



eNIHON MON NEWS LETTER

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October - December 2019



あけまして
おめでとうございます

Akemashite
Omedetou Gozaimasu



HAPPY NEW YEAR
Year Of The Rat



ABK - AOTS DOSOKAI
Tamilnadu Centre, Chennai

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A Cultural, Technical & Trade Bridge Between Japan & India



The excitement of Oshōgatsu...

It is time to say goodbye to 2019 and be mindful of all the good times that we have had during this year and the learning opportunities that the not so good times presented us. And the new year is something all of us look forward to with so much excitement and hope – never minding where we are and what we do.

The cultural new year is celebrated on different dates of the year by the varied communities of our country. However, the official new year is a day that brings together the entire country for great celebrations and renewed fervour of what lies ahead. We hope all our friends world over have been flooded with electronic and physical forms of *nengajō* – a reiteration of all the beautiful bonds we have been able to create between our ourselves, our two countries and the world over.

This year, it does look like the biggest new year's eve party in Tokyo is running out of steam. In a recent news article, I read that that the Shibuya count-down to the New Year has banned consumption of liquids that can add to the 'spirit' of the occasion. Traditionally, the 'Times Square' of Tokyo that Shibuya is, buzzes with activity on the eve of new year as thousands gather to bring in the new year together. Let's see what happens at 'YOU MAKE SHIBUYA COUNTDOWN' this year!!!

Meanwhile, closer home, all of you must have had a great new year's eve party by the time you receive this copy of Nihon-mon. Resolutions would have been made. The lessons of the previous year would have made us wiser. The promise of the new year invigorates all of us. It's that excitement of Oshōgatsu!

Here's wishing all of you a most glorious, healthy and prosperous 2020. May all your dreams come true and may more boxes be ticked that ever before. And may the activities in bringing our two countries closer continue to be strengthened by all your unwavering support.

Akemashiteomedetogozaimasu.
Kotoshimoyoroshikuonegaishimasu.

Thank you
B. Harikumar
Editor – Nihon Mon



Thanks to, all Our valued clients, dear team ABK AOTS DOSOKAI, TAMILNADU CENTER members, Main school and All franchises Teachers and our dear students for making the Challenging 2019 pleasant, successful and memorable year

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TAMILNADU CENTRE (REGD)
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60th Anniversary of AOTS & 10th world convention of AOTS ALUMNI

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Chairman

G. Chandramohan
President

C. Sriam
Vice President

R. Anuradha
Director - Japanese Language School

2020

Wishing you
and your family
a very happy
and successful
new year 2020

あけましておめでとう

From
ABK AOTS DOSOKAI TAMILNADU
CENTER & its language school and
franchises at
AMINJIKARAI, THIRUVANMIYUR
& VELACHERY, TAMBARAM,
NAVALUR (OMR), COIMBATORE,
BANGALORE, KARUR, SALEM and
ERODE



Prize Distribution Ceremony of Talk Your Way to Japan Speech Contest & Hiyoshi Environmental Award

--- 5 October 2019 ---

From the year 1995 onwards ABK – AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre & the Hiyoshi Corporation, Japan are organizing “Talk Your Way to Japan” Speech Contest for the students in Tamilnadu. The themes for all the contests will be centring on environment and ecology. The following Four First Prize Winners of these Contests for the year 2019 are sent to Japan on a two week totally free Study cum Cultural exchange trip.

- Ms. K. Priya – XI Std of Chennai Girls Hr. Sec. School, M. H. Road, Perambur, Chennai
- Mr. R. Hariharan – XI Std of St. Marys Hr sec School, Dindigul – 624 001
- Mr. M. Venkatesan – N2 of ABK – AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre
- Mr. Vivek Singh of Vellore Institute of Technology, Kelambakkam, Chennai

Moreover the First, Second, Third and Fourth prize winners of the finals of the speech contest of the Corporation / Government schools are offered the Japanese language classes at our centre free of cost for all the five levels which in normal course would have cost Rs. 79,414/- for each one of them.

HIYOSHI ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD – 2019

From the year 2007 onwards Hiyoshi Corporation, Japan in association with ABK – AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre have introduced “Hiyoshi Environmental Award” to recognize the outstanding contribution and progress in research and application in Environmental conservation and protection. 57 applications were received and three prizes were awarded.

- Hiyoshi Environmental Award - Dr. Alagappan Ramanathan, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- Hiyoshi Think of Ecology Award - Dr. Sushil Kumar Kansal, Panjab University, Chandigarh.
- Hiyoshi Young Leaf Award - Dr. Noel Jacob Kaleekkal, National Institute of Technology, Kerala.

The Chief Guest His Excellency **Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama**, Consul General of Japan in Chennai distributed the prizes to the winners on 5th October 2019 at 4.00 p.m. at our centre.

Consulate General of Japan in Chennai, Hiyoshi Corporation in Japan, Federation of AOTS Alumni Association of India (FAAAI), Super Auto Forge in Chennai, Diana World Travel Pvt. Ltd in Chennai, Mr. M. R. Ranganathan in Chennai, Ms. Shobana Ranganathan in USA are continuously supporting us as Cosponsors.



