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NIHON MON NEWS LETTER

Vol - 3 Private Circulation Only

January - March 2010



ABK - AOTS DOSOKAI
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A Cultural, Technical & Trade Bridge Between Japan & India



The MOU and much more.....

Konnichiwa. Ikaga deshita ka?

We thank our readers for their support and feedback. We are confident that this issue of E-Nihon mon will also make great reading for all of you.

After basking in the happiness of the success at the 50th year celebration of AOTS at Japan, we were on our heels to go back to the drawing board to plan our activities for the first and second quarters of the year. The first three months of 2010 saw a flurry of activities like the celebration of the Japan Cultural Week, Seminar on 5S and TPM and a Seminar on Historical View of Japanese Management.

Chennai, as a corporate destination, is well on the path of being a hot-spot for Japanese visitors and as per information available, many more companies from Japan are looking to set up their operations in India and Chennai, in particular. This paves the way for us to strengthen the bonding of our countries and be the single most important establishment in Chennai in fostering cultural and technical relationship/ties with Japan.

This quarter also saw the inauguration of Toshiba Power Systems Factory and Renault Nissan factory at Manali and Oragadam respectively. We wish to thank both these organizations for using our language services and training expertise for their new recruits. We wish both these organizations every success and we are confident that they would find

Tamilnadu as the best location in India with very hospitable people to support them realize their goals

For all of us at ABK-AOTS Dosokai, Tamilnadu Centre, the most defining event of this quarter was the signing of the MOU with The Japan-India Association in the presence of H.E Mr. Yoshino Mori, former Prime Minister of Japan and the Chairman of The Japan-India Association and H'ble Mr. Hiroshi Hirabayashi, former Ambassador of Japan to India and the President of The Japan-India Association. This milestone could not have been achieved but for the constant support and encouragement of H'ble Mr. Kazuo Minagawa, Consul General of Japan at Chennai and his entire team at The Consulate General of Japan in Chennai. As a mark of our true gratitude to this support from all corners, we rededicate our focus in being an important and strong bridge between India and Japan.

The response we have received from our friends and well-wishers has been a great motivation for us and please do not hesitate to write to us at rangaots@gmail.com with your response and suggestions.

Gokoun o inorimasu.....

Hari & Paddy
Editors-in-Chief

Events of this Quarter

**Visit by Mr. Hiroshi Nagano
Professor of National Graduate
Institute for Policy Studies
(GRIPS) Tokyo to our Centre
---8th January 2010---**

Mr. Hiroshi Nagano, Professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo and Principal Fellow of Centre for Research and Development Strategy, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) & Ms. Junko Chapman, Fellow of Centre for Research and Development Strategy, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) visited our centre on 08.01.2010 to discuss the technical and academic exchange between the academia in India and Japan as well as to research the activities with the top management of the Japanese companies and related organization.



Mr. Hiroshi Nagano, Professor & Ms. Junko Chapman, of National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Tokyo, Visited our Center on 8th January 2010.

**One Day Training Programme
on Best 5S Practices**

---9th January 2010---

ONE DAY Training Programme on Survival & Revival of "BEST 5S PRACTICES" held at our centre on 09.01.2010 with 44 participants from 14 companies.



Dr. R. Balakrishnan – Program Director is seen during a Japanese Management Training Program at our centre



Participants of the Japanese Management Training Program

**Osaka Audit Company KGJ
Visit to Chennai**

---18th to 21st January 2010---

KGJ is an accounting firm based in Osaka, offering service in taxation and accounting field for customers based mainly in Kansai area in Japan. In addition to the ordinal taxation and accounting service, Osaka Audit Team has the expertise in use of real estate for investment or other various purposes to secure property of its customers. They visited Chennai to understand the current situation of Japanese Industries and offer their service to Japanese firms in Chennai. Their one week Visit was coordinated by ABK AOTS DOSOKAI

The Japan Foundation visit to Meenakshi Sundararajan Engineering College ---29th January 2010---



