



SAKURA

No. 105

September - October 2017



蛙の子は蛙 Like father like son



The 28th Cinema Nippon was held in Nandan 2 in Rabindra Sadan. It began on the 21st of July and ended on the 23rd of July, 2017. The show started from 4 PM each day and would end by 8 pm. As usual, entry was completely free.

The numbers of visitors this time were huge. That might have something to do with the fact that the chief guest this time was Mr. Shiboprosad Mukhopadhyay who is a Bengali Film director. Masayuki Taga, the Consul Japan General of Japan in Kolkata was also present there.

The opening ceremony was on the 21st of July, at 4 pm. An audible murmur could be heard throughout the hall at the presence of the film director. A speech from Mr. Masayuki Taga showed us his energetic self and his enthusiasm for Japanese Samurai movies. A speech by the film director Shiboprosad Mukhopadhyay, had many of his fans swoon over him. Mr. Jayanta and the CEO of Nandan too gave speeches about how the Japanese film festivals have done their part in the further strengthening of bond between the two countries.

Two movies were screened each day and the choice of films here has always amazed me because incredibly the organizers (which are the Nihongo Kaiwa Kyokai Society and the Consulate of Japan) have always managed to find movies that were fit for people from all age groups. The turnout was exceptional in spite of inclement weather.

“A Tale of Samurai Cooking” by Yuzo Asahara was a classic love story with the infusion of Samurai, love and cooking which seems like an odd combination at first, but becomes quite an attractive combination once the movie is watched.

“Waterboys” by Shinobu Yaguchi is one such movie which has broken through few of the several stigmas in the society and has taken a very comic approach to it. Not only was the movie funny but it also sent out a message and was incredibly pleasant to watch.

The crowd puller, even today, was however, “Rashomon”, by the legend Akira Kurosawa. A full house, and people queuing up outside the hall even after the movie started are proof to this. “Children on the Island” was a saga of a school teacher in the mid 20th century Japan.

“Thermae Romae” was a hilarious cross era travel, proving the ingenuity of the Japanese psyche and eye for details. The last “Nobody to watch over me” was a live portrayal of a teenager’s dilemma in trust.

I personally don’t like missing the Japanese film festivals and can’t wait for the next film festival and see what they have to offer.

Deepsha Saha



IJSC Students showcasing enhanced Japanese language skills

**DON'T MISS THE NEW LOGO -
THANK YOU NAGAHAMA SENSEI FOR CREATING IT!**

Nihongo Kaiwa Kyokai Society, 2B, Shivangan, 53/1/2, Hazra Road, Kolkata- 700 019
E-mail: write2nkks@gmail.com Visit us online: <http://www.nkks.org.in>

AN INTERVIEW WITH SOUNAK DASGUPTA

Once upon a time in Delhi, Sounak Dasgupta asked a Japanese gentleman "Anata wa Indojin desu ka ? " The gentleman smiled and answered "Iie Nihonjin desu!"

Sounak Dasgupta, director of Asahi Japanese Language Academy (Asahi Nihongo Gakuin) started his academy at his Naihati residence, far away from Kolkata, in August 2014. He teaches JLPT N5 N4 with basic Japanese. On account of a transferable job of his father, Sounak san had to live in various places in India. In Delhi he had finished his graduation - then started to learn Japanese Language in Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, (Jawaharlal Nehru Academy of Language) from 2007 to 2008.

At his residence, on a sultry summer afternoon with occasional downpours, we were engrossed in chatting, forgetful of the wayward weather outside. We laughed discussing his funny experiences in Delhi. He went to market with his father and seeing a Japanese gentleman, his father prodded him to speak with him. Being nervous Sounak san said --"anata wa Indojin desu ka? Are you an Indian?" Realising his blunder, an embarrassed Sounak could not continue the conversation any more.

I asked Sounak san about the success rate of his students in the JLPT examination. He answered "very good, for two years many students have passed."

After completing two years of Japanese diploma course in Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan he completed intermediate Japanese language course from Nihongo Center in 2009. He said "then I also completed a short course in business Japanese from the same institution"

He reminisced about the tender and excellent guidance of Nasukawa Sensei in Nihongo Centre.. Sometimes he writes in his diary about this dream of his own academy, his passion for Japanese language and nurturing his dream to go to Japan someday!

Q Sounak san you also taught Hindi to the Japanese people in Delhi ...

A Yes that was an experience! I also taught Japanese language in Taishi Japanese Language Academy in Greater Noida (Delhi) for 6 months, 2012 December to 2013 May. That was my first



teaching experience in Japanese language. But due to health problems I had to return to Kolkata.

Q In Kolkata, you taught in Sakura Academy from August 2013 to July 2014....

A I taught for almost one year over there but from August 2014 I started my own academy at my residence. Initially I had to start in my own room but now I have arranged this separate room equipped with table, chairs, benches, etc. I have been teaching here as I cannot afford any other place. I dream of my own academy on a large scale in future.

Q Your hobby?

