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# NIHON MON NEWS LETTER

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A proud moment that shall be etched in our memory – Mr M R Ranganathan accepting The Grand Prize for Best Practices in Cultural Exchange, awarded by AOTS on 27th of October 2009 at Tokyo, Japan.



**Happy  
New  
Year 2010 !!!**



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



Winners all the way!

**K**onnichiwa. Shinnen Omedeto Gozaimasu!!!

On behalf of The Chairman, President and Members of ABK AOTS Dosokai, Tamilnadu Centre, we wish you all a very Exciting and Fulfilling 2010.

The Golden Jubilee year 2009 has been gratifying in many ways. As mentioned in the last editorial, the Success Story Presentation made by our Chairman Mr M R Ranganathan during the 50th year celebration of AOTS, Japan helped us walk back with the top honours presented by AOTS, Japan for the best cultural activities to connect our two countries.

This year is going to be another year of opportunities and we heartily welcome your ideas and participation to further fortify our activities. We firmly believe that nurturing of Human Capital has always been the corner-stone of all our actions and our calendar for the next year, reflecting this, is already drawn up.

The second issue of E-Nihon mon shall convey to you, in detail, our pursuits through the last three months and will further intensify your belief of our focus to be an important apparatus in bringing Japanese culture and their way of life to our people in India.

We are always grateful to our friends and well-wishers of both the Indian and Japanese fraternities who have left a deep impact on all of us and have been our constant source of both inspiration and encouragement.

We look forward to your continued support in the time to come and please write back to us at [rangaots@gmail.com](mailto:rangaots@gmail.com) with your response and suggestions.

**K**otoshi mo yoroshiku onegaiitashimasu. Look forward to our next edition in March 2010!

Hari & Paddy  
Editors-in-Chief

## Events of this Quarter

### Award Giving Ceremony of

Quiz on Japan-2009,

Drawing Competition on Japan  
from the Eyes of an Indian Child,

Hiyoshi Environmental Awards-2008 and

e- Nihon Mon Release.

---3<sup>rd</sup> October 2009---

As part of the year long activities ABK - AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu centre had conducted events like "Quiz on Japan", "Drawing Competition On The Theme "Japan - From The Eyes Of An Indian Child" and "Hiyoshi Environmental Award – 2008" and the awards ceremony was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2009 at our centre. Mr. Tomonori Minowa, Consul, Consulate General of Japan, Chennai was our Chief guest and distributed the prizes to the winners.

For the **QUIZ ON JAPAN – 2009**, out of 32 Schools that participated, 16 schools were selected for the semifinals, out of which 4 Schools were selected for the Finals that was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2009.

From this year onwards ABK – AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre in coordination with live-japan.com, in Tokyo shall organize a **"Drawing Competition on the Theme "Japan - From the Eyes of an Indian Child"** for the students of 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> standards of schools in Tamilnadu. Out of 664 entries received from 50 Schools, 21 were selected as prize winners. All the entries were sent to Japan and were displayed during a special event held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

Hiyoshi Corporation, Japan an organization working in the field of Environment & Ecology in association with ABK – AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre had introduced **"The Hiyoshi Environmental Award"** from the year 2007 to recognize outstanding contribution and progress in research and application in Environmental conservation and protection.



Chief Guest Mr. Tomonori Minowa addressing prize winners



Prize winners of 'Quiz on Japan'



Prize winners of Drawing Competition



Prize winners of Hiyoshi Environmental award

## Award Giving Ceremony of

AOTS – CUMI “5S” Award,  
AOTS – CDISSIA “5S” Award  
&  
AOTS – TPM Award

---9<sup>th</sup> October 2009---

AOTS Alumni 5S Forum of India, ABK AOTS DOSOKAI and TACNITI conducted a One Day Seminar on Best TPM & 5S Practices on the 9th October 2009. The seminar was attended by more than 100 delegates from Tiny, Small, Medium & Large Scale Industries. An Award giving ceremony was held on the same day for the Best practicing Industries of 5S and TPM

Mr. Kazuo Minagawa, Consul General of Japan at Chennai was the Chief Guest and distributed the prizes. Mr. K. Srinivasan, Managing Director, Carborundum Universal Limited, presided over the event.