His Excellency Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, Consul General of Japan in Chennai



Session of audience during the Prize Awarding ceremony



Group photo taken with Talk your way to Japan – Speech Contest First Prize winners along with His Excellency Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, Consul General of Japan in Chennai



Group photo taken with Hiyoshi Environmental Award winners along with His Excellency Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, Consul General of Japan in Chennai

Exhibition on “CONTEMPORARY WOOD – CURVED NETSUKE”

--- 11 to 22 October 2019 ---

The Consulate-General of Japan in Chennai, The Japan Foundation and ABK-AOTS Dosokai, Tamilnadu Centre presented the traveling exhibition, “**CONTEMPORARY WOOD-CARVED NETSUKE**” from 11th to 22nd October 2019 at Lalit Kala Akademi, Chennai

As Kimono culture flourished during the Edo period (1603-1868), netsuke, small carvings, were created as toggles to hold pouches and cases containing tobacco and medicine in place on the obi sash worn with the kimono. What began as functional pieces to prevent those little suspended containers from falling to the ground evolved into small but highly creative carvings. Today, classic netsuke have gained international acclaim as remarkably detailed carvings. Contemporary netsuke incorporating new subject matter and approaches have also been attracting attention. This traveling exhibition showcases contemporary netsuke carved of wood by living netsuke carvers in Japan, plus netsuke created by contemporary artists such as Izumi Kato. It also includes wooden netsuke that visitors may touch.

Contemporary Wood-Carved Netsuke is an innovative contemporary exhibition in which 65 pieces by contemporary Japanese carvers and artists were displayed. Through this exhibition, visitors appreciated the sophisticated skills and playful minds behind contemporary netsuke as well as its formal beauty and contemporaneity.

His Excellency Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, Consul General of Japan in Chennai inaugurated the Exhibition on Friday 11 October at 11:00 a.m.

The exhibition was **ENTRY FREE and open to all.**



His Excellency Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, Consul General of Japan in Chennai – opening the exhibition by cutting the ribbon



Exhibition on “Contemporary Wood – Curved Netsuke”-
session of audience



Exhibition on “Contemporary Wood – Curved Netsuke”-
session of audience



WAKU WAKU CLUB SPEECH CLUB ACTIVITY

--- 15 & 29 October 2019 ---

We conducted the Speech club activity for Students of our Japanese Language school at ABK – AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre on 15th & 29th Oct 2019.



Speech Club Activity in progress

JAPANESE LANGUAGE NAT TEST

--- 20 October 2019 ---

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 (five levels) 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 Publishing Pvt. Ltd Japan have been conducted the NAT TEST in Chennai. On 20th October 2019 the NAT TEST was conducted for 1Q to 5Q.



Japanese Language NAT TEST in progress

Pre departure meeting for the Four First Prize Winners of Talk Your Way to Japan Speech Contest - 2019

--- 26 October 2019 ---

The Pre departure meeting for the following Four First Prize winners of Talk Your way to Japan – Speech Contest conducted at our centre on 26.10.2019.

First ANA direct flight from Chennai to Tokyo departed Chennai on 27th October 2019.

We are proud to share that the 4 winners of Talk your way to Japan speech contest conducted by ABK AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre Chennai in association with Hiyoshi Corporation travelled in the first direct flight!!



Pre departure meeting for the Talk Your Way to Japan –
Speech Contest winners in Progress



Talk your way to Japan – Speech Contest winners at Hiyoshi
Corporation , Lab at Japan



Group photo taken with Talk Your way to Japan – Speech contest
winners and Hiyoshi Corporation members

**First ANA direct flight from Chennai to Tokyo
departed Chennai on 27th October 2019.**



First ANA direct flight from Chennai to Tokyo departed Chennai on
27th October 2019.



GHC Global Business Internship Program (AOTS)

AOTS launched a program called "AOTS GHC Global Business Internship Program" in 2015. This program was created in response to the needs for developing global human resource among Japanese companies. In order to develop young Japanese company employees as "global human resources" that can handle the increasingly rapid globalization of the economy,

AOTS dispatches them to host organizations in the respective host country to provide them with an opportunity to acquire independence and a proactive attitude, the ability to understand other cultures, and communication skills, and to develop personal networks through internship activities.

As a Host Organisation we received two interns

- Mr. Hideaki Shinkawa of Kubota Keiso Corporation, Japan to Scigenics Biotech Private Limited, Chennai from 31st October 2019 to 28th November 2019
- Mr. Rahn Koya Creage of , Kubota Corporation to Precision Machine and Auto Components Pvt. Ltd., Sriperumbudur from 29th Oct to 28th Nov 2019.

We conducted orientation session at our centre on 30th & 31st October 2019 to the above interns.

Basic Business Japanese workshop for N4 & N3 students of our Centre

--- 4 to 8 November 2019 ---

Day 1 on 4th November 2019: Introduction to Keigo, Jikoshoukai, Role play, group .

Day 2 on 5th November 2019: Telephonic conversation in office scenario- learned the basic do's and don't's, lots of Keigo (honorific language) , manners and did a role play.

Day 3 on 6th November 2019: Business E-mail writing. Topics covered: Do's and don't's, Email format , How to start and end a formal email, demonstration of how type in Japanese, sample email writing.

