



# NIHON MON NEWS LETTER

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April - June 2021



**ABK - AOTS DOSOKAI**  
Tamilnadu Centre, Chennai



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**A Cultural, Technical & Trade Bridge Between Japan & India**





### Drained but not defeated...

The Tokyo Olympics has been in the news for many months now. Amidst a lot of opposition to the Games, already postponed by a year due to Covid-19, the build-up has experienced many setbacks, including rising cases and massive budget overruns.

The development over the last few weeks has pushed the authorities to announce that the Olympic Games will be held without spectators at venues in and around Tokyo and that a state of emergency will remain in place until August 2021. Luckily though, stadia in other parts may be permitted to allow up to 50% of capacities. A 'hanayoridango' moment indeed!

The tenacity of the organising committee of the Games has not gone unnoticed. In recent memory, Japan has perhaps not been so divided on a matter of national importance and reputation. With more thorns than roses coming their way, it is indeed admirable to see the resolve to keep their commitment to the international community. Miraitowa's wait will finally be over. (Remember our previous editorial page?). Our admiration is mixed, in equal measure, with good wishes towards the successful conduct of the Games. Ganbatte-ne!

Meanwhile, closer home, the second wave's unleashing is finally seeming to wear thin. Significant progress has been made in many parts of the country and with vaccination overdrives being an important activity, we do hope that we will exercise care, to avoid any more Covid waves.



Phased reopening of the borders of our two nations has been in the works for some time now. I know of many of our friends from either side who eagerly anticipate some thaw on this front to help them connect again with their dear ones as well as their business partners. We will continue to be patient. Before this happens, do let us ensure that we complete our vaccination schedules yet not allow us to think that it can provide us a cloak of invincibility. Continued caution is the key word.

Take care everyone. This quarter has some sporting excitement coming your way. Enjoy them. Cheer for your favourites. Raise a toast to the winners. And hope that the National Anthems of our two countries are played often at the victory podium.

I recall reading that an important head of state once remarked thus about Covid – "It's going to disappear. One day, like a miracle, it will disappear"

May that day come sooner than we think it would.

Ta Ta,  
Harikumar B  
Editor – eNihon Mon

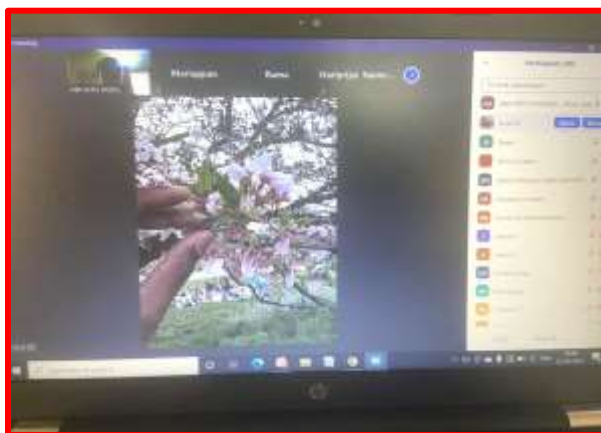


## JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL ACTIVITY

### Hanami – in person report

2 April 2021

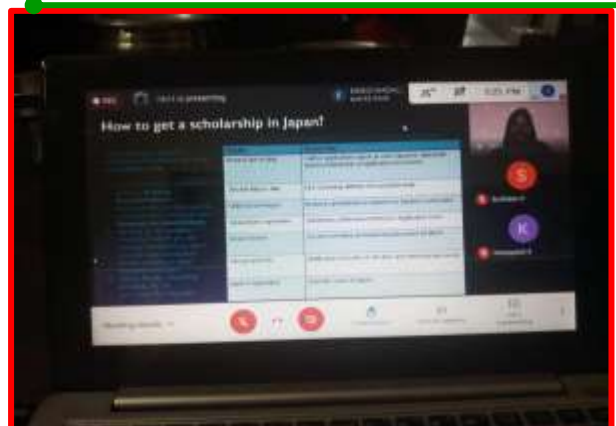
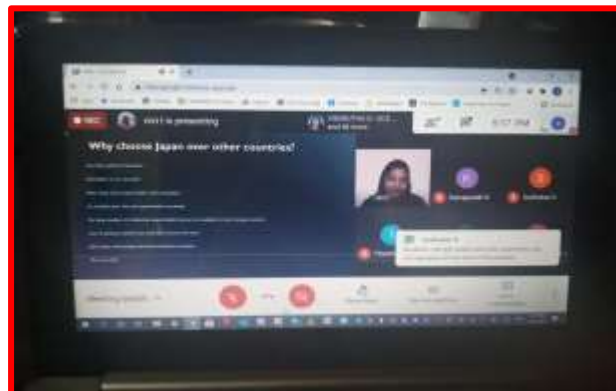
Hanami in Person from Japan by our Alumni and teacher Aruloli San. He showed how Hanami is being enjoyed under the Sakura flowers and gave a lot of information about Sakura and how it blossoms in different timings in different parts of Japan. Thanks a lot Aruloli San for a wonderful session.