ABK - AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre in joint efforts with Carborundum Universal Ltd (Part of MURUGAPPA GROUP) had instituted “AOTS – CUMI “5S” Annual Award among Small & Medium Scale Industries of Tamilnadu to recognize the Best “5S” Practices from the year 2002.

From the year 2004, ABK - AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre & Chennai District Small Scale Industries Association have jointly instituted an award for the Tiny Industries, named “AOTS – CDISSIA 5S Annual Award”.

From the year 2005 onwards our centre has instituted The AOTS-TPM award for the best TPM Maintained Companies among Small & Medium Scale Industries.



Mr. Kazuo Minagawa, Consul General of Japan at Chennai Distributed the prizes to the winners



Section of delegates during the One Day Seminar on Best TPM & 5S Practices



Mr. R. Mukundan, Vice President of our Centre explaining the details Awards



Display of 5s Awards & Certificates

## AOTS Success Story Convention during the 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of AOTS Japan.

---27<sup>th</sup> October 2009---

AOTS celebrated 2009 as its Golden Jubilee year and to commemorate this had invited the Success stories from all its Alumni associations. Of the nearly 200 success stories received, the top 10 entries were invited to present their success stories in Tokyo on 27<sup>th</sup> October during the AOTS Success Story Convention. Our story, one amongst the top 10, was presented by our Chairman Mr. M.R. Ranganathan and on expected lines was awarded the **“The Grand Prize for the best Practices in Cultural field.”** Reliance industries received the award Grand Prize for the Best Practices for Technology Transfer and Nepal AOTS Alumni received the Grand Prize for Social Contribution.

This was followed by a two day, 8<sup>th</sup> AOTS Alumni Convention held at Yokohama Kenshu center with His Excellency, Governor of Kanagawa Mr. Matsuzawa giving his felicitations. The two day convention ended with “Yokohama Declaration” formed by the AOTS Alumni, about AOTS and AOTS alumni’s relations and future functioning of Alumni societies.



M.R. Ranganathan Presenting our Success story



M.R. Ranganathan Presenting our Success story



Receiving the Award



The Top 10 with the Judges and AOTS President



Sharing a happy moment with Mr. Tadahihiro Matsushita, Senior Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry – METI along with Mr. Kazuo Kaneko, President AOTS.



Our Chairman and President with Mr. Tadahiro Matsushita Senior Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry – METI



With Past President of AOTS Mr Shuji Ogawa



Our humble gift to AOTS on this occasion



Group photo taken during the 8<sup>th</sup> Convention of AOTS Alumni Societies

## Origami Demonstration and Training

(Japanese art of paper folding)

---31<sup>st</sup> October 2009---

ABK - AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Center organized a “Demonstration & Training in simple Origami (the Japanese art of paper folding) techniques” and an on-the-spot competition for the school students of Corporation Higher Secondary Schools in Chennai on the 31st October 2009 at our Centre.

This Origami demonstration was done by Mrs. Nirmala Bhaskar, Director, Japanese Language School of our centre and Ms. Eriko Tanaka, Teacher sponsored by Japan foundation to our centre. The contest that followed was designed to test the skill of the students who have just learnt about “ORIGAMI” and this was judged by an external panel and best six were awarded prizes.



The Origami Class in Progress



Judges, Demonstrator along with Winners of the Origami Competition

## Hiyoshi "Talk Your Way to Japan" Speech Contest winners to Japan

---Sept ~ Oct 2009---

The Four winners of Talk Your Way to Japan – Speech Contest 2009 visited the places of importance & interest in Tokyo and traveled by Shinkansen (Bullet Train), visited the technical entertainment world of Universal Studios and Disney Land and they were provided with accommodation & training at Hiyoshi Corporation (which includes Water Quality Management, Environment Atmosphere Analysis, Visit to water works institution , garbage collection experience and environmental safeguard business experience) during September ~ October 2009.