Day 4 on 7th November 2019: Mock interviews. Every minute detail from Deciding on what kind of job we want, what kind of company, knowing about the company, preparing for the interview , dressing up for the interview, body language, frequently asked questions, how to answer each question , mock interview demo was done today. The students asked many questions and got them clarified.

Day 5 on 8th November 2019:- Briefing about Translation and Interpretation with sample E-J and J-E Translation and live interpretation exposure. It was followed by cultural exposure session which gave a lot of insight to Japanese way of thinking.



Basic Business Japanese workshop in Progress



Group photo taken during Basic Business Japanese workshop

Screening of Japanese NHK World Japan TV's Programs

The Consulate General of Japan in Chennai in association with ABK – AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre and Co-sponsored by NHK is Screening Japanese NHK World Japan TV on the second and fourth week of every month at Kumugai Auditorium.

on 10.11.2019 – "Symbol of Revival" screened
on 17.11.2019 – "10 Years with Hayao Miyazaki"
on 24.11.2019 – "Home Sweet Tokyo Season 2"
on 15.12.2019 – Eiheiiji – Inside Dogen's Zen Monastery
on 22.12.2019– Japan from Above – Land of Prayers



Screening Japanese NHK World Japan TV in Progress

Kanji Workshop for N5 & N4

--- 10th Nov 2019 ---

We conduct the kanji workshop again for N5 and N4 students all free for ABK AOTS Japanese School students. This workshop seemed very effective and had helped us improve our results last July. Kanji Workshop for N5 & N4 conducted on 10th November 2019.



Kanji Workshop in progress



Coffee Meet

Waku Waku Club utilizes the opportunity by arranging an interaction with the Japanese women along with a cup of coffee twice a month. Each of these coffee meets will be for 2 hours and topic of discussion will be anything of interest to both the sides.

on 13th November 2019

Session on Japan 's Emperor Enthronement ceremony and the procedures followed



Coffee Meet in progress

On 11th December 2019 – Year End Part

忘年会 (Bounenkai)- Year end party celebrated as a part of coffee meet. Japanese ladies along with Indian teachers enjoyed delicious Japanese food at Kabuki restaurant and enjoyed singing Karaoke of Japanese and Indian songs!!

This year of lots and lots of fun filled cultural exchange activities that were completely educational in terms of culture and the language comes to an end with Bounenkai.



Coffee Meet in progress

4th Innovative QC Competition

--- 17 November 2019 ---

ABK – AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre, Chennai - organized 4th Innovative QC Competition- IQCC 2019" on Sunday, 17th November 2019 at Jeppiaar Institute of Technology, Sugunvarchatram.

Totally 46 presentations were made from 32 companies. The participant companies were from Automobile, Hospital, Banking Sector and Educational Institutions practicing Quality Control. The competition was participated by more than 260 delegates from Medium & Large Scale Industries.

Dr.J.Faritha Banu @ R. Renuka, HOD - Computer Science Engineering, Jeppiaar Institute of Technology inaugurated the Competition.

During the Prize Awarding ceremony Mr. G. Chandramohan - President, ABK - AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre delivered the Presidential Address & Dr. S. Rajkumar - Senior Vice President, Rane Engine Valves was the Chief Guest who distributed the prizes to the winners.



Lighting of Kuthuvilakku by Dr.J.Faritha Banu @ R. Renuka, HOD - Computer Science Engineering, Jeppiaar Institute of Technology during the Inaugural ceremony of 4th Innovative QC Competition



4th Innovative QC Competition in progress section of participants



4th Innovative QC Competition in progress



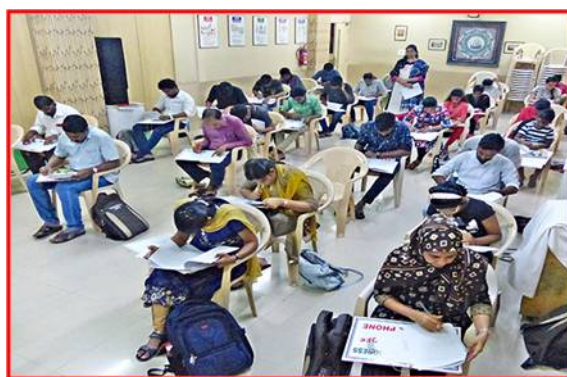
Photograph taken during the prize awarding ceremony of 4th Innovative QC Competition

JLPT Mock Test from N5 to N2

--- 9th, 10th 16th & 17th Nov 2019 ---

ABK-AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre Japanese Language School conducted a series of 6 mock tests for anyone learning Japanese and helps them crack JLPT at ease!! Mock test were be conducted in the same way as JLPT and mark sheets were be given.

Shortly these tests will be available as online tests open to all on payment basis, our school students and students of all our franchises can take these tests free.



JLPT Mock Test in progress

Japanese Language Proficiency Test (Dec 2019) Proctors Meeting

--- 30 November 2019 ---

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test, (JLPT) is being held twice a year on the first Sunday of July & December Annually. Our centre has been identified by the Japan Foundation through the Consulate General of Japan in Chennai for conducting the Japanese Language Proficiency Test for N1 ~ N5 for entire South India on 1st December 2019 at Vellammal Matriculation Hr. Sec.School, T. S. Krishnanagar, Chennai.



