

# Hiragana News

## ひらがなニュース



Asaka-area International Society

http://ais1989.hp-ez.com

Chairperson: Akiko Suzuki

### September Schedule

10:00 – 12:00

| Date          | Subject                                               | Place                                              |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Sept.06(Fri.) | Japanese/<br>Chatting Table                           | Community Center<br>2F Gakushūshitsu               |
| Sept.13(Fri.) | Japanese/<br>Chatting Table<br>(Board Meeting 13:00-) | Community Center<br>2F Ongakushitsu<br>1F Washitsu |
| Sept.20(Fri.) | Chinese Cooking Class                                 | Community Center<br>2F Jishshūshitsu               |
| Sept.27(Fri.) | Japanese/<br>Chatting Table                           | Community Center<br>1F Shūkaishitsu                |

### Chinese Cooking Class (Open School)

&lt;Getting to Know About Home Cuisine of Another Country&gt;

Let's try making Chinese cuisine, which is good for both health and beauty!

Date and Time: Sept. 20 (Fri.) 10:00 – 12:00

Demonstrator: Ms. Yan Cui

Menu: dumplings with vegetables and soybeans,  
Chinese soup and a dessert made with wood ears

Things to bring: apron, head cover and dish cloth

Fee: ¥300 Application deadline: Sept.12 (Fri.)

The first 15 AIS members and 8 visitors can attend

\*We will start accepting applications from nonmembers from Sept.1

Please contact Ms. Morita



### Attracted by the sea



Kumiko Yamaki (Japan)

I participated in scuba diving training class  
soon after I got my scuba diving certificate. The

water was so freezing cold that I thought I might just die of the cold. This very experience made me decide to fully enjoy diving in temperate waters whenever I wanted. After quitting my full-time job, I went to many places to dive for 20 years or so while working as a freelancer. I became a certified resort diver, and thanks to my nice diving friends around me, I could experience a bit of luxurious diving trips, which I could have unlikely to enjoyed on my own.

In particular, cruising ship diving is paradise for us divers. On such an excursion out to the sea, all I did was just diving during a trip of 3-night and 4-day stay on an anchored ship. The day typically started with sunrise viewing over a cup of coffee on the deck with sleepy eyes. Then I heard someone announcing, "Time to go for the morning diving." So we enjoyed our first dive for 30 or 40 minutes. After that, we took a shower, put on pareo (wrap skirt), and had breakfast, which awaited us on the deck. We took a rest for a while and did our second dive, had lunch, did our third dive, had snacks, did our fourth dive, and then had dinner. All day long we enjoyed diving with frequent breaks. At night we chatted about diving under the starsprinkled sky.

Come to think of it, I had luxurious trips. Although I got a culture shock during these trips, encountering foreign culture made me more mature. I will cherish what I have learned from the seas (nature). Unfortunately, after falling ill, I couldn't go diving anymore; however, I feel happy whenever I think about the sea.

### Summer Greetings

Zansho Oimiai Moushiagemasu |

Hot days are continuing. Please take good care  
of yourselves and see you in September

### Minute of Board Meeting

Jun.12 10 Board Members and 3 Observers

\*Report of each group

\*Formation of Japanese Study

\*25th AIS anniversary events

\*On July 7, Ito attended Tobu-Tojo Ensen Nihongo Kyoshitsu Renraku Kai.

### Information

\* Study Group: "Let's think about Japanese Language"

Sept.13 (Fri.) 9:00 – 9:50

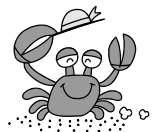
### Welcome to AIS!

New members:

Ms. Khaoula Marouan (Tunisia)

Mr. Malick Dieng (Senegal)

Ms. Hao Deng (China)



### An Hour of Peace of Mind

Rafael Takehito Sugano (Brazil)

Hello. My name is Sugano Rafael. I'm from Brazil and I arrived here in Japan this year in mid-April. I didn't come to primarily study, but I have much luck because my day off from work coincides with AIS classes, so I could attend them.

Nowadays, Brazil is going through hard times, with so many unsatisfied people including me when I was there. With so many fundamental problems, it is very difficult to engage in anything there. Since Japan is open to third-generation people of Japanese origin who wish to work here, I always thought about coming here.

About the AIS classes, I couldn't find anything better. I'm not in a hurry to learn Japanese. I prefer to learn the way of living here in Japan and absorb Japanese words very slowly, like cooking a meal on low heat. Since I'm a fan of the famous writer Murakami Haruki, one of my goals here in Japan is to be able to read one of his books in Japanese, because when I was in Brazil it was so frustrating to go to the library of Japan Foundation and see his latest books in Japanese and having to wait about a year or two to read their English translation. I'm very thankful to the people of AIS because they are aware of my goal and they are helping me out to realize it.

About Ms. Tokuko Nakamura's art class, honestly, at first I was not interested. I'm not good at drawing and I have only one day off, so I was thinking about staying in the library to search for something. But fortunately, the library was closed and I ended up attending her class.

It was really a relaxing time. It was like washing my mind and I forgot all problems, in just two hours, and even afterward, I felt renewed. Despite my disinterest in handicraft, actually I know it is good to do some handicraft sometimes, to use creativity and meditate. But that class was awesome because the instructor was really an artist. Thank you Nakamura-san and all AIS members involved in organizing the art class.

I hope we all keep having a good time here.

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