



# SAKURA 100



November - December 2016

## The FIRST "Sakura" May 2000



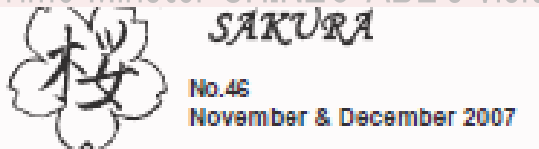
### From the President

A new era has ushered in with a different dimension. It is a dream which is being materialised after a prolonged nurtured thought. Yes - Sakura, the News Magazine of Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai has taken us birth.



## Prime Minister SHINZO ABE's visit to India

## President Partho Mitra's message



Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society, 2B, Shivangan, 53/1/2, Hazra Road, Kolkata-700 019  
E-mail: nihongokaiwakyookai@hotmail.com Visit us online: www.nkks.org.in



Mr. SHINZO ABE, Visits KOLKATA

Kolkata witnessed a landmark in the history of Indo-Japan relations on the 50<sup>th</sup> year of their friendship, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2007, when the former Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe visited Kolkata on the occasion of the inauguration of Bharat Japan Cultural Centre and Rabindra-Okakura Bhawan, at Bidhannagar.



著るもの欠しからず Pride comes before fall

Their Majesties Emperor Akihito & Empress Michiko



Their Majesties, Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko are the first Emperors of Japan to visit India. Well they did, 53 years ago as Crown Prince and Princess but the aura that surrounds them now is unmistakable. The bond between the two nations seems to have strengthened with time.

What is this euphoria about? Is it the belief that the Emperor is a celestial being on Earth - having descended from Amaterasu Omikami, the Sun

新年おめでとーございます



### AUDIENCE WITH ROYALTY

1st December 2013, 18:00 hrs - this will remain as the most memorable time of my life. I was invited by the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi to a ceremony of audience with the Emperor and Empress of Japan. My husband and I reached the Embassy at the scheduled time and waited in the reception room we were shown into. There were about 100 people from all over India, all waiting for the moment around 5 tables. The heavy door opened exactly at 18:00 and their Majesties, being escorted by the Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Yagi, and his wife, advanced towards the golden screen on the opposite side amidst a huge applause. After a brief introduction of the people gathered, we had the opportunity of talking directly to Their Majesties in turns.

I said "I am teaching Japanese language for 40 years in Kolkata" to which Empress Michiko answered "You are doing an excellent work, isn't it?"

Soon after the designated 30 minutes of audience was over and Their Majesties took leave with a smile and left the hall amidst applause.

Being encouraged by Empress Michiko, I would like to continue teaching Japanese language.

Kazuko Nigam

## A proud moment

Sensei, Omedetou Gozaimasu!



What a proud moment this was, for all Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society members! Our Sensei, Mrs. Kazuko Nigam, is the recipient of the Award conferred by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japan, in recognition for her services in the field of Japanese Language Learning in India and contribution towards promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and India. The Award ceremony itself was held at the residence of the Consul

## Sensei's brush with Royalty

Visit our website for details of these landmarks .... These are only a few!



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



I was enthusiastic about creating a platform to share ideas and information relating to Japan so broached the idea and other executive members were much excited about this idea. My creativity flowed and our dear Nigam Sensei gave the impetus and voila! Sakura was born! **Arunava**



Sakura started its journey from May 2000. From the 15th issue I was conferred on the charge of this bimonthly newsletter. Tanusree san joined me and together we have been editing this newsletter. Actually it was the brain-child of Arunava san. Sensei always gives her valued opinion.

This is our 100th issue and I remember what Partha san has written in the first issue - "it is relatively easy to give birth to a new idea, but utterly difficult to provide proper nourishment" Sakura grows stronger with time, .long live Sakura !!!

**Aloke**



Why is 100 important?

Symbolism, milestones, occurrences, have considered 100 as the ultimate. "Sakura" our 4 page newsletter, has reached that mark !

Googol is the mathematical term for a 1 followed by 100 zeros. The term was coined by Milton Sirotta, Google's (the most popular search engine on the internet) play on the term reflects the company's mission to organize the immense amount of information available on the web. So does "Sakura" I guess in terms of sharing Japanese language!

**Tanusree**

## Congratulations on the 100th issue of "Sakura"!

## Sensei's Message

When written in Japanese language, the character of '100' is 百, a combination of '一' and '白'. The Kanji of 百 can be pronounced as 'hyaku'(hundred) or 'momo' denoting a large number rather than simply 'hundred'. For example 百科事典 *hyakkajiten* (encyclopedia, 百貨店 *hyakkaten* (Departmental store, 百人一首 *hyakuninisshuu* (Japanese card game), 百面相 *hyakumensou* (altering different expressions of face with props), 日本百名山 *Nihonhyakumeizan* (Japan's hundred famous mountains), お百度参り *ohyakudomairi* (walking back and forth a shrine offering a prayer each time) . . .

