



# SAKURA

No. 110

July – August 2018



なが 流れを 汲んで 源 を知る A tree is known by its fruit



## An evening when we had fun with Japanese Language

A playful gaming session had been organized by the NKKS on 21<sup>st</sup> April. This took place at Sarat Samiti and all the members reached there by 6:30 in the evening. The Japanese teachers accompanied us and hosted the games for us. At first, we played *ko inu san*, a fun game where the player's listening ability and concentration was put to test. After that we moved on to the next game which was *yamanote sen gemu*. Here we had to clap our hands and name the names of Japanese dishes, places, animals, flowers or fruits. We were also treated with some snacks and tea followed by the last game which was *mono ate gemu*, where we were divided into two groups of six people in each group. From both the teams a person was given a name and he/she had to give four hints to his/her respective teammates. Then it was the team's responsibility to guess that name and gain points. As many of us were new and inexperienced, our teachers helped and guided us throughout the game. This session ended with the preparation for the India Japan Students Conference which takes place in August. It was a memorable experience as we got to spend an enjoyable evening with our teachers and learned new Japanese words as well.

Arpita Samaddar

## Life In Japan



Khusboo Agarwal delivered a very precise lecture on everyday life of Japan and its culture - on various topics –Kabuki, Sumo-, Yabusame, food, seasons, seijin daigaku, 100 Yen shops, Japan Railways etc . on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

## From Japan with love

“A thing of beauty is a joy forever”- my six months of stay in Japan lead me to a better understanding of this quote by the well-known poet, John Keats. Two months have passed since my return from Japan, yet I feel so nostalgic about the country and the Japan foundation Institute, which became my second home. The beauty of this country is visible in every aspect; be it, culture, tradition, cleanliness or technology. If you stay in Japan for a while, it is bound to leave an indelible mark on your mind.

For me, it was a unique experience in every sense. It brought into my life some of the best teachers and also a few of the most unforgettable friendships. More than anything, it changed my entire perspective on language learning. I understood the true joy of knowing a different language. Also it brought to fore the fact, that your knowledge of a language is incomplete if you cannot use a language to convey your thoughts or to understand others. Therefore, I would urge all the language learners who are reading this article to trust my experience and cherish what you know so far. The key is to use your knowledge as much as you can. It doesn't matter if you make mistakes in this process. As long as you communicate, you have reached your goal. Just focus on your “can-do” because when it comes to language, there will always be something that will remain to be conquered!

Khushboo Agarwal

## MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **Freshers' Welcome:** 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
Ref: website for details
- ◆ **29<sup>th</sup> Cinema Nippon:** 3, 4, 5 Aug 2018  
At Nandan II Ref: website for details
- ◆ **22<sup>st</sup> IJSC Opening Ceremony:** 7<sup>th</sup> Aug 2018  
Dr. Triguna Sen Hall, Jadavpur 5:30pm
- ◆ **Calligraphy workshop:** 10<sup>th</sup> Aug 2018  
By H Nagahama Sensei  
Ramakrishnananda Hall 4 pm
- ◆ **NKKS Founders Day:** 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 2018  
“Commune” 7B Chowringhee Terrace,  
Kolkata -700 020 5pm
- ◆ **21<sup>st</sup> Nihongo Quiz:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2018  
Shivananda Hall RKM 2 pm

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 UTTARA SARKAR

For some years we lovingly used to call her “Prompter san” because during rehearsals for annual In Nichi Bunka Sai she helped us as a prompter. She is Uttara Sarkar Sensei, who teaches Japanese in RK Mission and IJLS. She also taught Bengali cuisine to wives of Consuls, and the Japanese people English and Bengali.



Extracts from the interview:

Q: Why Japanese?

A: Actually my father, Late Keshab Sarkar worked in Public Relations department in R.K.Mission, Golpark. Many foreign students, mostly Japanese, used to come to our residence. My father taught them Bengali literature.

