



SAKURA

No. 104

July - August 2017



しずせ 沈む瀬あれば 浮かぶ瀬あり Life has its ups and downs.

AGM 2016-2017

On the 17th of June 32nd Annual General Meeting of NKKS was held at Sarat Samity. First the out-going president Mr Jayanta Saha delivered his speech about last year's performance and activities. Then the out-going secretary gave his speech. Mr Jayanta Saha read the audit and financial report of the last financial year on behalf of the outgoing treasurer, Mr Arunava Ray. Then the existing executive committee of NKKS was dissolved and the names of new office-bearers of NKKS were proposed. NKKS veteran member Mr Prabhat Datta read the names. Then there were snacks and sweets as usual. Arunava Ray resigned from the post of treasurer of the outgoing executive committee citing the reason of his transfer to Mumbai. He also requested not to consider his name for the coming executive committee as he would not be able to give time due his transfer.

The new executive committee:

Chief Patron -
Mrs Kazuko Nigam
President - Mr Jayanta Saha
Vice President - Mrs Poonam Nand De
Secretary--Mr Sanjoy Ganguly
Assistant Secretary -- Mr Gouri Shankar Pal
Treasurer --Mrs Reema Basu
Members :
Mr Partha Sarathi Mitra
Mrs Ruma Chatterjee
Mrs Tanusree Chatterjee
Mrs Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee
Ms Anjana Bandyopadhyay
Mr Anupam Das
Mr Alope Basu



DREAMS of IJSC

At a very young age, I went to see an exhibition of Japanese dolls. The sheer beauty and detailed art of the dolls and the stories enchanted me. Gradually, my interest in Japan developed. Watching shows like Doraemon intrigued me about the lifestyle of Japan. After joining RKM, I was informed about the IJSC and the probable aspect of visiting the country of our dreams, which occurs once in every three years. Eventually post savouring and nurturing this dream for 3 years, it is about to come true. On the 1st of August I am scheduled to go to Japan. Naturally, my excitement is at its height. Anticipating and day dreaming about the journey and the conference is my favourite pastime now.

I am extremely excited about interacting with the members of the conference and enjoying it to the fullest, with group discussions and knowing the views of fellow students from a different country about various topics. The friendships that are built between the two groups of students is something I look forward to.

Going to Akihabara is on everyone's wish list, but along with that, I want to visit a few museums, Meiji Shrine, the Imperial Palace, see the panoramic view of Tokyo from the Tokyo Metropolitan government building, parks in Tokyo and of course I'm eager to try their cuisine.

Medha Goswami

Congratulations

Courisankar san & Aruna san



HOME COMING for MR YASUHIKO TANAKA



It was, most likely, July 1990 when I first arrived in Kolkata – the then Calcutta - the City of Joy. I had started learning

Bengali soon after joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan, almost 2 years prior to my arrival in Kolkata. I was doing a full time job at the HQ of MOFA, and had to dedicate several hours a week for learning Bengali after office hours. From Prof. Niwa, at the Tokyo University of Foreign Language, and other Bengali ladies who lived in Tokyo, I started learning Bengali from scratch. After spending such hectic days for over a year, I finally arrived to the City of Joy.

After arriving in Kolkata, I received great assistance from Dr. Bakshi and other Indian staff of Japanese Consulate in Kolkata I was lucky to learn Bengali from Dr. Ganguly of the Indo-Japan Welfare & Cultural Association. When I arrived 3 years ago, I was very happy to be received by Mr. Chatterjee and Mr. Chilwar among others, who were then younger and now they have become as the key figures of the Consulate. After a while, I was admitted at the Department of Political Science at the new campus of Calcutta University, in Alipore and was allowed to sit in the same class with the Master Degree students. The Professor, used to give lecture in English and thereafter, used to repeat the same in Bengali. In this way, my Bengali proficiency gradually improved. After learning Bengali in Kolkata for 2 years, I was transferred to Bangladesh and there started working at the Japanese Embassy in Dhaka.

3 years passed since I have started staying in Kolkata after a gap of 25 years. During these 3 years, I came to think that in a city of any country in the world, its inhabitants and the administrative system transform the Metropolis itself.

When I came back in 2014 after a gap of 25 years, I was pleasantly surprised to see so many changes in Kolkata. One of the most striking one was, beautiful landscape of the city at night with full of lighting. This nicely showcases the ample power supply status in the city.

Earlier, I was impressed by the cleanness of the road during early morning walks in the city. As people throw leftovers on the roadside or at the teashops along the footpath, even though the sweeper cleans at dawn every day, they never seem to go. Previously, everyone used bags made out of newspapers. The sweepers, like in the past, try hard to clean the road side, but may be because of too much plastics, the garbage do not seem to go.

During my first stay in Kolkata in the 1990s, I lived in New Alipore. There used to be “loadshedding” thrice a day of 2 hour duration each. In addition to these scheduled “load sheddings”, there used to be unexpected sudden power cuts also! Now I live at ‘South City’ and there are no serious power cuts.

This time, when I started searching for accommodation, I focused on the lower floor based on the experience 25 years ago and I was prepared to climb up and down the staircase during the frequent power cuts. However, one day, my Indian colleague told me, “Tanaka san, my child does not have any occasion to hear the word “loadshedding” and doesn't know what the word means.” At that moment I decided to take the 16th floor apartment and started living on this very high floor, even though there was no back-up power for lifts.

