



# SAKURA

No. 82

November – December 2013



やすう あ はやわす  
安請け合いの早忘れ A rash promise is easily forgotten

## NIHONGO QUIZ 2013

The 16<sup>th</sup> Nihongo Quiz Contest 2013 organized jointly by Nihongo Kaiwa Kyokai Society and the Consulate General of Japan, Kolkata in collaboration with the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark took place on 14<sup>th</sup> Sep at the Shivananda Hall RMIC. The Quiz consisted of two levels – the junior and the senior. The junior level started at 2.30 pm and had a total of 24 students who were divided into 3 segments. The rounds consisted of questions on Kanji, vocabulary, writing Katakana words, grammar and GK questions. From this section, Debanka Mitra, Arnab Bhowmik, Sayantan Bhattacharya, Partho Das, Sabyasachi Mukherjee and Soham Pal qualified for the finals.



**SENIOR CHAMP - KHUSHBOO AGARWAL**

The final between the six contestants soon took place where in the first round they were asked to write the opposite of the Kanji that was being shown. The second round consisted of vocabulary while in the third they had to choose the correct Katakana spelling.

In the grammar round they had to translate from English to Japanese and the last was the visual GK round. However the winner had to be decided through a tie-breaker question and Arnab Bhowmik emerged as the winner while Sayantan Bhattacharya stood second followed by Sabyasachi Mukherjee in the third position.

The senior level began at 4 pm and had two segments – each with 7 students. The rounds were similar to that of the junior level. From this section, Malayashree Bhaduri, Shalil Prasad Roy, Pragma De,



**JUNIOR CHAMP ARNAB BHOWMICK**

Khushboo Agarwal, Chhanda Basu and Arindam Bhadra went to the finals.

In the first round of the finals, the contestants were asked to complete a Kanji from a given part. In the vocabulary round, they had to identify the pictures that were shown. The third and the fourth round were Katakana and grammar respectively. The final round was the visual GK round. Khushboo Agarwal stood first while a tiebreaker round decided the first runner up – Salil Prasad Roy followed by the second runner up – Arindam Bhadra .

After Tea break the event ended with a document film on Japan, speech by the consul general Mr Mitsuo Kawaguchi and the prize and certificate distribution by Consul General and his wife.

*Salil Prasad Roy*

## MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **JLPT Preparation :** 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2013  
At Sarat Samity 6:30 pm
- ◆ **Talk by Mr M Noro, ex-Consul General of Consulate of Japan in Kolkata :** 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013  
At Sarat Samity 6:30 pm
- ◆ **Annual Picnic:** 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014  
At Nature Park (Tentative)
- ◆ **Happyoukai Practice:** Dec 2013  
Interested? Register with Nigam Sensei or Ruma Sensei asap!

## AN INTERVIEW WITH HIDEKO SINGH BANGA SENSEI

BANGA sensei and Nigam sensei have been best friends for more than forty years. Actually she feels Nigam sensei is more like a sister to her. Throughout an informal chat in Nigam sensei's house we discussed so many things .Among her students were Among her students were Vibhav Kant Upadhyay who is the head of Indo Japan Culture Centre, Gita Kinee sensei, Kumkum Nandy sensei, Nirmal Das sensei, Nandini Rao sensei, Salil Jana san etc. Banga sensei is now leading a retired life in San Francisco, USA as a full time grandmother. Fond of *mango, hilsa, carp & vetki fish, tandoori chicken* she has also seen so many Hindi films such as *Sholay, Silsila, Agnipath (Sanjay Dutta Starrer), Pakiza*. She liked the beautiful songs of *Silsila* film, She has also heard the names of *Minakumari, Hema Malini, Sridevi, Madhuri Dikshit & Katrina Kaif*. Here are some excerpts from the interview:



Q: When did you first came to India?

A: In the year 1971. my father in law was the first secretary in Indian Embassy in Tokyo, I met my husband who came to Japan as a trainee of IHI Co. He proposed me saying '*Me apse bahut pyar kartha hun*' so I accepted and we got married in Kolkata in the year 1972.

Q: You taught Japanese in consulate.

A: I became a teacher of Japanese school in Kolkata and taught children of Japanese from 1973. After that I got two children so left teaching but from '77 to '89 just before I moved US I taught Japanese at the Japanese school in Consulate General of Japan, Kolkata.