JLPT Proctors Meeting in progress

Japanese Language Teachers Meeting

--- 7th December 2019 ---

The Annual Japanese Language Teachers Meeting was held on 7th December 2019 at our centre.

The Updates on the activities of overall organisation was given by Mr. C. Sriram, & school updates were provided by Mrs. Anuradha, Director, Japanese Language School followed by Update on R&D department by Mrs. Geetha Thygarajan, updates on Waku Waku Club activity by Mrs. J. Sowmini and updates on Coffee Meet activity by Mrs. Aarthi Sriram.

During the teachers meeting New N5 Kanwork Book & N5 & N4 Kanji Book was released.

Our Chairman Mr. M. R. Ranganathan gave a special address and clarified doubts raised by our teachers. Native Japanese volunteers who helped us throughout the year were honoured during the meeting. Group photo was taken at the end of the meeting.



Japanese Language Teachers Meeting in Progress



Release of new version of N5 Kana Workbook and N5 & N4 Kanji Books



Group photo taken during the Japanese Language Teachers Meeting

MOSAI – JAPANESE LANGUAGE SPEECH CONTEST FOR SOUTHERN REGION

--- 7 December 2019 ---

The Consulate General of Japan at Chennai & ABK – AOTS DOSOKAI, TAMILNADU CENTRE, in association with Mombusho Scholars Association of India (MOSAI) conducted “MOSAI – Japanese Language Speech Contest for Southern Region” on 7th December 2019 at our Centre.

The Judges for the contest were Ms. Terumi Fujeda, Mr. Hydo Hideharu, Mr. Hoshino Minoru, Mr. Ujie Yuta.

The following are the winners of the above Speech Contest in Junior Category.

1st Prize : Mr. Vaishnav Kumar .S

ABK - AOTS DOSOKAI Tamilnadu Centre, Chennai

2nd Prize : Ms. Shilpi Roy

English and Foreign Language University, Hyderabad

3rd Prize : Mr. Anna Vinayagam

ABK - AOTS DOSOKAI Tamilnadu Centre, Chennai

The following are the winners of the above Speech Contest in Senior Category.

1st Prize : Ms. Sheerin Farhath

Japanese Language School, Bangalore

2nd Prize : Mr. Aditya Subramanya Jois

Nichi in Software Solutions, Bangalore

3rd Prize : Ms. Aishwaryalakshmi Sivakumar

ABK - AOTS DOSOKAI Tamilnadu Centre, Chennai

Ms. Megumi Shimada, Adviser/Researcher, Culture & Information Section, Consulate-General of Japan in Chennai distributed prizes to the winners

The Cash Prizes for the Winners & the certificates were sponsored by ABK-AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre, Chennai, Consulate General of Japan in Chennai has donated books for the Prize winners of the above contests.



MOSAI – Japanese Language Speech Contest For Southern Region in Progress



Section of audience



Ms. Megumi Shimada, Adviser/Researcher, Culture & Information Section, Consulate-General of Japan in Chennai distributed prizes to the winners



Group photo taken during the MOSAI – Japanese Language Speech Contest For Southern Region

Orientation of Japanese Language class

--- 8th December 2019 ---

Orientation for the new batch of N5,N4,N3 Students was held on 8th December 2019. Details regarding the History of our school, our infrastructure, facilities, class room activities, extracurricular club activities, success stories were shared with the students.



Photograph taken during the Japanese language orientation



Photograph taken during the Japanese language orientation

Hearty Congratulations to Team Tsunagari (Tanmaya and Satvik of ENISHI NIHONGO GAKKO, South Chennai Chapter of ABK – AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre) for winning the Third Prize in Video Contest “Watashino Sukina Machi” conducted by The Japan Foundation

Chennai Japan Expo

--- 14th December 2019 ---

The Consulate-General of Japan in Chennai, and ABK-AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre, are organizing a one-day **"CHENNAI JAPAN EXPO"** on 14th December 2019 at GRT Convention Centre, "MARIGOLD HALL" providing various Culture & Information on Japan.

The **CHENNAI JAPAN EXPO** includes Cultural Exhibitions of Japanese Traditional Dolls, Nendo No Tezukuri (handmade clay art), Ikebana (art of flower arrangement), and Bonsai (tray planting).

The **EXPO** has not only shown case exhibits on Japanese culture but also information on Japan about, Travel, Education, Japanese language, and Tourism provided by the participating organizations "ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS (ANA)", "THE JAPAN FOUNDATION", "JAPAN NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION (JNTO)", and "THE UNIVERSITY OF INDIA TOKYO OFFICE".

The **Chennai Japan Expo** was inaugurated by Ms. Megumi Shimada, Adviser/Researcher, Culture & Information Section, Consulate-General of Japan in Chennai and Mr. M.R. Ranganathan, Chairman, ABK-AOTS Dosokai, Tamilnadu Centre at 11:00 a.m. on 14th December 2019 at GRT Convention Centre, MARIGOLD HALL.

The **"CHENNAI JAPAN EXPO"** was providing an opportunity for the people in Chennai to know more about Japanese cultures and information on Japan paving way for further strengthening the mutual understanding and friendly relationship between Japan and India.