Ms. Kaori Hirose & Ms. Junko Yamanoi from Japan Foundation, New Delhi interacting with students of Meenakshi Sundararajan Engineering College. The Japanese Classes are being conducted by ABK - AOTS DOSOKAI, TAMILNADU CENTER

Two Days Training Program on Gemba Kaizen - Part II ---2nd and 3rd February 2010---

The Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) organized a training program on GEMBA KAIZEN (improvement activities at work place) in cooperation with Federation of AOTS Alumni Association of India (FAAAI) and was locally coordinated by ABK – AOTS DOSOKAI. Tamilnadu Centre, Chennai. The second part of the program was held at The Accord Metropolitan Hotel, Chennai with 41 participants from 19 companies in attendance.



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



Section of delegates during the Two Day Training Program

The Japan Foundation Visit to our Centre ---31st January 2010---



Ms. Kaori Hirose & Ms. Junko Yamanoi from Japan Foundation, New Delhi visited our centre on 31st January 2010



Group Photo taken during the Certificate Awarding Ceremony

Japanese Business Etiquette and Cross Cultural Communication Program

---05 February 2010---

A One Day training program on Japanese Business Etiquette was conducted for Mitsubishi – Fuso on the 5th February 2010 by Mr. M. R. Ranganathan.

ABK AOTS DOSOKAI and Eternal Technologies of Japan will also be conducting a similar program for Japanese Engineers of Mitsubishi – Fuso of Japan in April 2010



ABK & AOTS Alumni Association - Thailand Guest Visit to our Centre

---20th February 2010---



Mr. Niti Wirudchawong, ABK & AOTS Alumni Association, Thailand visited our centre on 29th February 2010



Mr. Kazuo Minagawa, Consul General of Japan at Chennai inaugurated the Japanese Art Exhibition & Japan Cultural festival



Japanese Art Exhibition and Japan Cultural Festival

---23rd February to 6th March 2010---

The Consulate-General of Japan at Chennai, ABK-AOTS Dosokai, Tamilnadu Centre and The Japan Foundation jointly organized the Japanese Art Exhibition “Passage to the Future : Art from a New Generation in Japan” and Japan Cultural Festival between the 23rd February and 6th March 2010 at Lalit Kala Academy, Chennai

The Japanese Art Exhibition “Passage to the Future: Art from New Generation in Japan” was an exhibition that focused on Art being produced in Japan at the beginning of the 21st century. This exhibition presented paintings, sculptures, installations, photographs and video works by eleven artists.



Exhibits from Japan Foundation

Japan Cultural Week Events Koto Demonstration (23rd February)

Koto is a traditional Japanese stringed musical instrument. It is made from kiri (paulownia) wood having 13 strings over 13 movable bridges.



Young Students joyfully attempting to play Koto

Judo Demonstration (23rd February)

Judo, which means "gentle and supple way", is a modern Japanese martial art. It was established as a form of mental training as well as a sport in the early part of Meiji era (1868-1912). Judo then attracted attention internationally and is now an official event at the Olympic Games.



Visitors enjoying the Judo Demonstration and Judo team

Origami Demonstration & Exhibition (24th February)

Origami is a traditional Japanese art of paper folding ("Ori" - to fold and "gami" - paper). The goal of this art is to create a figure of an object such as birds and animals by folding only one piece of paper. Visitors enthralled themselves learning the art of Origami during this demonstration.



School Children's enthusiastic participation

Shodo Demonstration (25th February)

Shodo, Japanese calligraphy, is the art of writing characters using a brush and Chinese ink. In it, beauty is sought through the shape and position of the characters drawn, the gradation of the ink, and the force of the brushstrokes. Visitors had an opportunity to experience the technique of the art.



Demonstration of Shodo – Japanese Calligraphy

Ikebana Demonstration & Exhibition.

Ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arrangement. It is more than simply putting flowers in a container.