Q: Your birthplace.

A: I was born in Shikoku Island in Kochisi city. The city was famous for Sakamoto Ryoma the pioneer of Meiji Restoration which paved the way for modern Japan .I was the student of school where once Sakamoto was a teacher. Everyday entering school I used to see his photograph and was awestruck thinking about this legendary personality.

Q: Your college / university.....

A: After Graduating from Nihon Taiiku Daigaku , I studied English in Toyo Daigaku .

Q: your subject in university ....

A: Modern Dance. After graduation I became trainer in physical education in junior high school in

Tokyo. But I was interested in Montessori education, I went to Italy to study that. Due to personal reasons I could not complete that.

Q: You lived in Kolkata. What difference you find between Bengali and Japanese?

A: Bengalis are much like Japanese in mentality. Bengalis are very warm, friendly and

congenial. I can understand Bengali language *ektu ektu* means a little bit in Bengali .

Q: Your hobby.....

A: Modern Dance, to watch T. V.

Q: Still you practise dance?

A: Yes I now practise Zumba Dance. Though I am little bulky now but I still can dance;

Q: Zumba Dance?

A: I learnt it at YMCA in America. Its a kind of mixed dance --very speedy but anybody from 18 to 85 years old can dance it well.

Q: Did you perform any dance performance?

A: Yes in JAPAN in Shinzoku I performed dance recital in school. In America also I performed.

Q: Who is your favourite dancer?

A: At first I was influenced by famous dancer Isadora Dancan. In Japan my teacher Takaya Eiguchi was my favourite dancer he was very famous in Japan.

Q: Don't you have any interest in Indian Dance?

A: Yes, I had but I got no chance to learn them. Tanusree Shankar was dance teacher of my two daughters. The composition of her husband Ananda Shankar is mixture of West and East, it is very profound, powerful music and I was deeply moved.

Q: In America you was Executive Secretary in a Japanese School

A: Actually from 1990 to 2001 I was the executive secretary as head in Administrative Office of Supplementary School.

Q: Your advice to Japanese language students.

A: They must have deep interest in the language -- --they must try to get opportunities to use Japanese -- ----and last but not least ----they must not stop learning ----they must continue And lastly I wish the students good health -- growth-- achievement ---and happiness in life.....

Aloke Basu

## EXPERIENCES AT KITA URAWA



Once again it was a lifetime experience for me to get a chance in short term teacher's training program (Jan 2013). Curriculum was minutely structured and well planned. Within 60 days, I could experience different aspect of

Japanese teaching methodology and difficult and confusing part of Sogo Nihongo. Demonstration teaching was a great experience. Various traditional cultural events like tea ceremony, Kabuki, Rodoku made the program enjoyable. We also attended special lectures on Japanese history, geography, literature, present day society and various problems of Japan like continuous decreasing population. Finally learning Japanese through Manga and Anime was a great fun.

This was the third time I was at Kita Urawa centre. I will not forget an incident with Goto san. A lady 75 years old, who was a volunteer of interview session, was with us. It was Monday and Urawa roads were crowded with heavy traffic in the morning. Interview session was to start at 10am sharp. So she got off the bus and started walking so that she could reach the Centre on time. She lives alone and joined a volunteer group of teachers who helped in various *Kaiwa* sessions of foreign students to discuss different aspects of Japan.

In early March there was Ume festival at Mito - very far from our Centre. I was invited by Tayama san, one of my earlier home stay families. I left my centre in the morning and reached there by 11am changing two trains. We enjoyed the day viewing different types of *ume* from which *ume-shuu* is made. It was a very cold and windy day from the beginning. Suddenly from the late afternoon the weather started becoming bad. On the way back to the Centre, Tayama san and his younger daughter Yukikosan came to the station which was unusually crowded for all the train lines. I stood in the queue of Rapid line to Ueno. Both of them came with me to say *sayoonara*. There was continuous announcement of delay of arrival and departure of trains. I was carefully listening to all the announcements to improve my *chookai*. Seeing my face, a couple who was standing behind me asked '*Doko e ikitai desuka*'. I replied '*Kita urawa desu*'. We continued our conversation for some time. Suddenly I saw Tayama san searching me in the crowd. I waved my hand. He came to me and said 'let's go by car, train will be delayed further as weather is getting worse'. I joined Yukiko san in the car. It took almost two hours to

reach the Centre. Traffic was very slow. I was really concerned about how he would go back. I went to bed late at night after hearing from Yukiko san that they reached safely back home. I will always remember their concern about my safety. I hope to see them in India soon.