### Orientation on Japanese Language - 11 April 2021

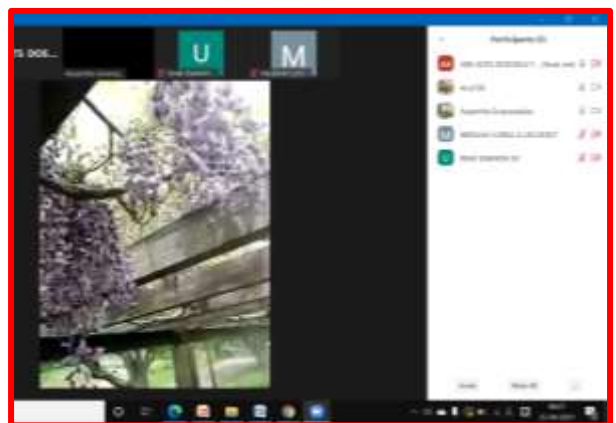
Orientation by our Alumni and a teacher with us, who is Research student, Transdisciplinary Science and Engineering Japan and also a MEXT scholarship winner Ms Nivetha Thyagarajan to college students in India happened on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021. She shared a lot of her own experience at Japan and introduced various opportunities that are available to go to Japan both from the point to Higher Education at Japan, Scholarships etc and job-related information. Students found it motivating and inspiring.

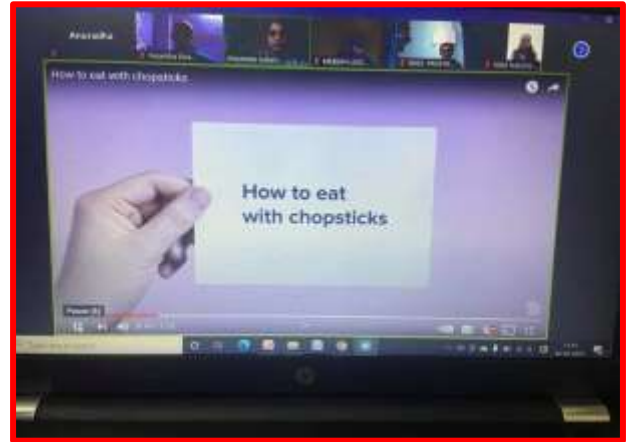
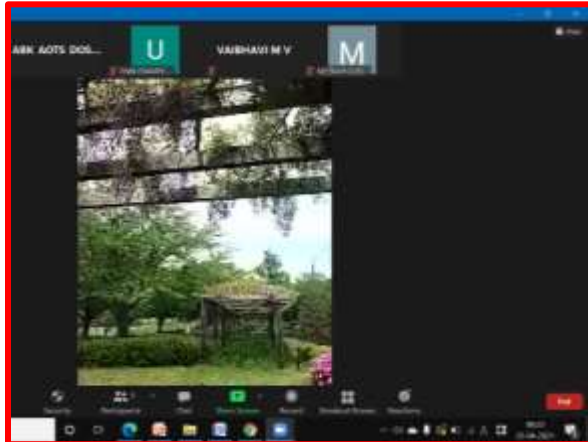
Thank you Nivetha sensei



### Live tour of Fujisawa from Japan 25 April 2021

A walk through Tour of Fujisawa from by our Aruloli sensei who is currently working in Japan,. He took the audience along with him with his video which included a wonderful view of Fuji flower. Thanks a lot Aruloli sensei for a wonderful session.