Ms. Megumi Shimada, Adviser/Researcher, Culture & Information Section, Consulate-General of Japan in Chennai and our Chairman Mr. M.R. Ranganathan, inaugurated the Chennai Japan Expo by cutting the ribbon



Chennai Japan Expo – section of audience



Chennai Japan Expo – section of audience



Chennai Japan Expo – product explaining session in progress

We are glad to inform that two more mail IDs of our centre are

office@abkaotschennai.in

&

school@abkaotschennai.in

Coordinated with Japanese companies for our student's recruitment

We have coordinated for the placement of our students from October 2019 to December 2019 with various Indian IT and manufacturing companies and also with Japanese companies. S

Some of the students went to Japan to attend the interviews. And it was a good platform for the students to explore various opportunities in India and Japan



The Training Program on the Establishment of Paper Recycling System in India (ENIP), Japan

---From 10 to 19 December 2019---

The Training Program on the Establishment of Paper Recycling System in India (ENIP), was held from 10 to 19 December 2019 at Tokyo Kenshu Centre, Tokyo, Japan, which gave the participants a complete overview of Japan's Paper Recycling System.

Seven delegates from various organisations were recommended by our centre to participate in the above program.



Group photo of The Training Program on the Establishment of Paper Recycling System in India



The Program on Productivity Improvement for India (INPI)

--- 4 - 17 March 2020 ---

The Program on Productivity Improvement for India (INPI) is one of such management training programs conducted by the Association for Overseas Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Partnerships (AOTS) under the scheme of the Carbon Reduction Technology Promotion Program by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. This program aims at promoting overseas development of Japanese energy conservation technology, improving efficiency in the use of energy in the industry field, and contributing to the reduction of greenhouse effect gas emissions by providing training for local employees of manufacturers in the emerging countries.

This course is designed for India, and the participants were learn about the three approaches (productivity improvement, operational improvement, and facility improvement) and specific techniques to conserve energy in the production process in the automobile, industrial machinery and electrical machinery fields and aim at realizing energy-saving in the production sites in their own companies by implementing the formulated action plans after they return to their countries.

OBJECTIVES

In this course, participants were learn about the three approaches (productivity improvement, operational improvement, and facility improvement) and specific techniques to conserve energy in the production process in the automobile, industrial machinery and electrical machinery fields and aim at realizing energy-saving in the production sites at their own companies by implementing the formulated actions plans after they return to their countries.

The completed applications to be submitted to our office on or before Wednesday, 8th January 2020, for onward submission to AOTS – Japan.

For application and more details please contact:-
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Tel. 044-2374 3575 / 044-2374 0318
rangaots@gmail.com / abkaots@gmail.com

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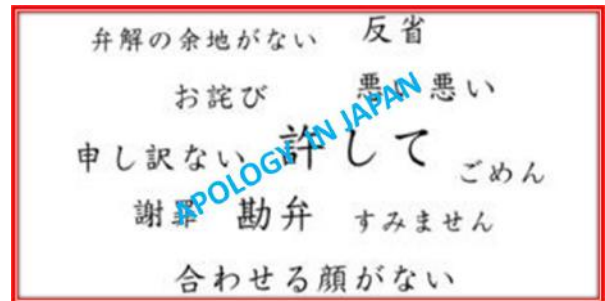
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Japan – India Institute for Manufacturing (JIM) in Sricity

The Ambassador of Japan to India, His Excellency Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu formally inaugurated the “Japan India Institute for Manufacturing (JIM)” in Sricity on 26th April 2019. This is the very first JIM in Andhra Pradesh and first JIM by multiple Japanese companies. ABK – AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre the training partner for JIM is handling the year long training programs.



Apology- A social Lubricant of Japanese Culture - 1



Japanese apologize more than any other nationality in the world. The origin comes from the Confucius thought that people respect and subordinate themselves to superiors. The same social obedience was the order of the day during Japan's feudal period. A rigid antique system emerged for each of the social class and it became safer to continuously apologize whether one was at fault or innocent. Also, it was impossible or impractical to punish anyone for a minor infraction of etiquette.

The compromise was for the superior show his benevolence by forgiving when some one apologized and placed him at the superior's debt.

Apology – a virtue

Apologizing is considered a virtue in [Japan](#). Apologies show that a person takes responsibility and avoids blaming others. When one apologizes and shows one's remorse, the Japanese are more willing to forgive. There are much fewer court cases in Japan compared to the States.

When apologizing the Japanese often bow.
The more you feel sorry, the more deeply you bow.

A dictionary definition, “apology” can be defined as “regretful acknowledgment of fault or failure; assurance that no offense was intended”.

Apologies have also been viewed as pragmatic behavior designed to preserve face, especially when encountering face-threatening acts.

In Japan usually when there is a problem, first after apologizing each other, then talk and find solutions to the problem at hand. A person may use multiple expressions to convey the same purpose, as well as to convey the intent of apologizing.

A Japanese tour company manager who handles serious customer complaints saw it this way: “Non-Japanese guides think that good service means responding quickly to fix a problem.

But to the Japanese customer, solving the problem is a matter of course. More important is that you recognize the inconvenience they have experienced.

"Kobe city officials apologised for the behaviour of an employee who habitually started his lunch break three minutes early. During a televised news conference, the officials bowed in apology to the cameras saying: "It is deeply regrettable that this misconduct took place. We're sorry."