Mitsuyo Uehara  
Associate Member, Japan

### SAKURA 100

さくら はな  
桜の花のつぼみが  
ゆっくりゆっくりと  
ほんさ  
100本咲きました。  
つよ かぜ ふ  
強い風が吹いても  
散りませんでした。  
なが みち ま  
長い道が待っています  
つか くだ  
疲れしないで下さい  
わたし  
私はあなたと  
いっしょ ある  
一緒に歩いて行きたいです。



Pritha Roy

Tanusree san & Aloke san, congratulations on the "Sakura reaching the 100th issue mark! Although it is published once in 2 months, it is not always easy to publish on time without fail. I must acknowledge Tanusree san's efforts from my heart, for making preparations ahead so as to publish by the deadline, however busy she might be.

I must also thank Sontu san, who always draws funny cartoons and composes the anagrams, Mahashveta san, who composes the crosswords that are an exercise of the brain which increases our vocabulary and Anjana san who always takes out and sends us beautiful photographs of our various events. We have been able to reach thus far by the voluntary team work of all. I request all members to not only read, but also send articles to Tanusree san - any article for the "Sakura" is welcome. Since this is the commemoration of the 100th issue, I shall introduce the proverb "Seeing is believing", seeing once is worth more than listening a hundred times. To all those who are studying the Japanese language, as well as those who have completed their studies, I would suggest, please go and visit Japan at least once, and see that beautiful country with your own eyes.

Kazuko Nigam

### MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **Hints for JLPT success:** 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016  
by Khushboo Agarwal  
At Sarat Samity 3:30pm
- ◆ **In Nichi Bunkasai Practice:** Dec 2016  
Contact Nigam Sensei or Ruma Sensei
- ◆ **Annual Picnic:** 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017

## A Message from

## His Excellency CONSUL GENERAL MASAYUKI TAGA



I wish to convey my sincere thanks for the auspicious occasion to introduce myself on the commemorative launching of the 100th issue of “Sakura” newsletter of Nihongo KaiwaKyookaiSociety. I am Masayuki Taga, newly appointed Consul General of

Japan in Kolkata. I joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the year 1983 and on my maiden flight abroad, the first ever foreign land I had set my foot on was happened to be New Delhi, India in 1984. Initially I had spent 4 years in this country (the initial 2 years as a diplomat trainee student in Allahabad University and the next 2 years working in the Embassy in New Delhi) and once again served at the Embassy from 1997 to 2000. If summed up I have spent a total of 7 years in India.

My first visit to Kolkata was in 1985 while I was studying at the Allahabad University. Though ‘hustle and bustle’ is a very common feature of all Indian cities, in Kolkata, especially the automobiles (although mostly Ambassadors those days), the auto rickshaws, the horse drawn carriages, and hand pulled rickshaws plying through the streets by pushing and shoving, striving to be the first and hurrying ahead, left a lasting impression on my mind. Moreover, the Calcutta University area brimming with the overflowing bookshops with their eaves linked together was also very impressive. Among the bookshops I found works of Japanese novelists translated into Bengali, although I cannot recall whether it was at that time or on my second visit to the city. I was deeply moved and impressed by the interest of the Bengali people towards Japan.

Thereafter in Tokyo, I served at Southwest Asia Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which is responsible for bilateral relations with South Asian countries, including India. Overseas, I worked at the embassies in Nepal, Ireland, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and it’s been around 20 years that I have lived in the South Asia region all together. In the meantime, I came across a variety of people in the various regions of South Asia. People of Kashmir and Ladakh in the north, people of Pashtun and Baloch in the west, people of Tamil and Sinhala in the south, the people of Bengal and Manipur in the east, etc. each having its special features and own set of traits and characteristics. Among them I found the people of Bengal very thoughtful and deeply tender hearted.

As described by Professor Amartya Sen in his book “The Argumentative Indian”, it’s common to people in India including the people of Bengal that they have tendency to firmly assert their views with logical communication and discussion about anything with anyone. In Japan, “Thou Shalt Know with inferences” was regarded a virtue to be followed which marks less discussion in public and comprehending each other’s feeling without speaking much. I think there are large number of people who may feel this cultural difference between Japan and India. However, with the progress of internationalization today, the Japanese people who can well discuss in public and assert own view are gradually increasing.

There have been predecessors who were resolutely trying to convey and impart the Japanese Culture and tradition to the world at large. Mentionably, one of them was Tenshin Okakura who wrote “Cha no hon (The Book of Tea)” and “Tōyō no risō” (“The Ideals of the East”). The intellectual exchanges between Okakura and Swami Vivekananda and Rabindranath Tagore played an extremely important role in the formulation of a strong relationship between India and Japan as well as Japan and Bengal.

At present, the Japan India relationship has been strengthened up year after year with the agreement of ‘Special Strategic Global Partnership.’ The width and depth of this relation has been further enhanced in political, security, economic, cultural and other fields. While giving more than a passing thought to the fact that the foundation of this relationship is the intellectual exchange between our predecessors, I feel great honor to be able to work here in Kolkata, the city which served as the base of this exchange and I am very much looking forward to it. I wish to make effort together with you all, being committed to the promotion of friendship between Japan and India and for this, I look forward to having advices and cooperation from all of you. Thank you!

*Masayuki Taga* 5th October 2016



### Winners of the Nihongo Quiz with Tanaka san and Kato san

1. Sohini 2. Arnab 3. Aman



1. Anoushka, Devjyoti  
2. Agnishwar, Prasenjit  
3. Indrakshi, Sushanta