## Japanese Culture Camp For College Students- On 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021

A fantastic start of summer camp for college students!! Started with Hinamatsuri celebrations, hinamatsuri song, hina ningyou origami, followed by Anime drawing, "ue wo muite" song. The students, learnt about Kimono and Yukata, did calligraphy etc!! Participants had fun and it was a great learning !

### On 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

Day 2 of summer camp for college kids went on really well with a variety of activities like Koinobori celebration, Koinobori origami and craft making , Koinobori song , Learning usage of Chopsticks, bean picking Chopstick game, Learned Obon dance, revised Sukiyaki "Ue wo muite" song and dug a little more deeeeep in to Japanese culture by learning about Zen garden and doing a small table top zen garden to experience the zen state of calmness themselves ! Two days of complete education and fun filled activities and great experience for the participants!

Thanks to all the great efforts by our team of teachers .







Started with very interesting activity of Bento making. With available fruits and vegetables and bread, Aarthi Sriram sensei demonstrated a very cute bento box and children loved making it themselves. Today being May 5th we celebrated Children's day (Koinobori) by learning about it from Vasantha Gnanaseelan sensei and made the koinobori craft ! We ended the session by learning McDonald song!

#### Day 4 on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Started with learning 24 kanji's , playing Jeopardy Kanji game , learned calligraphy and wrote few kanji's beautifully . It was followed by Obon dance and McDonald song practice!

#### Day 5 on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Started with presentation about Ikebana and Bonsai and learned about how it is done. It was followed by Origami graduation hat and song practice. Day ended with making of table top zen garden. Children were very creative and made zen garden in different designs and thoroughly enjoyed the session.

## Explore Japan Summer Camp Experience Japanese Culture

3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021

#### Day 1 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021

Kids summer camp took off with so much enthusiasm! It was fun to see active participation from kids . We Started off with introduction to Japan PowerPoint presentation and to my surprise there were 100s of questions from all kids, who were inquisitive to know every detail about Japan. With matching enthusiasm we continued to teach some greetings and self introduction. Next was origami samurai hat followed by anime drawing of Kids favourite Doraemon. Then we taught how to use chopsticks and played games with chopsticks. We practiced famous McDonald song and ended the session for the day.

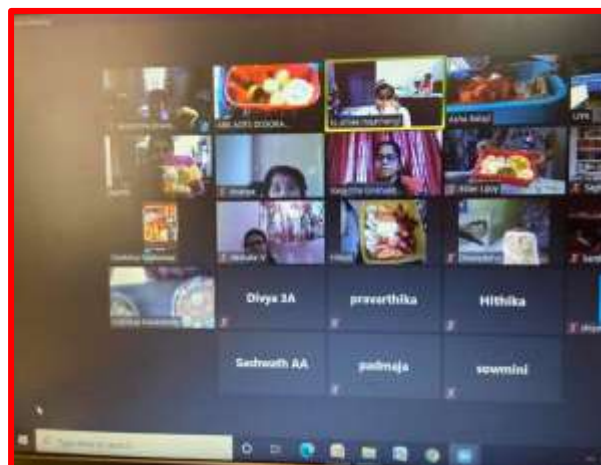
#### Day 2 on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021

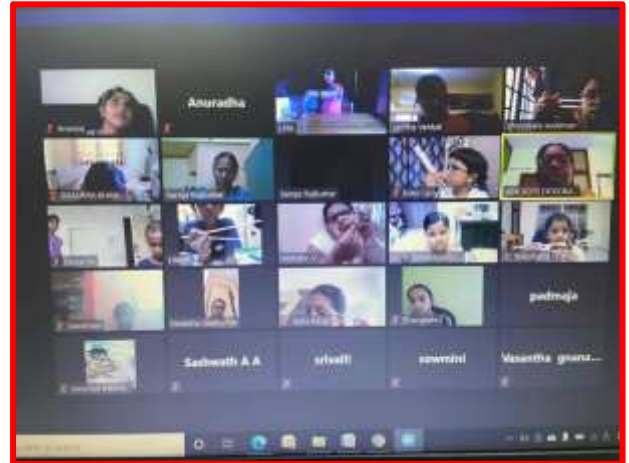
Started with Hinamatsuri celebrations, Hinamatsuri song and made Kimono Origami. With the help of our alumni teacher Aruloli sensei, we went on a virtual tour to Japan and saw a beautiful park near a river and children playing there, automatic vending machines, garbage disposal etc. our native Japanese teacher Satomi sensei gave a detailed explanation about kimono and Yukata, different types and styles in a very interactive way and children were overwhelmed by the presentation. And finally we ended the session with Song practice given by a native Japanese pro singer Saori Sabrina Khabouchi san from Japan along with our teacher Lalitha Venkat .