According to reports, the 64-year old employee (who works at the Kobe waterworks bureau) started his lunch early 26 times over the space of seven months, violating a public service law that dictates that servants concentrate on their jobs. Japanese trains are usually so punctual that commuters can synchronize their watches to them, but sometimes, things go awry.

Earlier this year, the West Japan Railway Company had to apologise to commuters after one of its trains departed the station 25 seconds too early. Scheduled to leave at 7:12 am, the train departed at 7:11:35 am instead when the train conductor misunderstood the departure time and closed the doors early.

A mix of politeness, respect and morality, apologies are an intrinsic part of Japanese culture. So much so, that the Japanese have invented different ways to apologise, depending on the situation, the severity of the offense and who the apology is intended for.

In Japan, apologising is a panacea, and Japanese language, a language of feelings and situation has way to express the apology

'Sorry' is a social lubricant, for people living in a crowded island nation and who adhere to an unofficial rule of treating others as you would want to be treated yourself. Japanese children are even taught that an apology accompanied by excuses is not really an apology.

Children in Japanese classrooms have had '[moral education' lessons since 1958](#), teaching the importance of co-operating with others for everyone's benefit, a concept said to have originated from the samurai.

This does tie into that historic samurai culture, but a lot of it also comes from wanting to preserve a group dynamic, as well as that idea of doing something for the betterment of others.

The complexities of the culture and the Japanese language are intertwined.

Japanese Apologizing is an example of the beautiful meshing of Culture and Language.

There are two common types of apologies in letter form in business.

1.WABI jo & 2. Shimatsusho

WABI JO:

When a serious mistake is committed to like not meeting the agreed delivery schedule or defective product shipment it is customary for the party at fault to personally call the client on the telephone and apologize.

This is to be followed by a WASI JO in letter form and to be followed by a personal visit by a representative of appropriate level to show the sincerity to personally visit the client and apologize. For a serious mistake or mishap the head of the division or department must visit to apologize.

SHIMASTU SHO

The second form apology SHIMASTU SHO is an in-house letter in which the person in charge of the group where the mistake had occurred sends a letter to his superior apologizing for the mistake and accepting.

He describes the department's error, indicates regret, promises that such an error will not occur again and with plan to improve protocols and processes. If the error is a serious one there may be punitive action. When error is minor in nature oral reprimand and forgiving by the boss might take place.

There is a sign in an international supermarket in downtown Tokyo, displaying an English and a Japanese version of the same message.

The English text, which is clearly targeting foreigners, says: "Due to the current butter shortage, we have set a limit of two butter packs per customer.

The Japanese raw milk production has suffered due to last summer's abnormally hot weather. In addition, there has been a shortage of forage for cows in Hokkaido, because of the long and bitterly cold winter. Hokkaido accounts for more than 50% of Japanese milk production".

The Japanese version (Translated into English here) – clearly for Japanese people – reads:

"Currently there is a butter shortage. We kindly ask that customers only buy up to two packs of butter each.

We know this will cause a great inconvenience and for this we apologize, but we kindly ask for your understanding and Cooperation.

We are sorry and hope for your continued patronage" Note how the Japanese version: more apologetic but offers no reasons or explanations,

The English version is quite the opposite with lots of explanations and reasons – but no apologies. the Japanese version has been designed to accommodate human feelings, but only for Japanese customers in this case.

Compiled by M.R. Ranganathan

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF 2019 EVENTS OF ABK AOTS DOSOKAI