Transport system too has improved a lot. More buses are air-conditioned now, which is really good. Further, now we don't have to wait for a long time in ISD booths as it is very easy to make international calls without worrying about the next person in the long queue!

The process of purifying water has also become easier. Previously, water was purified in a 10 liter aluminum barrel having three layers of purifying elements. First of all water was boiled water in a large kettle and then it was cooled and finally transferred to a glass bottle. Drinking water after such long process was a special treat at a friend's house!

During my previous stay in Kolkata, I could see mostly Ambassador Car on the streets. Now cars of other makes are seen aplenty. I am glad to know about the popularity of Suzuki cars in Kolkata.

This year 2017 is the “Year of Japan-India Friendly Exchanges”. Many cultural activities, seminars are soon going to held in the coming several months and I am expecting to see many of you at these events am eagerly looking forward to

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meet you all.

Yasuhiko Tanaka
Deputy Consul General,
The Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata

KOTOWAZA

On the evening of 22nd April, the members of NKKS gathered at Sarat Samity for a discussion on Japanese proverbs and idioms. Everyone shared the English, Bengali and Hindi counterparts of known proverbs. Ruma Chatterjee Sensei and Reema Basu Sensei taught us 10 ことわざ or proverbs each. Out of the ones Ruma Sensei taught us, everyone's favourite was ななころびやおき which means "You fall seven times and then succeed once", i.e., if you keep trying, you will succeed in life. Everyone also loved the proverb さるもきからおちる which means even monkeys fall from trees, i.e., even experts make mistakes.

Aloke Basu Sir had planned to teach us 10 idioms and he also taught us how they are used in daily conversation. The most interesting one was 足もとおみる which means to exploit someone's weakness in negotiation. It comes from the Feudal Age when the palanquin carriers used to examine the legs and feet of prospective customers to judge their level of exhaustion, then raise the fare accordingly!

It was a fun-filled evening where we learnt many interesting things. We all left feeling wiser and waiting to use what we had learnt to impress our friends who had missed the awesome evening!

Medha Goswami

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **28th Cinema Nippon: 21st July 2017**
21st July:
Opening Ceremony 4pm
Movie: 4:30 pm, 6:45pm
22nd July: 4pm, 5:45 pm
23rd July: 4 pm, 6 pm
At Nandan II
- ◆ **Freshers' Welcome: 26th July 2017**
Sarat Samity 6:00pm
- ◆ **20th IJSC at Toyo Japan:**
2nd~13th Aug 2017
- ◆ **NKKS Founders Day: 15th Aug 2017**
Nigam Sensei's Residence 5:30 pm
- ◆ **Calligraphy workshop: 19th Aug 2017**
By H Nagahama Sensei
RMIC 5pm

MY EXPERIENCE IN AN IT COMPANY



I have been working in an IT company for more than 7 years, where I support Japanese employees

regarding their IT related issues. At the time of interview I did not know anything about IT related work, but our APAC IT head was a Japanese person who was kind enough to select me. Since then I support Japanese users regarding their software, hardware, server related issue. Every week we have meetings with the Japan office where we not only discuss about IT related issues but also about science, culture and literature. Sometimes when I call Japanese users they ask me join them for dinner as they think I am working from Japan. Those who want to pursue their career as IT Specialist for Japan users they should know honorific Japanese, because many of the users are facing problems interacting with directors, high officials or clients of the company.

Salil Roy



Khushboo Agarwal Sensei gave a very encouraging lecture on the secret of success in the JLPT examination, which requires, primarily, a good preparation. The new students of Japanese language were very eager to hear her lecture and with the audio - visual medium they gained very much impetus. Khushboo Sensei advised them how to save and use the time given for answering the examination papers judiciously, by skimming and quick analysis.
Search your own app!

- ◆ <http://nihongo-e-na.com/eng/site/tag/Reading/keyword/Beginner/>
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- Apps:
- ◆ JLPT PRACTICE N1-N5 by JLD International,inc
 - ◆ Ohayou app for listening
 - ◆ Easy News Japanese

JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(July - August)

1	2	3	■	4	5
6			7	■	
8		■	9	10	
■	11	12			
13			■	14	
15				■	

ACROSS

- 1) Science
- 4) Pair
- 6) Shopping
- 8) Bed
- 9) Fawn
- 11) Medicine bottle
- 13) Poet
- 14) Handcuffs
- 16) Full bloom

DOWN

- 1) Heel (foot, shoes)
- 2) Foreigner
- 3) Spider
- 5) Bullet rain
- 7) Remain
- 10) ENT
- 12) Moment
- 13) Island

Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

Answers to
JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(May - June)

1 は	2 さ	3 み	■	4 か	5 た
6 た	か	な	7 み	■	ね
8 ら	い	し	ん	9 し	■
く	■	10 ご	ぞ	ん	11 じ
■	12 し	■	く	■	だ
13 か	か	く	■	14 は	い

WORD JUMBLE - 49

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



このことわざはなんですか？

1. なまかじおな (Same group)

○	○	○			
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2. ましやいか (Noisy)

	○	○		
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3. かうの (Farmer)

○		
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4. くうをしめ (To have a meal)

○	○	○	○	○
---	---	---	---	---

シヨントウ デブナート

ANSWERS TO
WORD JUMBLE - 48

- 1. いっしょく
- 2. かせい
- 3. きにしないで
- 4. ちょきん
- 5. ちょうじょう

い	っ	せ	き	に	ち	よ	う
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BOOK POST

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