Sogetsu school Chennai Chapter. (26th to 28th February)



Padmabhusan Alarmelvalli , Renounced Bharatanatyam Artist & Choreographer inaugurated the Ikebana Exhibition. Mrs Malathy Pandurang Head of Sogetsu Chennai Chapter is also in the Photo



The exhibition and Demonstration being enjoyed by Visitors.

Ohara School Chennai Chapter. (4th to 6th March)



Demonstration of Ikebana by Ohara School head Ms Cherry Venkatesh , Chennai Chapter



Exhibition of Ikebana by Ohara School , Chennai Chapter.

Dolls Exhibition (1st to 3rd March)

Display of Hina dolls marks the festival known as Hinamatsuri ("Hina" - dolls and "Matsuri" - festival) celebrated on the 3rd of March. This is an annual event to pray for the happiness and healthy growth of young girls. On this day, families display Hina Dolls dressed in traditional court costumes with peach blossoms and offerings of delicacies as sweet, diamond-shaped rice cakes and dry rice-cake pellets.



Bonsai demonstration & exhibition (5th to 6th March)

Bonsai (literally, "tray planting") is the art of growing miniature trees or plants in tray-like containers as if they were in the natural scenery.

All these events aim at providing an opportunity for the people in Chennai to know more about the culture of Japan and thus to strengthen the mutual understanding and friendly relationship between Japan and India.



Hon'ble Mr. Ma. Subramanian, Worshipful Mayor, Corporation of Chennai inaugurates the Bonsai Exhibition during the Japan Cultural festival



Visitors enjoying the Bonsai Exhibition



Demonstration of Bonsai by Bodhi Chennai Bonsai Association

Hiyoshi Programmes for 2010.

The final Selection for Hiyoshi summer internship will be done by Hiyoshi in April. Hiyoshi also announces Hiyoshi environmental award inviting Research Papers from eligible researchers. Please contact us for details at rangaots@gmail.com

WNF Program on Two Day International Seminar On 5S & TPM

---25th to 27th February 2010---

ABK - AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Center organized the WNF Program. A three day International Seminar on 5S and TPM (case study presentations by international / India experts) from 25th to 27th February 2010 in association with the World Network of Friendship (WNF) under the auspices of the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS), Japan.

We invited 4 experts from Srilanka, 3 experts from Egypt and 1 expert from Thailand and on the 25th of February 2010 they undertook a factory visit to Carborundum Universal Ltd, Chennai Plant, and a leader in implementing TPM and 5S.

Around 60 delegates from the Best In Class Companies in and around Tamilnadu participated in this Seminar. We also invited experts from selected Indian companies to share their experiences in implementation of 5S and TPM.

Dr. N. Ravichandran, C.E.O Lucas TVS Limited, Chennai inaugurated the seminar on 26th February 2010 at The Accord Metropolitan. Case Study Presentations were made by Foreign and Indian Experts and certificates were handed over to all the foreign experts during the valedictory ceremony held on the 27th February 2010. Some of the delegates spoke at large about the usefulness of such program which attributes to gain more knowledge on 5S & TPM practices in World Wide Industries.

This program under WNF activity gave a unique opportunity to the experts from the developing countries to come closer to gain knowledge from each other and promote friendship and cooperation for mutual benefit.



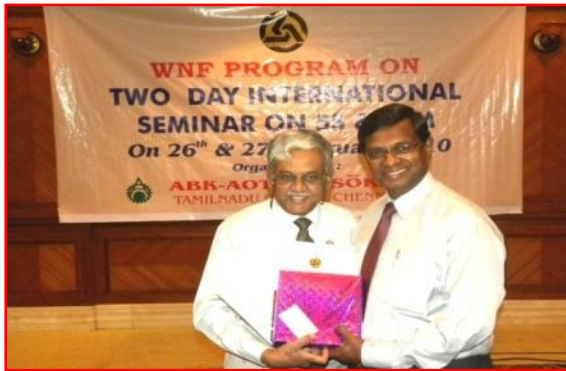
Mr. R. Mukundan Vice President of our centre explaining the details about the seminar.