Hiyoshi Talk Your Way to Japan 2009 winners in Japan

## Songs of the Okinawa Islands Demonstration

---19<sup>th</sup> November 2009---

The Consulate-General of Japan, Chennai, and ABK-AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre in association with Japan Foundation organized a two-day Japanese Music Concert on "Songs of The Okinawa Islands" on the 18th & 19th November 2009.



Ms. Kanako Hatoma, Mr. Yasukatsu Oshima, and Mr. Sunday thrilled the audience in Chennai

Three Japanese Musicians from Okinawa islands are performed fusion concert along with the South Indian Musicians at our center.



Demonstration at our center



Ms. Kanako Hatoma played the south Indian music instrument



Along with South Indian Music Experts

Hiyoshi and ABK AOTS DOSOKAI announce 2 months Summer Internship at Hiyoshi Corporation, Japan for students of 3<sup>rd</sup> year Bachelor's degree in BioTech, Chemical, and Environmental Engineering or 1<sup>st</sup> year Master's Degree in the above areas. Last date February 27, 2010.

## Association (OVTA)

---24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2009---

Overseas Vocational Training Association (OVTA) helping in developing Businesses in providing Human Resources for globalization has conducted a "Seminar on HR Management for Japanese companies in India" at our Centre. Mr. Kazuo Minagawa, Consul General of Japan at Chennai inaugurated the Seminar.



Mr. Tagaki of OVTA addressing on the Purpose of the seminar



Consul General of Japan in Chennai Mr. Kazuo Minagawa Inaugurated the Seminar



Panel discussion

## AOTS Overseas Training Program on Gemba Kaizen

---1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2009---

The Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) organized a Training Program on GEMBA KAIZEN (improvement activities in the work place) in cooperation with Federation of AOTS Alumni Association of India (FAAAI) and ABK – AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre, Chennai. The Program is scheduled to be held in Chennai, for 4 days over the months of December 2009 and February 2010.



Mr. Yasumi Suzuki, General Manager, AOTS – Newdelhi Office addressing the participants.



Mr. Norio Suzuki, President, Consulting Bell Office Pvt Ltd, Japan, Faculty Gemba Kaizen Program during the session

## Japanese Language Proficiency Test – JLPT

---6<sup>th</sup> December 2009---

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test was yet again coordinated successfully by our team for the year 2009. A total of 2,447 applications were handled by our centre and this progressive growth of the number of students taking this examination promises much for the time to come.

### Felicitations for the Grand Prize awarded to our Success Story Presentation - 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2009

The President and Members of ABK - AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre and the Committee of Hosts felicitated Mr.M.R.Ranganathan, Our Chairman, for the World – Wide recognition bestowed upon our centre by receiving the Grand Prize for his presentation on Best practices in the field of Cultural Exchange Activities between Japan and India during the AOTS Success Story Convention held as part of the 50th Anniversary Events of AOTS – Japan on 27th October 2009 at Yokohama, Japan.



Mr. S. Chandrasekaran, Advisor- Nihon Technology felicitating



Mr. Takayuki Kitagawa, Deputy Consul General of Japan in Chennai felicitating Mr. M.R. Ranganathan



Mrs. Balasubramanian felicitating Mrs. Brinda Ranganathan

### World Network of Friendship–WNF Program on Study Tour from Shanghai AOTS Alumni Society China

---13<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009---

The WNF program on 'Best Business Practices' was organized by ABK-AOTS Dosokai, Tamilnadu Centre for AOTS Shanghai Alumni Society – China, under the auspicious of AOTS Japan. This was conducted between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at Chennai and was attended by 6 participants from Shanghai AOTS Alumni Society, China. The valedictory ceremony was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2009 during which all participants were awarded certificates.



Participant from the Shanghai AOTS Alumni Society, China explaining the benefit of the WNF Program.



Group photo taken during the World Network of Friendship (WNF) Program of Shanghai AOTS Alumni Society, China.

挨拶は時の氏神。

Aisatsu wa toki no ujigami.

Literally: Greetings are the people who turn up at the right moment.

## Teachers' Training Program – Organised by our Center

---19<sup>th</sup> December 2009---

The Japanese Language Teachers Seminar was conducted at our center for the benefit of the Japanese language teachers of our centre.