A Cricket, cooking - I love cricket and I love to cook

Q Why did you select Japanese language in Delhi?

A After completing graduation in the arts stream, I was somewhat confused about what to select - some management course or the other. Then my father's colleague suggested learning a foreign language. He also suggested some foreign languages and Sounak san selected Japanese language!

Q Any advice to Japanese language students?

A Students face a lot of difficulties in kanji writing and memorizing. They have to practice. They must relate kanji with something they can easily remember. Always try to stick to learning and if you learn well there will surely be scope of work.

Q Any memorable experience?

A I have told you that Delhi experience. Two Japanese people came to my house. Uchida Sensei, who teaches in Japan learned how to greet by saying "namaskar" in Bengali. There was another young student named Sakamoto, who came to India to travel. I met him at Barrackpore and he came here with me. While coming to my home I told him to sit in a three wheeler van --- a very common vehicle here - but without knowing how to sit he tried to sit in Japanese way! He looked so sweet and innocent then! I guided him on how to sit on it.

Sounak Dasgupta smiled, and our conversation was nearing its end. Then he said ---"" one day I must go to Japan, my dream country!"

Aloke Basu

 **Freshers
WELCOME**



NOTES



A calligraphy (Shodou) workshop was held in Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Gol Park on 19th August, which was organized by Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society in collaboration with The Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata. Ms Hiroko Nagahama Sensei from Japan, who also conducts such workshops in various parts of India, conducted the workshop. Mr. Masayuki Taga, Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, was the chief guest, who spoke about Tagore's deep interest in calligraphy.

Enthusiastic students of Japanese language were the invitees of our near informal “welcome” to new members just joining the Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society, held at Sarat Samity on the 26th July. A small introduction was given by Jayanta Saha, the president of NKKS of the members, organization and its activities round the year, followed by self-introduction by new members (expert Japanese “aisatsu” in most cases). Japanese songs were sung by teachers of Japanese language and members of the Executive Committee. One new member, Aratrika Chatterjee, surprised us with her talent – she sang a full length Japanese song, completely from memory! A huge applause to you, Aratrika san!



About 70 students from different Japanese Language Schools of Kolkata participated in the event. Nagahama Sensei started the session (interpreted by Ruma Sensei) reminding participants that 2017 is marked as Indo Japan Friendly Exchange Program, writing this kanji on a large special calligraphy material. She went on to explain about each calligraphy item like brush, ink, etc.. She also demonstrated how to hold the brush in a vertical position. She said that to become a good calligrapher, perfect coordination between heart and mind is important to develop a rhythm that makes it easy to convey one's feeling through this special form of art. Participants wrote various words like Indo, Nihon, Ki, Mori, Mizu, Ai, etc. Consul General Taga san surprised us all by writing his name in Bengali in calligraphy form. Nagahama sensei obliged most of the participant by writing their requested word in Shodou style. She also presented every participant a card containing a word in Kanji or Hiragana or Katakana written in calligraphy style as a memento.

Papiya Dasgupta

HAPPY TEACHERS' DAY

September
5th



Happy Durga Puja

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **Nihongo Quiz:** 16th Sept 2017
RMIC Shivananda Hall 2pm
- ◆ **Bijoya Sammilani:** 14th Oct 2017
Sarat Samity 6:30pm

**JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(September - October)**

1	2		3		4
5			6		
7		8			
				9	
10	11		12		
	13				

ACROSS

- 1) Foreign country
- 5) Comb
- 6) Cherry blossom
- 7) Teacher
- 9) To cut (hair, grass)
- 10) Quilt
- 13) Trilogy

DOWN

- 1) Students' affairs
- 2) Dignity
- 3) Smelly
- 7) To search
- 8) Mamemaki festival
- 9) Audit
- 11) This morning
- 12) To fly

Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

**Answers to
JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(July - August)**

1 か	2 が	3 く		4 な	5 し
6 か	い	も	7 の		ん
8 と	こ		9 こ	10 じ	か
	11 く	12 す	り	び	ん
13 し	じ	ん		14 か	せ
15 ま	ん	か	い		ん

WORD JUMBLE - 50

Unscramble the following words, and join the circled letters to find out the answer:



1. じょううひよ(Expression)

○					
---	--	--	--	--	--

2. かたかき(Way of writing)

	○			
--	---	--	--	--

3. しょこう(Breakdown)

○				
---	--	--	--	--

4. すいごのも(Terrible)

○				
---	--	--	--	--

5. のおくもり(Deep in the forest)

	○			
--	---	--	--	--

Sontu Debnath

**ANSWERS TO
WORD JUMBLE - 49**

- 1. おなじなかま 3. のうか
- 2. やかましい 4. めしをくう

お	な	じ	か	ま	の	め	し
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

を	く	う
---	---	---

EDITORS: Tanusree Chatterjee & Alope Basu

BOOK POST

If undelivered please return to:
NIHONGO KAIWA KYOOKAI SOCIETY
2 B, SHIVANGAN
53/1/2, HAZRA ROAD

KOLKATA - 700 019

Address correction requested