Dr. N. Ravichandran , CEO, - Lucas TVS Limited addressing the participants during the Two Day International Seminar



Participants of the Two Day International Seminar



Mr. M. R. Ranganathan, Chairman , ABK - AOTS DOSOKAI, Tamilnadu Centre distributed the certificate to the Foreign Experts



Group Photo taken during the Two Day International Seminar

SEMINAR ON “HISTORICAL VIEW OF JAPANESE MANAGEMENT”

---4th March 2010---

We organized a Seminar on “Historical view of Japanese Management” on 4th of March 2010 by Prof. Okada of Senshu University, a Japanese academician and The Chairman of AOTS Screening Committee, Japan. The Seminar was targeted at the CEO's & Senior Manager's of the respective organizations and was conducted free of cost.



Prof. Okada visited our centre



Prof. Okada addressing the participants during the Seminar



Prof. Okada during the session

**Talk Show with
Mr. Quagero Imazawa
Japanese Top Ran Electric Bassist
Bass Ninja**

---14th March 2010---

We organized a Talk Show with Mr. Quagero Imazawa a.k.a. Bass Ninja for our Japanese Language School Students at our centre on 14th March 2010. He is a Japanese Top Rank Electric Bass Player and has toured many parts of the world.



Students of our centre enjoying the Japanese Electric Bass concert

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE JAPAN-INDIA ASSOCIATION JAPAN
&
ABK - AOTS DOSOKAI
TAMILNADU CENTER, CHENNAI- INDIA**

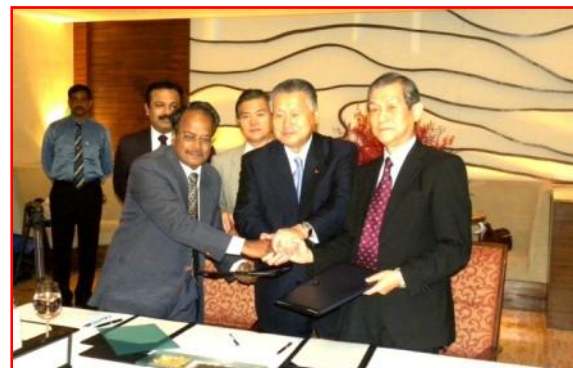
---16th March 2010---

The Japan-India Association (JIA, Tokyo, Japan) which has contributed to promoting friendship and mutual interests between Japan and India for more than 100 years, and ABK - AOTS DOSOKAI Tamilnadu Centre, Chennai, signed and exchanged Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with JIA, in the presence of H.E. Mr. Yoshiro Mori, former Prime Minister of Japan and Chairman of JIA on the 16th of March. This MOU also encompasses Tamilnadu Chamber of Nippon India Trade and Industry (TACNITI)

The MOU intends to enlarge and deepen mutual cooperation and collaboration focusing mainly, but not exclusively, on business, culture and people-to-people contacts. This historic memorandum was signed by H'ble Mr. Hirabayashi, former Ambassador of Japan to India and President of JIA and Mr. G. Chandramohan, President of ABK - AOTS Dosokai Tamilnadu Centre. H'ble Mr. Kazuo Minagawa, Consul-General of Japan at Chennai, was also present at the signing ceremony.



