

Hiragana News

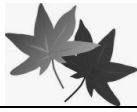
ひらがなニュース

Asaka-area International Society

http://ais1989.hp-ez.com

Chairperson: Akiko Suzuki

October Schedule



(10:00-12:00)

Oct. 4 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Community Center 2F Gakushūshitsu
Oct. 11 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Community Center 1F Gallery
	Board Meeting	1F Washitsu
Oct. 18 (Fri.)	Event (Open School) "Let's play games in Japanese"	Community Center 2F Gakushūshitsu
Oct. 25 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Community Center 1F Shūkaishitsu

A trip to Colombia

Noriko Yoshida (Japan)

Hastily deciding to go to Colombia just two weeks before the flight, I got on an airplane on June, 9th. Bogota, the capital, is more than 2600 meters above sea level, which is higher than the fifth stage of Mt. Fuji. Although I was sure of getting a headache because of thin air and low atmospheric pressure there, I ended up not having any. Colombians mainly eat chicken, beef, potatoes and beans. In particular, they eat "ajiaco", the local cuisine, which is soup cooked with chicken and various kinds of potatoes and has a very mild taste. No matter how many times I ate "ajiaco", I found it so delicious, "Que rico!" (How tasty!) What we should not forget also is that Colombia is a country of "el dorado" (gold). When I visited the museum of gold, I was surprised to find that there were displayed 34000 pieces of work delicately made of gold, silver and platinum before the colonization by Spain. I heard that the size of the collection is the biggest in the world. People were also very kind and patiently talked to me in spite of my poor understanding of Spanish. Thanks to them, I came to be able to understand a little what they said by the time I left there. "Gracias (Thank you) Colombia!"

Minutes of Board Meeting

Sept. 13 (8 Board Members and 2 Observers)

*Schedule and report from each group *About 25th AIS anniversary events

*About ways to select board members from now on

Information

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

Oct. 11 (Fri.), 9:00 to 9:50

*We will collect the membership fee for the next 6 months

(¥1,800) on Oct. 4 (Fri.).

Congratulations!!

Ms. Airell Ootori had a baby girl.

Ms. Dilumi Waduge had a baby girl.

**Welcome to AIS!****New members:**

Ms. Sarmiento Lea (Philippines)

Ms. Sachiyo Itō (Japan)

Mr. Ali Muhammad Wasib (Pakistan)

Mr. Choudhary Muhammad Ishaq (Pakistan)

"Let's play games in Japanese" (Open school)

----Let's study Japanese using our body and brain! ----



Date: Oct. 18 (Fri.), 10:00 to 11:45

Games: kanji game, message game, etc.

*Please inquire from Ms. Minako Kato

- During the event, 'Planetarium and Bon-odori', on July 28th, there were 50 participants, and with the cooperation of many people, we finished with great success. Thank you very much.
- On August 3 and 4, Asaka Shimin Matsuri (Saikasai) was held and 49 AIS members and their families (including 15 foreigners) participated as water suppliers. Among them there were people who visited the AIS homepage and read 'Hiragana News'. Thank you for your cooperation.

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Perahera.....Dilumi Waduge (Sri Lanka)

The 'Esala Perahera' or 'Dalada Perahera' is a grand Buddhist festival that takes place in August in Kandy, Sri Lanka. The Perahera is believed to be two separate but interconnected festivals (Peraheras), the 'Esala' and 'Dalada'. The 'Esala Perahera' is a festival during which devotees pray for rainfall to the gods. The 'Dalada Perahera' was started when the sacred 'Tooth Relic' of Buddha was brought to Sri Lanka. During the Perahera, there are dances and a parade of nicely decorated elephants. There are fire dances, whip dances, Kandyan dances and various other cultural dances. The elephants are usually dressed with lavish garments. The Perahera begins with a ceremony called 'Kap Situreema'. A young jackfruit tree is cut and planted in the premises of each of the four 'Derale' dedicated to the three guardian gods, 'Natha', 'Vishunu', 'Katharagama' and one guardian goddess 'Pattini'. For four continuous nights, the 'Deral Peraheras' take place. On the fifth night, the 'Kumbal Perahera' begins and continues for five days. During these days, 'Deral Peraheras' are assembled in front of the 'Temple of the Tooth' (Maligawa Temple) and wait for the Perahera coming from the temple. The 'Tooth Relic' is placed inside a special casket and kept on the elephant called 'Maligawa Elephant' which belongs to the Maligawa Temple. Then the 'Maligawa Perahera' joins the awaited 'Deral Perahera' and leads it in the procession. Whip dancers and fireball acrobats clear the path, followed by the Buddhist flag bearers and then the Kandyan drummers and dancers. They are followed by elephants and other groups of musicians, dancers and flag bearers. Then, the 'Maligawa elephant' carrying the 'sacred tooth relic' arrives. The second procession is from the 'Natha Deral' and the third is from 'Vishnu Deral'. The fourth procession is from 'Katharagama Deral', which is full of traditional dancers from down the south of the country. The fifth and final procession is from the 'Pattini Deral', which is the only procession that has women dancers. After five nights of 'Kumbal Perahera' the 'Randoli Perahera' begins and continues for another five nights. On the last day of the 'Randoli Perahera', there is a big crowd of people coming to watch it. The pageant ends with 'Day perahera' and 'Diya Kepeema', which are the water cutting ceremonies at the 'Mahaweli River' at Kandy. This year also, Perahera was started on the 7th of August and finished on the 21st of August.