It was packed schedule of fun and learning for two months. On the night before departure to India we partied almost whole night. We exchanged gifts and contact details. We left for Airport at 5:00am. With a heavy heart we said good bye to each other.

*Papiya Dasgupta*

### New ways to learn

## JAPANESE LANGUAGE

Are you planning to buy a Japanese digital dictionary? Buy an android phone instead. Yes, you are reading it correct! An android phone is the best replacement for a Japanese digital dictionary. There are many advantages in buying it. Firstly, it will cost you much less than a digital dictionary. Secondly, you will have 24x7 accessibility to your dictionary. And last but not the least; apart from the dictionary you can get a wide range of applications which will aid you in your Japanese language learning.

Although many dictionaries available at *Google playstore* (from where you download applications in an android phone), my pick is the one called *JED* by *Attila Korompai*. In my opinion it is the best dictionary for Kanji and vocabulary. For the Kanji, you can find detail explanation of radicals, number of strokes and the JLPT level to which that Kanji belongs to. For words, it has examples with sentences and different conjugations of verbs. You can find explanation on small phrases too. According to me, if you download this, probably you will not need any other dictionary.

Apart from the dictionary, you can download other applications which will boost up your Japanese language skills. For example, *Kanji recognizer* by *Nikolav Elenkov*, and *WWW JDIC for android* are two such applications that help you to recognize a new kanji by just drawing it on your screen. However, the result often depends on the accuracy of your drawing and also the stroke order. In *WWW JDIC for android* you can click a picture of a kanji and get its meaning. There are other applications like *Japan radio* and *Anime radio* where you can listen to Japanese programmes and songs; *Japanese press* where you can read Japanese newspapers. Even applications for JLPT preparations are also available.

The applications that I have mentioned here can all be downloaded for free. While these applications are among the few which I have tried, you can explore the *Google playstore* and find out what suits you the most. Happy studying!

*Khushboo Agarwal*



**JAPANESE CROSSWORD  
(November - December)**

1.		2.	3.	4.		5.	6.
		7.			8.		
9.	10.			11.		12.	
13.			14.		15.		
	16.	17.		18.			19.
20.						21.	
		22.	23.		24.		
25.					26.		

**ACROSS**

- 1) Conference room
- 5) Bridge
- 7) Downtown
- 9) Beggar
- 11) Repay
- 13) Give birth
- 15) Tip point/first
- 16) One part
- 20) Truth
- 21) Rain
- 22) Scanty/scarce
- 25) Forest
- 26) Future

**DOWN**

- 1) Sightseeing
- 2) Ritual
- 3) Tongue
- 4) Pinch
- 6) Scold
- 8) Livestock
- 10) Office worker
- 12) Breath
- 14) Turnip
- 17) Dustpan
- 18) Molecule
- 19) Cold
- 20) Gentleman
- 23) Tray
- 24) Meaning

Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

**Answers to  
JAPANESE CROSSWORD  
(September - October)**

1. ぎ	2. い	3. も	く		4. ふ	5. し	6. ぎ
7. し	み	ん		8. び	だ	ん	し
き		9. だ	10. い	り		る	
	11. せ	い	じ		12.		13. は
14. せ	い		15. め	ぐ	り	16. あ	い
17. か	か	18. え	る		19. か	い	
20. い	つ	か		21. う	え	こ	22. み
	23. ひ	き	わ	た	す		み

**WORD JUMBLE - 28**

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



1. らいはどもし (refund)

	○				
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2. くふつぎ (Complex)

	○			
--	---	--	--	--

3. りょうせちおり (Traditional New Year food)

○						
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4. じかんむんき (Office hours)

○					
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Sontu Debnath

**ANSWERS TO WORD JUMBLE - 27**

- 1. えきたい
- 2. ぶんこばん
- 3. ちっそく
- 4. うちかけ
- 5. たいしょう

え	ん	そ	う	か	い
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Wedding  
Congratulations  
Ranita san!

**EDITORS:** Tanusree Chatterjee & Alope Basu

**BOOK POST**

If undelivered please return to:  
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Address correction requested