H.E. Mr. Yoshiro Mori, Chairman of JIA and Former Prime Minister of Japan addressing to the participants



Sign and exchange Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with JIA, in the presence of H.E. Mr. Yoshiro Mori, Chairman of JIA and Former Prime Minister of Japan by Mr. Hiroshi Hirabayashi

Prof. Hiroyuki Oba
Reitaku University, a Member of
AOTS Screening Committee
---22 March 2010---

Two factory visits were organized, for Prof. Hiroyuki Oba from amongst our member companies. We showcased to Oba San our TACNITI's President Mr. K. Balasubramanian's Company M/s. Precision Machines & Auto Components at Nandambakkam, Chennai, and M/s. Classic Moulds and Dies, Chennai. Oba San visited our centre on 22nd March 2010



Mr. Oikawa , Consul – Cultural & Development Affairs, The Consulate General of Japan at Kolkatta visited our centre on 31st January 2010



Prof. Hiroyuki Oba visited our centre on 31st January 2010

Mr. Oikawa, Consul,
Cultural & Development Affairs,
The Consulate General of Japan
at Kolkatta
---23 March 2010---

Mr. Oikawa, Consul – Cultural & Development Affairs, The Consulate General of Japan at Kolkatta visited our centre on 23 March 2010 to have first hand knowledge about our activities.

Training Program on
Best 5S Practice

---20 & 24 March 2010---

Training Program on Best 5S Practice has been started for Hotel The Accord Metropolitan, G. N. Chetty Road, Chennai on 20th & 24th March 2010. This is the first Hospitality Industry to get into 5 S practices. Dr. Balakrishnan leads the Training.

Japanese Language Proficiency
Test (JLPT)

The New Japanese Language Proficiency Test, (JLPT) will be held twice a year from 2010 on the first Sundays of July & December. Our centre has been identified for conducting the forthcoming Japanese Language Proficiency Test for N1, N2 & N3 for South India on the 4th July 2010.

Japanese Support Services

Translation & Interpretation

Translation and Interpretation services continue to be one of our core strengths and we are always sought after by all major companies both in and out of Tamilnadu

Japanese Management Techniques

Various training modules on Japanese Management Techniques, 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. We shall be happy to assist your organization too!



Our Events for the Next Quarter April ~ June 2010

5th and 11th April

Inter cultural workshop for Mitsubishi – Fuso, Japan by ABK AOTS DOSOKAI and Eternal Technologies.

10th April 2010

ONE DAY Training Programme on “TPM” (Total Productive Maintenance) at our Centre

8th May 2010

ONE DAY Training Programme on “KOBETSU KAIZEN” at our Centre.

15th May 2010

ONE DAY Training Program on **SINGLE MINUTE EXCHANGE OF DIES (SMED)** at our Centre

15th May 2010

Announcement of Drawing Competition for the students studying between 6th and 12th Standard in Tamilnadu, in coordination with **live-in-japan.com**, Japan

22nd May 2010

ONE DAY Training Programme on “OFFICE TPM” for **Improving Office Overall efficiency (OEE)** at our Centre

5th June 2010

ONE DAY Training Program on **STATISTICAL PROCESS CONTROL (SPC)** at our Centre

12th June 2010

ONE DAY Workshop on **7QC TOOLS** at our Centre.



JAPAN INFORMATION

Furisode – The Formal Kimono

When a young Japanese woman turns 20 years old, she is recognized as an adult. Many parents buy the Furisode for their daughters to celebrate this significant point of their life.

Furisode is a formal kimono for single women; it is brightly colored and made of very fine quality silk. In the very modest Japanese society wearing a Furisode is a very obvious statement. It is a very loud and clear advertisement that the single woman is available for marriage.

One of the major points of difference with the Furisode is the long sleeves and in some cases actually touches the ground.

Furisode is mainly worn for major social functions such as wedding ceremony or tea ceremonies until they get married. Depending on the quality of the materials, design and workmanship, a furisode would cost approximately ¥ 4,00,000 and upwards for the whole outfit.

The second Monday in January is a public holiday called ‘Adult Day’ and many young women attend a ceremony wearing their Furisode kimono.

Historically, the Furisode is associated with the disastrous Meireki Fire of March 1657, which broke out in the Honmyōji temple in the Hongo district of Edo (now Tokyo) and swept through the city for two days, killing more than 100,000 people. The fire is believed to have been ignited by a spark from a kimono burnt in an exorcism ceremony!