



Minutes of Board Meeting

Dec. 08 (9 board members)



*Report from each group

*About the roles of next term's leaders and members of various groups of AIS

*About AIS's 30th Anniversary event

January Schedule

10:00~12:00

Date	Activity	Place
Jan. 12 (Fri.)	New Year's Meeting	Community Center 1F Gallery
	Board Meeting (13:00-15:00)	2F Gakushūshitsu
Jan. 19 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Community Center 1F Shūkaishitsu
Jan. 26 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Community Center 1F Shūkaishitsu

☆There will be **no AIS** on **Dec.29** and **Jan. 05**.AIS will **resume** on **Jan. 12**.

Welcome to AIS!

(New Members)

Ms. Qiū Yàn (China) Mr. Toshihiko Yumita (Japan)
Ms. Akter Habiba (Bangladesh) Ms. Yoko Kurihara (Japan)



Information

*Japanese Study Group ①:

Jan. 19 (Fri.) 9:00~9:50

*Japanese Study Group ② Poko A Poko:

Jan. 26 (Fri.) 12:15~13:15

New Year's Meeting

It's a Japanese custom to make a one-year plan in the beginning of a new year.

Let's do it together!

We'll also exchange calendars.

Things to bring: Writing materials

Contact person:

Ms. Sakai



Regional Shopping Streets and Small Alleys



Reiko Watanabe (Japan)

I love regional shopping streets. Meat, fish, vegetables and delicatessen shops stand closely next to each other along the shopping streets. Therefore, I easily get tempted to go on a shopping spree. Unfortunately, however, most of the shopping streets have been disappearing over the past several years. Even in some surviving shopping streets, many shops are closing largely because no one can take over the businesses or because of the redevelopment of such areas.

I used to stop at Oyama station along the Tojo line on the way back from work to buy fresh food at a shop in the shopping street. Also, there used to be a "Daruma" store, which was like a public market, seemingly built decades ago in front of the station. The store was very convenient, because much food such as meat, fish, vegetables and prepared food can all be obtained in that store. Especially in the fish shop, I could get fresh fish at low prices and we could communicate one-to-one with the retailer, which infused the store with energy. It is now replaced by a new building; therefore it has lost half of its attractiveness.

A small alley is an integral part of a shopping street. Sometimes, we are lucky to find an unexpected treat when we slip into a small alley.

If I were to compare shopping streets to 'light', then I would say small alleys are 'shadows'. I believe that it is the balance between light and shadow that makes them more unique than regular shopping streets.