The Japanese way of teaching Japanese (pre-preparation) & usage of Teaching aids (cassettes, CDs, other materials) was explained by Ms. Eriko Tanaka. Mr. Akira Hatayama talked about the use of Internet in teaching.



The Japanese way of Teaching Japanese & usage of Teaching aids was explained by Ms. Eriko Tanaka.



Mr. Akira Hatayama explained the use of internet in teaching



Group Photograph of the Teachers who attended the Program

## 2010 New Language Classes

---20<sup>th</sup> December 2009---

### JAPANESE

The Language School of our centre started fresh batches of Japanese language courses for different levels of Proficiency of The Japan Foundation Examinations commenced on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2009. L4/N5, L3/N4, L2 / (N3/N2) and L1/ N1 are offered this year.

Well trained staff, easy accessibility, affordable Pricing, excellent infrastructure and well equipped Library, with a number of Audio, Video materials make this educational institution different from others.

### CHINESE

Our Centre also offers a Chinese Language Course for beginners from 10th January 2010 onwards.

### TAMIL & ENGLISH

As a new initiative, our centre now offers Basic language courses in Tamil & English for the expatriate fraternity in Chennai, from January 2010.



New Batch of Japanese Language Class in Progress. (L4/N5)



New Batch of Japanese Language Class in Progress. (L3/N4)

## **Toshiba Trainees Pre-departure Meeting**

---21<sup>st</sup> December 2009---

Mr. Yasumi Suzuki, General Manager, AOTS – New Delhi Office, gave an orientation to the Indian Employees of Toshiba Corporation about the AOTS Training Programs at our centre as they prepared to leave for Japan to undergo one year training. These Trainees had undergone Japanese Language Training at our center for one month full time.



Mr. Yasumi Suzuki, General Manager, AOTS New Delhi office explaining the AOTS Training Programs to the participants from Toshiba Corporation

## **“Industry-Academia- Government Collaboration PR- Visit by Hiroshima Prefectural Government Representative**

Mr. Koso Miyatani of Hiroshima Prefectural Government visited to our centre on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2009 to discuss about the “Industry-Academia-Government Collaboration PR, Mission to be organized in February 2010.



Mr. Hiroshi Yamaguchi, Vice President, Mr. Shinichi Nakazawa, & Mr. Eiichi Kogure, Executive of Kao Corporation, Japan, visited our Center on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

## **Visit by Japanese Management Guru.**

### **Mr. Genji Tanaka – Sr. Consultant, Dolphin Training & Consultant**

---24<sup>th</sup> December 2009---

Two factory visits were organized, for Tanaka-Sensei. on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December 2009 from amongst our member companies. We showcased to, Tanaka Sensei, our TACNITI's President Mr. K. Balasubramanian's Company M/s. Precision Machines & Auto Components at Nandambakkam, Chennai, and M/s. Carborundum Universal Ltd, at Sriperumbudur.

## **Visit by Mr. Masaaki Doi of JICA to our Centre**

---19<sup>th</sup> November 2009---



Mr. Masaaki Doi, Project Coordinator of JICA Project for Visionary Leaders For Manufacturing Program (VLFM) Visited our Center on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

## Japanese Business Etiquette and Cross Cultural Communication Program

---21<sup>st</sup> November 2009---

A One Day Seminar on Japanese Business Etiquette & Cross Cultural Communication was conducted for **Tractors & Farm Equipment Ltd (TAFE)** on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2009 by Mr. M. R. Ranganathan.

Our Center has been chosen as one of “**Knowledge Partners for Technical Training Initiative SMART**” (Smart Manufacturing thro Agile Resource Team) of Tractors & Farm Equipment Ltd (TAFE)



**His Excellency, the Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Hideaki Domichi**, visited Chennai on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2009. Core members of ABK - AOTS DOSOKAI and TACNITI (Tamilnadu Nippon India Chamber of Trade and Industry) had an audience with The Ambassador and discussed about our activities, future plans and about the Dosokai's Japanese language school activities.