#### Day 3 on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021



We had Miyuki Inoue san, Researcher and advisor of Consulate general of Japan, Chennai as chief guest and was totally surprised by the performance of the students. A mini demonstration of song and Obon dance was shown through video compilation and all the activities were explained in detail with pictures.





## Virtual tour of Nagoya Castle on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Live tour of Nagoya Castle from Nagoya by our alumni student on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021 ! It was very exciting to watch the castle and learn a lot of Japanese history

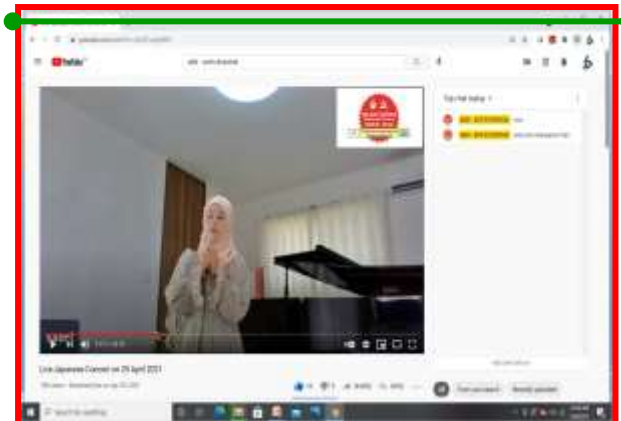


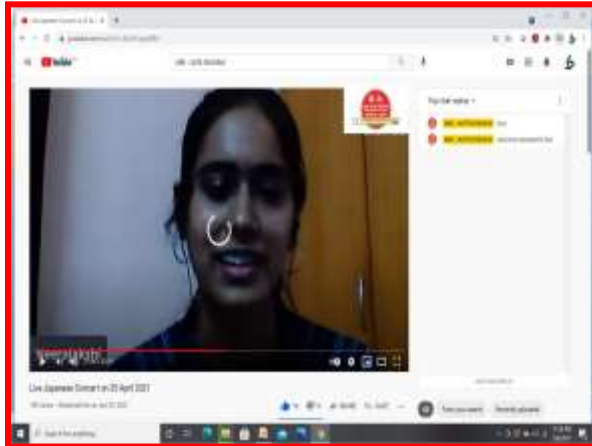




## Live Japanese Concert on YouTube 25 April 2021

ABK- AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre organized Live Japanese Concert on YouTube performance by Pro Singer from Japan : Saori Kabuchi & Nodojiman Winner Neerajakshi Sunderrajan on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

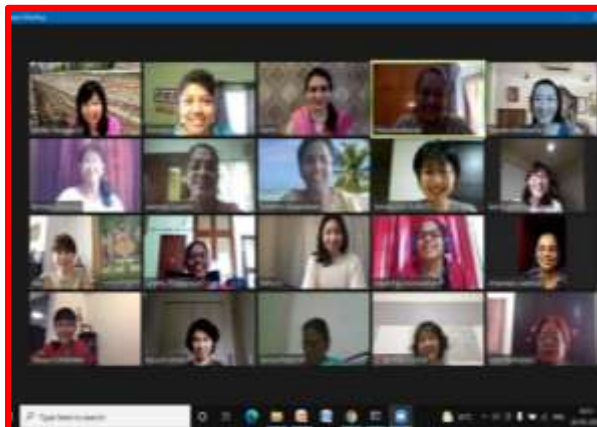




## Coffee Meet on Golden Week

20 May 2021

Coffee meet, (our monthly get together of our teachers with Native Japanese house wives of Japanese executives in Chennai,) on Golden Week Happened online today. Various topics on golden week like Boys day celebration, how long holidays are spent by Japanese, where do they prefer to go, how golden week was celebrated in Covid last year and this year, demerits on having long holidays like traffic, hotels being expensive etc. were discussed and the Japanese ladies shared information on how they celebrate or pass time during holidays. It was really exciting to meet our coffee meet friends after a long time and we learned a lot about golden week.