Date	Event	Venue
2 Jan 19	Waku Waku Club - Speech Club Activity	Our Centre
8 Jan 19	Orientation of Japanese Language class	Our Centre
13 Jan 19	Screening of Japanese NHK World Japan TV's Programs Kurara : The Dazzling Life of Hokusai's Daughter	Our Centre
19 Jan 19	IoT Workshop in Chennai for the Students of ABK-AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre	Our Centre
19 Jan 19	Mosai - Japanese Language Speech Contest For Southern Region	Our Centre
20 Jan 19	Waku Waku Club Origami demonstration	Our Centre
25 Jan 19	Seminar on 5S & Lean Management Practices & Award Giving Ceremony of ABK AOTS- CUMI 5S Competition for Medium & Small Scale Industries, ABK - AOTS Amara Raja 5S Competition for Large Scale Industries & ABK-AOTS Thiagarajar 5S Competition for Textile Related Industry, & ABK - AOTS Intimate Fashions Lean Management Practices Competition	Ramada Hotel
27 Jan 19	Screening of Japanese NHK World Japan TV's Programs The Fisherman and the Forest	Our Centre
27 Jan 19	Waku Waku Club - Speech Club Activity	Our Centre
2 Feb 19	Japan Night - Vol. 8	Our Centre
7 Feb 19	Coffee Meet Theme on Saree Wearing	Our Centre
10 Feb 19	Screening of Japanese NHK World Japan TV's Programs Kurara : Bacchan : Granny's Table	Our Centre
14 Feb 19	Coffee Meet - Theme on Mizuhiki Demonstration	Our Centre
16 Feb 19	Training Program on Planned Maintenance to Improve The MTTR & MTBF In The Equipment / Machines	Our Centre
16 Feb 19	Japanese Language - NAT Test - Proctors Meeting	Our Centre
17 Feb 19	Japanese Language - NAT Test	Velammal Matric. Hr. Sec. School
18 Feb 19	SAFAAS AGM Annual General Body Meeting at Kathmandu- Nepal	Nepal
20 Feb 19	Waku Waku Club - Speech Club Activity	Our Centre
24 Feb 19	Screening of Japanese NHK World Japan TV's Programs Never-Ending Man : Hayao Miyazaki	Our Centre
2 & 16 Mar 19	Participating in the Japanese Language Speech Contest - Finals, organized by The Consulate General of Japan	Our Centre
3 Mar 19	Waku Waku Club - HINAMATSURI FESTIVAL	Our Centre
10 Mar 19	3 rd National Convention on Innovative QC Team	Our Centre
20 Mar 19	Nikkei Asian Recruiting Forum	Our Centre
20 Mar 19	Waku Waku Club - Speech Club Activity	Our Centre
22 Mar 19	Coffee Meet Theme of Valaikappu	Our Centre
21 Mar 19	Cross Cultural Training Program conducted at Meidensha Corporation	Tada
22 Mar 19	Cross Cultural Training Program conducted at Brandix Apparel India Pvt. Ltd., Vishakapatnam	Vishakapatnam
25 to 29 Mar 19	Feel Japan in Chennai - Summer Camp	Our Centre
31 Mar 19	Screening of the Japanese Movie - Nobody to Watch over me	Our Centre
3 April 19	Waku Waku Club - Speech Club activity	Our Centre
5 April 19	Waku Waku Club - Speech Club activity	Our Centre
6 April 19	Japanese Language - NAT Test - Proctors Meeting	Our Centre
7 April 19	Japanese Language - NAT Test	Velammal Matric. Hr. Sec. School
10 April 19	Waku Waku Club - Reading Club activity	Our Centre
12 April 19	Waku Waku Club - Speech Club activity	Our Centre
22~27 April 19	Feel Japan in Chennai Summer Camp - 2	Our Centre
25 April 19	Waku Waku Club - Speech Club activity	Our Centre
26 April 19	Japan - India Institute for Manufacturing (JIM) in Sricity	Our Centre
26 April 19	Engr. Md. Kamalur Rahman, Immeidate	Our Centre

	Past President, Chattagram AOTS Alumni Society (CAAS), Bangladesh visited our centre	
26 April 2019	Mr. Takashi Yoshimoto, Principal, Inside American International School visited our centre	Our Centre
28 April 19	Waku Waku Club - The Motivational Speech about the MEXT Scholarship in Japan delivered by our faculty Ms. Nivedha Thyagarajan	Our Centre
29~30 April & 2~4 May 19	Origami Camp	Our Centre
9 May 19	Coffee Meet on the Theme of - IPL cricket match	Our Centre
16 May 19	Waku Waku Club - Speech Club activity	Our Centre
16 May 19	Waku Waku Club - Reading Club activity	Our Centre
19 & 26 May 19	Waku Waku Club - A complete revision of Kanjis	Our Centre
22 May 19	4th Competition for The Maintenance Personnel (The Unsung Heroes)	Our Centre
5 June 19	Coffee Meet on the Theme of Japanese Sport on the theme Sumo & Yakyuu	Our Centre
11 June 19	Information Session on METI Japan Internship Program 19	Our Centre
10, 17 & 24 June 19	"TRIAL" Online Japanese Lessons conducted by AOTS - Japan and our students.	Our Centre
14, 21 & 30 June 19	Japanese visitors from World Air - Sea Service Co., Ltd, Japan	Our Centre
15 June 19	Japanese Language - NAT Test - Proctors Meeting	Our Centre
16 June 19	Japanese Language - NAT Test	Velammal Matric. Hr. Sec. School
19 June 19	1st Competition for the Personnel from Non - Manufacturing Departments	Our Centre
22 June 19	Farewell hosted to Mr. Masaki Takatoshi of International Friendship Cultural Exchange Association, Japan	Our Centre
24 to 28 June 19	Japan-India Institute for Manufacturing (JIM) Train the Trainers	Our Centre
28 June 19	"Japan Tourism Seminar" organized by Consulate General of Japan in Chennai and Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO)	Our Centre
5 July 19	Japanese Language Proficiency Test (July 19) Proctors Meeting	Velammal Matric. Hr. Sec. School
6 July 19	Japanese Language Proficiency Test	Velammal Matric. Hr. Sec. School
14 July 19	Orientation of Japanese Language class	Our Centre
17 July 19	Mr. Ken Sobajima, Coordinator JICA Volunteer Program Visited our centre	Our Centre
31 July & 1 Aug 19	60 th AOTS Anniversary events and the 10 th World Convention of AOTS Alumni Societies.	Our Centre
22 ~ 24 Aug 19	5S Lead Assessor Course	Our Centre
24 Aug 19	Japanese Language - NAT Test - Proctors Meeting	Velammal Matric. Hr. Sec. School
25 Aug 19	Japanese Language - NAT Test	Velammal Matric. Hr. Sec. School
28 Aug 19	4 th Quality Improvement Team Competition (QITC)	Radha Regent
5 Sep 19	Asian Classical Crossroads - India Joins Japan In Music, Song & Drama	Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore
14 Sep 19	Talk Your Way To Japan Speech Contest in Tamil for the Students of Chennai & Government Hr. Sec Schools In Chennai	Our Centre
21 Sep 19	Talk your way to Japan Speech Contest in Tamil for Hr. Sec. School students in Tamilnadu	Our Centre
22 Sep 19	Talk Your Way to Japan - Speech Contest in Japanese for Nihongo Gakko - Japanese Language School of our franchise center's	Our Centre
24 Sep 19	Reading Club activity	Our Centre
28 Sep 19	Talk Your Way To Japan Speech Contest in English for College Students in Tamilnadu	Our Centre
15 & 29 Sep 19	Participation in the Japanese Language Speech & Haiku Contest, organized by	Our Centre

