



SAKURA

No. 81

September – October 2013



あした 明日のことをいうと てんじょう ねずみ わら 天井の鼠が笑う Prediction about the future is difficult

FRESHERS WELCOME

On 31st July the Sarat Samity Hall was full to the brim with freshers of Japanese language class with the myriad dreams in their eyes to be acquainted with NKKS activities. Ruma Sensei and the NKKS President briefed them about NKKS aims & activities. NKKS members along with our Nigam Sensei sang two Japanese songs. Newcomers also sang, recited their own written poems, played guitar which all enthralled us all. Last of all there were refreshments.

Aloke Basu



SAYONARA MOHAN GHOSH SAN

I met Mohan san when I joined Japanese Language Classes for the second time after a gap of nearly 20 years, at the RKM Institute of Culture, in the early '80s. In the days when employment in the Japanese Companies was thought to be a rare opportunity, Mohan san served a full term of service, and retired from Mitsui Trading Company, Kolkata. The



seeds of Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai were sown when he was a student of Japanese Language. It was he, who, among others, took an active role in the establishment of NKK. He played a critical role in nurturing the spirit of past and present students of Japanese Language for promotion of cultural activities. He played an active part in selection of students for the India Japan Students' Conference in Japan, and also the local management when it was held in Kolkata. His intervention in the selection of students with the help of university faculty members, had helped to avoid any dispute. In policy matters, he did not compromise with others, though he was kind-hearted and fought for justice. He left his earthly abode on 25th July 2013, leaving behind his family, friends and the NKKS members. May his soul rest in peace!

Dr. Sudhamoy Biswas,
(on behalf of members of NKKS and all his well-wishers)

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ Nihongo Quiz : 14th Sep 2013
At RKM Shivananda Hall 2 pm
- ◆ Bijoya Sammilani: 26th Oct 2013
At Sarat Samity 6:30 pm

There is no substitute for a great teacher!



HAPPY TEACHER'S DAY

AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. ARITRA CHOWDURY

Aritra Chowdury has recently completed 3 years diploma course in Japanese language from R.K. Mission. He has already visited Japan twice. First time as an Indian representative for Students Conference in 2011, and second time recently for Kizuna (Bond) project. Now he is going to New York (Troy), USA, to pursue Ph.D in Computer Science in Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (to be started from August 2013). He has been awarded a scholarship by this institute for 5 years course. We had an informal chat in Nigam Sensei's house on the eve of his leaving for USA.



Q: So you are going to New York.
A: Yes, to study Computer Science.

Q: Here your subject was..
A: I completed Electronics and Communication from Jadavpur University. Before that I was a student of Don Bosco School, Park Circus.

Q: But why Japanese?
A: Actually you know my mother was a student of Japanese language. In 1985 she stood first in Japan Foundation Examination and went to Japan. From Japan so many friends used to write her. From the very childhood thus I became acquainted with a kind of Japanese ambience and I used to see her Japanese books. Gradually I grew an interest in this language.

Q: Yes after a long time your mother Bably san has started to come and participate in NKKS programs regularly.....
A: Yes she actually almost gave up Japanese but as I got admitted in Japanese language class she again started to revive her interestparticipated in Japanese drama as a prompter etc.....

Q: How was the first time experience in Japan for India. Japan Students Conference in 2011?
A: In that Conference I was the Academic Secretary. I liked the tour very much. The punctuality of Japanese, their organizing power and well planned presentation of the Conference charmed me. Beyond the topics of table discussion they showed their whole hearted involvement about the Conference. During that tour I enjoyed Sashimi for the first time. I was mesmerized by the Shinjuku area ...so lively so gorgeous specially its market place and buildings.

Q: Recently you also went to Japan.
A: Yes I was the part of Kizuna Project. We spent 3 days in Tokyo but 7 days we spent in Minamiaizu

town.

Q: So you had a different experience.

A: The scenic beauty of the hilly area the journey through the train was a marvellous experience. I saw snow first time in my life there which was unique the scene of snow was really peerless pleasure for me. I also went to see ski but I could not do myself as they forbade me.

Q: So in future you want to go Japan?
A: Yes but I want to teach going Japan my subject Electrical and Computer Science Engineering.

Q: Hobby.
A: Playing tennis, reading books watching movies Japanese learning

Q: Have heard a lot about your tennis.
A: I played tennis for 14 years. I competed in National level participated many tournaments I went to Lucknow, Patna, Delhi, Mumbai, Bhubaneswar etc As a captain I represented the Jadavpur University and from Don Bosco School. In singles once I finished as runner up but in doubles I won 4 times.

Q: You also read books.
A: I like to read fiction very much Robin Cook is my favourite writer. I also like Sarat Chandra. Besides these I read autobiographies a lot taking inspiration from them

Q: Japanese language infra structure in Kolkata.
A: Actually teachers try with their utmost dedication but sometimes lack of apt attitude and infrastructure becomes a constraint .I think a lot of conversation classes needed. Kanji is difficult to learn but if students are compelled to speak Japanese in class or among themselves that would be a great help. Career-oriented Japanese learning or to induce into them the competitive hunger and thrust are very much required.