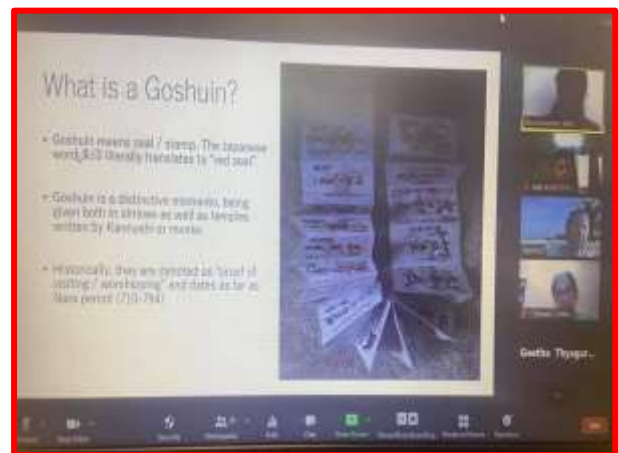


## GOSHUIN & GOSHUINCHO

30<sup>th</sup> May 2021

A very interesting session on Goshuin and Goshuincho was conducted on 30<sup>th</sup> May by our Alumni Ms Mithra Ravichandran. It's a hobby of Mithra to visit various Buddhist temples and shrines and get this Goshuin (seal or stamp) which marks your visit to the temple and Mithra has collected 70+ Goshuin so far and had made a Goshuincho (A book of seal / stamp). A very different topic and a deep learning about Japanese culture.

Thank you so much Mithra for sharing your knowledge and experience.



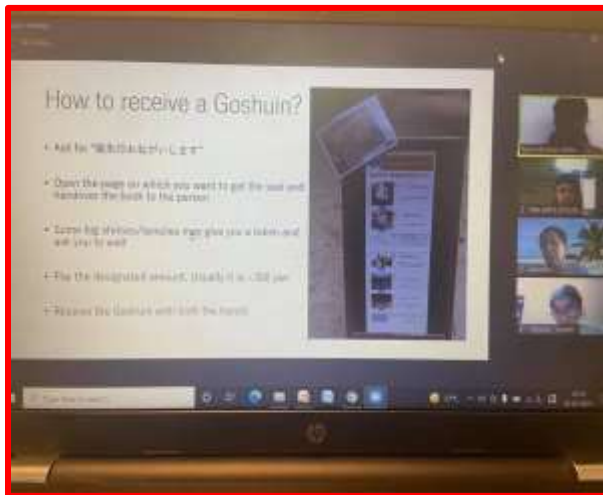




venue / class rooms were sanitized by the Corporation authorities before & after the exams and also our own air purifying machinery was utilized by us to keep the premises with the purified air.

Moreover we did not provide water points at the corridor to avoid crowding and have already requested the examinees to bring two water bottles for their use which was adhered by most of the examinees. And all the examinees were advised to stay in their classrooms after using the rest rooms to avoid crowding on the corridors during the breaks.

Some candidates took two levels, one in the forenoon and the other in the afternoon . Conducting of NAT in two shifts ( forenoon & afternoon) has enabled the examinees to write two tests on a single day which was very well appreciated by the examinees and some of them made use of this opportunity.



## JAPANESE LANGUAGE NAT TEST - 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021

The Japanese Language NAT-TEST is an examination that measures the Japanese language ability of students who are not native Japanese speakers. The tests are separated by difficulty (Q1 to Q5) and general ability is measured in three categories: Grammar/Vocabulary, Listening and Reading Comprehension. NAT Test is being held six times a year. ABK – AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre in association with Senmon Kyouiku, Japan have been conducted the NAT TEST in Chennai held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at Vellammal Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Chennai

All precautionary measures like insisting the examinees, Proctors, Asst. Proctors, Control Room Staff to wear MASK throughout the exam, providing Sanitizer for cleaning the hands of the examinees, proctors, Asst Proctors to sanitized their hands before their entry into the examination hall and all were subjected to Thermal Scanner to ascertain their temperature. The entire





## National Webinar on : Promoting Creativity in Learning & Teaching – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021



M.R. Ranganathan was invited as an expert for the National Webinar organized by the NKT Centre for Excellence - NKT National College of Education for Women on 29th April, 2021 on the topic Promoting Creativity in Learning & Teaching. Totally 65 teachers and teacher trainees Participated.