	The Consulate General of Japan in Chennai	
29 Sep 19	Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of our centre	Our Centre
5 Oct 19	Prize Distribution Ceremony of Talk Your Way to Japan Speech Contest & Hiyoshi Environmental Award	Our Centre
11 to 22 Oct 19	Exhibition on "Contemporary Wood – Curved Netsuke"	Lalit Kala Akademi
15 Oct 19	Waku Waku Club - Speech Club Activity	Our Centre
21 Oct 19	Japanese Language - NAT Test – Proctors Meeting	Our Centre
20 Oct 19	Japanese Language - NAT Test	Our Centre
26 Oct 19	Pre departure meeting for the Four First Prize Winners of Talk Your Way to Japan Speech Contest - 19	Our Centre
27 Oct 19	Waku Waku Club - Mr. Yasuyuki Tommitsu – General Manager, ANA, Chennai delivered a Lecture Session	Our Centre
29 Oct 19	Waku Waku Club - Speech Club Activity	Our Centre
30 & 31 Oct 19	GHC Global Business Internship Program (AOTS) orientation session	Our Centre
4 to 8 Nov 19	Basic Business Japanese workshop for N4 & N3 students (only for ABK students)	Our Centre
10 Nov 19	Screening of Japanese NHK World Japan TV's Programs "Symbol of Revival"	Our Centre
10 Nov 19	Kanji Workshop for N5 & N4	Our Centre
13 Nov 19	Coffee Meet Session on Japan's Emperor Enthronement ceremony and the procedures followed	Our Centre
17 Nov 19	4 th Innovative QC Competition	Jeppia Institute of Technology
17 Nov 19	Screening of Japanese NHK World Japan TV's Programs 10 Years with Hayao Miyazaki	Our Centre
24 Nov 19	Screening of Japanese NHK World Japan TV's Programs "Home Sweet Tokyo Season 2"	Our Centre
9 th , 10 th , 16 th & 17 th Nov 19	JLPT Mock Test from N5 to N2	Our Centre
30 Nov 19	Japanese Language Proficiency Test (Dec 19) Proctors Meeting	Our Centre
1 Dec 19	Japanese Language Proficiency Test (Dec 19)	Velammal Matric. Hr. Sec. School
7 Dec 19	Japanese Language Teachers Meeting	Our Centre
7 Dec 19	MOSAI – Japanese Language Speech Contest for Southern Region	Kumararani Meena Muthiah Women's College
7 Dec 19	Japanese Language - NAT Test – Proctors Meeting	Kumararani Meena Muthiah Women's College
8 Dec 19	Japanese Language - NAT Test	
8 Dec 19	Orientation of Japanese Language class	Our Centre
11 Dec 19	Coffee Meet Year End Party	Our Centre
14 Dec 19	Chennai Japan Expo	GRT Convention Centre
15 Dec 19	Screening of Japanese NHK World Japan TV's Programs Eiheiji – Inside Dogen's Zen Monastery	Our Centre
22 Dec 19	Screening of Japanese NHK World Japan TV's Programs Japan from Above – Land of Prayers	Our Centre

Our Planned Events for the Next Quarter January to March 2020

5 January 2020

Screening of the Japanese NHK World Japan TV's series and movies at our Centre

12 January 2020

Screening of the Japanese NHK World Japan TV's series and movies at our Centre

19 January 2020

Screening of the Japanese NHK World Japan TV's series and movies at our Centre

23 January 2020

One Day Seminar on Best TPM & 5S Practices & Award giving Ceremony on ABK AOTS CUMI 5S Annual competition for Medium & Small Scale Industries, & ABK AOTS Thyagarajar 5S Annual Competition for Textile industries. & ABK AOTS Amararaja 5S Competition for Large Scale Industries. ABK AOTS Intimate Lean Management Practice Competition at Ramada Plaza Hotel, Guindy

27 to 31 January 2020

Participating the Teachers Training Course conducted by the Japan Foundation at our Centre

2 February 2020

Screening of the Japanese NHK World Japan TV's series and movies at our Centre

February 2020

National QC Convention to be decided

16 February 2020

Japanese Language - NAT TEST at Velammal Matric. Hr. Sec. School

22 Feb 2020

Japan Night – Vol. 9 organised by Consulate General of Japan at Rani Seethai Hall

March 2020

Participating in the Japanese Language Speech Contest – Preliminary, organized by The Consulate General of Japan To be decided

March 2020

Feel Japan in Chennai – Summer Camp at our Centre

