A Good Time during AIS's Excursion

Xiao Hong Wang (China)

On the morning of March 15th, I went to Kawagoe with my friends of AIS with anticipation. At first, we gathered at Kawagoe Matsuri Kaikan. In the exhibition hall, we saw floats of the festival. The floats were surprisingly tall and big. A staff in the hall showed us a movie about the history of Kawagoe Matsuri. The scenes of the festival in the movie were very lively.

Our visit to Kitain was something I will always remember. The establishment of Kitain is said to date back to the Heian era*. A favorite place for many, it is affectionately known as “Kawagoe Daishi”**. The famous Daruma market is also very popular. Kitain is also full of cultural and historical treasures and it is closely related with the Tokugawa Clan***.

We saw a room where Shogun Iemitsu was born. I understood a little how their living was like at that time. Gohyaku Rakan (five hundred disciples of Buddha who attained Nirvana) is also a famous spot in Kitain. There are total of five hundred thirty eight statues and they have various facial expressions. After we paid our respects to the statues of Three Great Buddas and rakans, we visited Naritasan Kawagoe Betsuin and returned to the station by bus.

I had a very good time during this excursion. I learned about how the buildings and lifestyle of the people used to be. People of AIS helped me a lot. Thank you very much.

*The Heian era: about the 9th to 12th century

**Daishi: a great teacher of Buddhism

***Tokugawa Clan : The Edo era's shogunate's family



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