### 4<sup>TH</sup> KAIZEN COMPETITION 24<sup>TH</sup> , 27<sup>TH</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021

ABK- AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre organised the 4<sup>th</sup> KAIZEN Competition through online on 24<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup>, & 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Totally 76 teams from 24 companies enthusiastically participated in the competition.



## VIRTUAL GRADUATION PARTY MARUGOTO A1 COURSE

1 June 2021

Virtual Graduation party was conducted today for students who finished Marugoto A1 course. Students showcased their talent in fluently conversing in Japanese like a pro in just 40 hours ! Our Native Japanese teacher Satomi sensei joined as chief guest and interviewed each child separately and was very surprised to see their performance.

Satomi sensei then gave a presentation about Wagashi (Japanese sweets ) which was thoroughly enjoyed by the children.

Sowmini Jeyaprakash sensei explained about the course and shared the images of origami done in class. Students enjoyed interacting with Satomi sensei and are eagerly looking forward for more such courses !





ABK AOTS DOSOKAI  
Tamilnadu Centre  
Since 1975

**VIRTUAL  
GRADUATION  
PARTY**

**MARUGOTO A1 course**

**CHIEF GUEST: Takeshita Satomi**  
Native Japanese Teacher,  
ABK AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamil nadu centre

**Date: 1st June 2021**  
**Time: 3:00 PM**

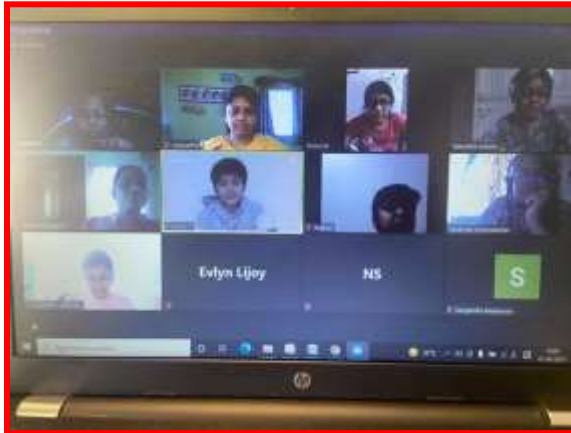
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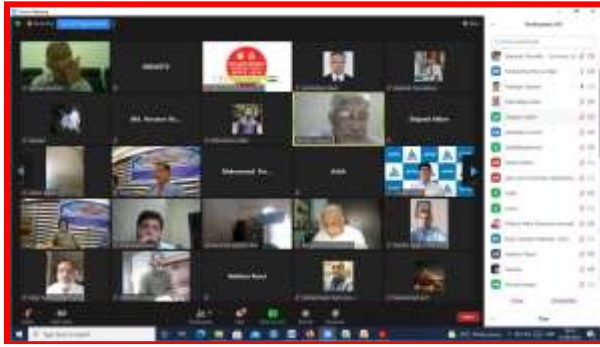


## 8<sup>TH</sup> WNF WEBINAR (ONLINE SEMINAR) ON JAPANESE MANAGEMENT : KAIZEN AND 5S IN SMES

25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Our Chairman Mr. M. R. Ranganathan was a resource person for the 8<sup>th</sup> WNF Webinar (Online Seminar) on Japanese Management - Kaizen and 5S in SMEs to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> June and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021, Chattogram, Bangladesh.





## **ABK- AOTS DOSOKAI, TAMILNADU CENTRE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (COE) –JAPANESE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

ABK AOTS DOSOKAI – COE – Japanese Management Practices, one of focused divisions of ABK AOTS DOSOKAI on Human resource development based on Japanese management Practices, brings the expertise on business transformation towards achieving the company's long/mid-term goals applying TQM philosophy.