## Japanese Support Services

### Translation & Interpretation:

Most of the major Japanese companies in and around Tamilnadu are utilizing our Japanese language expertise for Translation and Interpretation services.

## Japanese Management Techniques:

Various training modules on Japanese Management Techniques, and Japanese business etiquette and Cross Cultural communication are being conducted at our centre and other Industrial establishments by Dr. R. Balakrishnan, Director – Training of our centre and our team of Consultants. For any needs please contact us.

## JAPAN INFORMATION

### Sokunshinbutsu – Self Mummified Deities

When mummies were found in Northern Japan, researchers initially thought that they were created post – mortem, much like Egyptian mummies. However, the mummies found in Japan were actually created in the excruciating and arduous process of self – mummifications.

The actual process of self – mummification was pioneered by a Buddhist monk of the Shingon sect some 1,000 years ago. Since then, till it was outlawed in 1909, hundreds of monks of the sect have attempted the technique, and at least 16 of them succeeded.

The ritual of self – mummification takes between 3 – 10 years and must have been so painful I read with amazement, and almost admiration, at the insurmountable effort it must have taken. In the first 2,000 days, the monk adopts a strict diet that consists of little more than nuts and bark so as to drastically reduce body fat (as this is what decomposes the fastest upon death). Nearing the end of this period, the monk starts drinking tea made from the juice of the Urushi tree, which is highly toxic. Essentially slowly poisoning themselves, ingesting the substance also caused vomiting which further reduced fluids in the body. Upon death, this poison served as a repellent and protected the body from decomposition.

In the next 1,000 days, the priest would then be put into wooden coffins and buried in the shelters with only a bamboo tube for air. In the coffin, the priest continued his ascetic practice, sitting in meditation, reciting mantras, and maintaining a strict diet. Entombed in the coffins, with only a bell to signal his continued existence to the other monks, the monk

would await death. When the bell no longer rung, his body would then be dug up to confirm his death and reburied. 3 years later, his body would be dug out again to confirm that the mummification process was a success.

The ones who succeeded were conferred the title of Sokunshinbutsu and were regarded as deities, while the bodies of the rest Succumbed to decomposition, leaving little evidence of their painful suicide.



## Our Events for the Next Quarter Jan ~ Mar 2010

### January 2010

ABK AOTS DOSOKAI is happy to announce the commencement of Chinese, Tamil and English Language.

### 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Prof. Nagano of Center of Research and Development Strategy, Japan will come to Chennai on 8 and 9 Jan. 2010 to discuss the technical and academic exchange between the academia in India and Japan as well as to research the activities of Japanese companies and related organization.

### 9<sup>th</sup> January 2010

One Day Training Programme on Survival & Revival of "Best 5S Practices" for 5S Facilitators.

### 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2010

One Day Training Programme on Statistical Process Control (SPC)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010

Gemba Kaizen – Training Program by Mr. Norio Suzuki from AOTS, Japan Organized by The Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) in cooperation with the Federation of AOTS Alumni Association of India (FAAAI)

### 13<sup>th</sup> February 2010

One Day Training Programme on Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA)

### 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2010

#### Japan Cultural week

The Japan cultural week will be jointly organized with The Consulate General of Japan, Chennai and Japan Foundation and will present an exhibition of Japanese Dolls, Ikebana and Ukiyo-e. This event will also feature demonstrations of Origami, Tea ceremony, Calligraphy, Bonsai and Judou.

### 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> February 2010

WNF Program on International Convention on 5S / TPM.

### Last week of February. (Date to be finalized)

Orientation Program on Cross Cultural Communication for the 32 Participants of JICA's VLFM Opportunity B Training Program are scheduled to depart for Japan on February 28.

### Quiz on Japan: Last week of February

Dispatching of "Quiz on Japan" CDs all the schools in Chennai so that the students can prepare during the summer vacation

### Finalizing Names for the Hiyoshi Summer Internship Program: ( 27<sup>th</sup> February 2010)

Names will be finalized for Hiyoshi Summer Internship Programme from the applications Received.

### 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010

One Day Training Programme on Seven Steps to create "Visual Factory"