Aloke Basu



Join us in
NIHONGO QUIZ
CONTEST
&
win your PRIZES

INDIA-JAPAN STUDENTS' CONFERENCE 2013

The 17th India- Japan Student Conference started with the arrival of our Japanese friends on the 8th of August 2013. It was followed by the opening ceremony on the next day, with a string of performances from both the sides exhibiting energy and enthusiasm. We came to know about their culture, beliefs and value systems. Interacting with them on a one to one basis provided us with the true representation of their life in Japan.



The Japanese Students With Our Esteemed Guests

As students they were interested in our educational system as a result of which we took them to a primary school for a visit where they interacted with children. Along with that social work by NGO's also appealed to them and they were eager to learn more and more about organizations who were involved in this kind of work. The table discussions proved fruitful as we became aware of the nuances of Japanese life and how society there is continuously evolving and progressing.



Indian Students?

We had invitations from the Consul General of Japan, Kolkata and from another very old member of NKKS, where they enjoyed the food and the live band. It was a complete privilege to take them around Kolkata for site seeing. We visited a few historical places and also took them out for shopping and lunch. On the day of the Sayonara Party we

enjoyed ourselves to the fullest; there was dance, music and a sumptuous dinner. On the 19th of August we went to see them off at the Airport and they finally boarded the flight to continue their rest of the tour of India.

*Ayan Mitra & SohamPal
President & Vice President, 17th India-Japan Student Conference*

CALLIGRAPHY

Calligraphy is an art form that has flourished for centuries in ancient civilizations around the globe. It is particularly true of South-East Asia where many countries and cultures intermix and form unique scripts and writing styles, sometimes within the same country itself. It requires dedication and extreme discipline to achieve the perfection depicted on canvas. Especially in the case of Chinese or Japanese calligraphy where it takes years to learn the various characters themselves, let alone master the strokes. Japanese calligraphy or *shodo* uses unique syllabaries, the distinctive Japanese writing system developed and produced in styles intrinsic to Japan.



Hiroko Nagahama Sensei

One got to see a glimpse of this intense artistic endeavour on 14th August at Sarat Samity where a workshop of Japanese calligraphy was organized by the Nihongo Kaiwai Kyookai Society in collaboration with the Japan Consulate, Kolkata. The artist Ms Hiroko Nagahama, is a teacher of Calligraphy in the Tokyo Kasei University Girls Senior High School, has years of experience in the field, and demonstrated the art with perfect ease. She spoke to the spectators about the various forms *shodo* and how it depends entirely on how one controls brush strokes, breathing, body and even one's mood. Various renditions of the same character are possible depending different conditions. While the meaning of the character remains the same, the creative aspect may vary. Students and teachers of Japanese language from various institutions present at the occasion also got to try their hands out at calligraphy. While some fared better than others, it was a fascinating experience for one and all.

Sharmila Guha

JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(September - October)

1.	2.	3.		4.	5.	6.
7.				8.		
		9.	10.			
	11.			12.		13.
14.			15.			16.
17.		18.		19.		
20.				21.		22.
	23.					

ACROSS

- 1) Timber
- 4) Strange (N)
- 7) Citizen
- 8) Good looking man
- 9) Substitute/proxy
- 11) Politics
- 13) Height
- 15) Encounter
- 17) Hold/embrace
- 19) Sea shell
- 20) 5th day of the month
- 21) Shrubbery
- 23) Handover

DOWN

- 1) Japanese style formal room
- 2) Meaning
- 3) Problem
- 4) Tag
- 5) Route/course
- 6) Engineer
- 8) Bottom
- 10) Bully
- 11) Cost of living
- 12) Repeat
- 13) Ash
- 14) World
- 16) Tie/quits (sports)
- 18) Painter
- 21) Song
- 22) Ear

Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

Answers to
JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(July - August)

1. せ	2. い	3. し		4. み	5. は	6. ら	し
7. い	で	ん	8. し		9. い	く	
	ん		10. く	11. だ	る		12. つ
13. く		14. さ	む	い		15. み	る
16. み	17. な	と		18. ず	19. か	ん	
	20. か	ご	21. う		22. い	か	23. る
24. ふ	ゆ		25. た	26. い	か		い
27. く	び	わ		28. し	ん	ど	

WORD JUMBLE - 27

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



1. きいえた (Liquid)

○			
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2. こんぼんぶ (Pocket-sized book)

	○			
--	---	--	--	--

3. そっくち (Suffocation)

		○	
--	--	---	--

4. かけうち (Traditional Japanese wedding dress)

○		○	
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5. いうしよた (Target)

	○			
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Sontu Debnath

ANSWERS TO WORD JUMBLE - 26

- 1. きそてきな
- 2. くとうてん
- 3. にくしん
- 4. かくにん
- 5. ぱりき
- 6. かみくず

き	ん	に	く	ぱ	か
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EDITORS: Tanusree Chatterjee & Alope Basu

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