Our Subject Matter Experts (SME) will guide/ handhold top and senior management team in evolving their vision, aspiration for mid/long term goals. We will hand hold organization in aligning top management goals with department / functional goals and individual goals using the proven techniques of Hoshin Kanri (Policy management, an important vehicle of TQM). During this process, we will enhance top/senior management capability on PDCA principles, the key fulcrum of TQM.

Quality starts and ends with education and training. TQM is an enabler to achieve company objectives. We will guide in competency development of people on TQM principles and practices enabling them to focus on a process approach to achieve company results.

We will drive daily work management practices at middle and junior management levels to ensure routine activities are managed without firefighting. We will handhold the team in developing their business processes. We will inculcate the Monozukuri culture of Manufacturing excellence, through continuous improvement and Training & development in the organization, which will enhance employee's motivation and capability on problem-solving techniques which in turn improves quality, productivity, cost, and delivery.

Overall our COE – Japanese management practices will partner with the client organizations in making an institution that lasts long beyond generations.

**ABK AOTS DOSOKAI, TAMILNADU CENTER**

ABK AOTS DOSOKAI TAMILNADU CENTER was established in the year 1974 to function as a bridge between Japan and India in the areas of Linguistic, Technical, Cultural, Managerial Training and to promote the growth of Trade and Industry between Japan and India.

A registered society formed voluntarily by Engineers, Executives, Entrepreneurs & others who had their Training with Japanese companies, through ABK, AOTS, Japan Foundation, JICA, with clear focus to work as a Bridge between Japan and India in all spheres. We are one of the 70 AOTS Alumni in 42 Countries. We are one of the oldest and largest AOTS Alumni Associations in India.

### **OUR MAJOR ACTIVITIES:**

1. Japanese Language education
2. Japanese management Training Institute
3. Cultural activities
4. Industry support activities

Our ABK-AOTS DOSOKAI Center is the oldest Japanese language school in south India having a history of more than 40 + years. We are also the coordinator of Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) annual examination in Chennai Tamil Nadu. We also provide Japanese language advise for all the leading companies and corporate houses in south India and also provide Japan language interpretation and translation services. We are member and part of Japan Foundation Network.

Japan Foundation (Government of Japan) which is Globally promoting Japanese language had approved only 5 institutions in India and only one in south India under their SAKURA JF Network and we are one of the five and only in South India to be recognized under the scheme.

We have an annual calendar of Cultural Events, which we carry out with the support of Consulate General of Japan in Chennai and Japan Foundation.

We also received the TOP "Cultural Exchange grand Prize" during the Golden Jubilee of AOTS (Japan)

We also received a "Foreign Minister's Certificate of Commendation".

Our Students are working in large numbers, in all the leading Software Companies, either as Language support Personnel or as Bilingual Engineers. We have Japan Trained Professional Engineers with more than 20 years of Industry experience, who have become Professional Trainers, who offer Industry related Training based on annual Calendar of Training Program. We also have a Japan Information Center and a Library.

The AOTS ALUMNI "5S" FORUM OF INDIA was created by our Alumni to serve as a Certifying body for the Industries, companies that have the best 5S Practices.



The TAMILNADU CHAMBER OF NIPPON INDIA TRADE AND INDUSTRY (TACNITI) was also started by us as a separate entity to serve Trade, Industry and Commerce as a Chamber between Japan and India. Our other regular training program for Industries and corporate.

AOTS (Japan) Japan appointed as Monozukuri Ambassadors for Tamilnadu and apart from Monozukuri and Hitozukuri (Manufacturing excellence is people building) we offer training in areas of Manufacturing, quality, Maintenance and Productivity.

- Our annual Monozukuri awards are well received and recognized by Industries.
- Our Focus areas are Competition, Conference and Award events related to Japanese Management Practices.
- Video conference B2B meetings with Japan and India Industries.
- Concepts and practices of TPM, TQM, TPS and lean for team from other Alumni Society from Middle East and other region under the World Network of Friendship (WNF) program
- Organized many technical seminars and workshop for Industries

**We offer the following Programs to corporates & individuals with a focus on opportunities with Japanese companies**

- ◆ MONOZUKURI & HITOZUKURI
- ◆ 5 S beyond just house keeping – Creating a Happy & safe Gemba
- ◆ Use of Apology – a social Lubricant in workplace
- ◆ The Art of Bowing
- ◆ Kaizen- the art of creating a Vibrant workplace
- ◆ Business Communication. Part 1
- ◆ Business Communication. Part 2
- ◆ Factors of Japanese Culture – The binding Force at Gemba.



**Attack on two fronts**

◆ If you are trying to look at Japanese companies as opportunities for employment and Growth or if you are employed in a Japanese Company or if you are a Japanese Company employing Japanese and Indians there is an urgent need for the Indian side to build the skills in two fronts -

- ◆ 1. Japanese Language ; JLPT Minimum N 3 or NAT Q 3 but N 2 (or Q 2 is preferred).
- ◆ 2. Exposure to Japanese Culture and Business Practices and Manners!

◆ ABK/AOTS DOSOKAI JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL offers both & also other exciting activities like Japanese Music Club, Speech club, WAKUJ WAKU CLUB ( Culture Club). Speech competition, Participation in Japanese Dramatics, Movie & anime watching etc.,

**Programs to corporates & individuals with a focus on opportunities with Japanese companies**

- ◆ Quality Circle – Japanese magic of Team excellence
- ◆ TPM – TOTAL Productive Maintenance
- ◆ TPS – Toyota Production System
- ◆ TQC – Total Quality Control
- ◆ SHOP – Solving Human and Organisational Problems.
- ◆ Business etiquette in Japan
- ◆ Negotiating with Japanese and
- ◆ Many More



**Attack on two fronts**

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**Programs to corporates & individuals with a focus on opportunities with Japanese companies**

- ◆ Creativity and Problem Solving
- ◆ Working with Japanese – The Tricks for the trade.
- ◆ A Country that knows how to bounce back
- ◆ Flexibility – The need for working in a Japanese Company
- ◆ HORENSOU
- ◆ KIKEN YOCHI
- ◆ 3G and Gemba Practices



**ABK – AOTS DOSOKAI  
Tamilnadu Centre**

**CENTER OF EXCELLENCE  
(COE) – JAPANESE  
MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

TQM Consultation for Deming Journey and Quality, TQM Training partner with SOBHA CONSTRUCTIONS LLC through Centre of Excellence (COE) of ABK AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre.

## Our Planned Events for the Next Quarter July to September 2021

### 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021

JLPT online Mock Exam for N5 to N1

### 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021

2nd JLPT Online Meeting with host institutions  
across India through online

### 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Commencing the New Japanese Language Classes for  
Basic Conversation, Advanced Conversation,  
Intermediate Conversation

### 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Commencing the New Japanese Language Classes for  
JLPT Script Course N5, N4, N3, N2 & N1

### 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

N5 & N4 Brush up course through online

### 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

4<sup>th</sup> Competition (1<sup>st</sup> online Competition) on Poke – Yoke

### 4<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Participating in the AOTS Webinar on Transform Your  
Business Management Using AI/IoT (KROP01)

### 8<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Japanese language – NAT TEST at Vellammal  
Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Chennai,

## WE PROMOTE ADMISSION TO



**HIROSHIMA  
GLOBAL ACADEMY**

Our wish is to create a community of learners where everyone, teachers and students, are committed to not only gaining knowledge and new experiences but also understanding how we can live together in a challenging environment.

We at HIGA are very committed to being an inclusive and diverse community, where everyone's strengths are recognized and everyone's voice has a place. We are firmly rooted in a Japanese environment, with a traditional approach to teaching and learning. However, at HIGA we are excited to extend beyond the traditional classroom into an environment of open inquiry and project-based learning.

Our aims are high. However, it all starts with one step at a time as all great journeys do. Currently, our teachers and leadership team are working very hard to create the ideal learning environment for young people to be a success. Central to all their work is the idea that we are a learning community. This includes the local community, parents, students and school staff working together to create a positive impact on society for the future.

Everyone has their own story, everyone is excited by the challenge and everyone is committed to the success of leading young people through the formative years of their life. We believe everyone's voice is valuable in helping to share our ideals of building a peaceful and sustainable future.  
We are HIGA, a learning community. Let's create it together!



## Great Learning Opportunities for undergraduate and Graduate courses for Indian Students in Japan **ASIA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY (APU)**