They used to give me beautiful gifts. Once a group of Japanese students and a professor came from Tokyo University and taught me a little Origami, I was then ten or eleven years old. From then I started to take an interest in Japanese culture. When I was in class eight --\_a Japanese student named Kyoko Niwa came to my father. I saw that she was writing my father’s lessons in some kind of pictures. Seeing those kanji writings I expressed my intention to learn Japanese and so Kyoko Niwa told her husband to get a Kanji book for me.

Q : Then you started to learn Japanese !

A: After completion of my Higher Secondary Examination I started to learn Japanese language in 1995. Then I got admitted into the Indo Japanese Language Studies Society for two more years. Mrs Kazuko Nigam was my Sensei.

Q: After Graduation you did a course in Tourism.

A: Yes I even worked in a travel agency, where I had a lot of unsavoury experiences. So I left in 2003 realising that this was not my job.

Q: Then in 2006 Nigam Sensei asked you to teach Japanese in Modern High School

A: I was so surprised. Till then I could not believe that I could teach. But Nigam Sensei inspired me to go ahead and I taught there for 6 months.

Q: Then?

A::Then some Japanese students of my father invited me to visit Japan. They sponsored my tour. I spent two and half months there.

Q: Your experiences in Japan?

A: I had stayed there with ten families. They were so clean, hardworking and helpful. I toured many places in Japan –Takazaki, Niigata, Nishinomiya etc and I ate so many kinds of Japanese food. I went to Disneyland where we had a ride where an electric boat is carried straight into water and photographs taken. I was so scared! But afterwards when the photograph was shown I saw that I was calm but the other two Japanese persons were frightened!

I enjoyed the Bullet train, from Niigata to Nakazaki - beautiful scenery of roadside. I had to travel for seven/eight hours for going from one house to another for home stay. I enjoyed their hospitality and remembered the rainy season of Kyoto –no waterlogging there!

Q: You stood beside the Pacific Ocean

A: Yes I touched the water and thought “Oh my god I am splashing my feet in the water of the Pacific Ocean of Japan!” What a marvellous experience for me! I still remembered that feeling.

I returned Kolkata and another chance of Japanese teaching came. At AMRI Hospital I was appointed as a Japanese language teacher for teaching the management and nurses for two years. I had to interpret for the Japanese patients also.

Q: Then you started to teach in R K Mission

A: Yes. From 2009 I have been teaching Japanese language in R K Mission and IJLSS from 2016.

Q: Tell us about your Japan experience when you went to Japan again for teachers training

A: Yes we were 50 students from all over the world! We toured Mount Fuji together. That was a dream like experience.

Q: You went to see Kabuki with your friends

A: Yes I enjoyed it very much. The male performers enacted female roles. We saw Tokyo Tower. During the training I made intimate friendship with an Iranian and a Thai girl

Q: Memorable experiences in teacher’s training

A: As a presentation my subject was –“Ageru/Morau”. I enjoyed that so much!

Q: Your hobby

A: Cooking, reading, drawing, making greeting cards and making handicrafts with Pith. I have organised an exhibition of my handicrafts made by Pith. I have also learnt drawing from renowned

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painter Ramananda Bandyopadhyaya for five from class three to class eight. During this time I also took part in some art exhibitions.

Q: Advice to students

A: I want to convey to the students what I have learnt from Japan –Read anything again and again and sleep well. Then you can remember well. For Kanji –try to memorise it by going through its picture. If you learn well there is good chance of a career.

Aloke Basu

## Experiencing Life in Japan through JENESYS2017 Program



First of all, I am grateful to my Sensei to give me such wonderful opportunity to participate in JENESYS 2017 Program. We, a group of 26 participants, were chosen to represent India in the JENESYS 2017 3rd Batch – An International Exchange Program and were flown to Tokyo for the 1<sup>st</sup> time last March 20-27- 2018 for a week long activities of getting to know Japan’s cutting-edge technologies in various fields & Japanese Culture at the same time meeting and making friends with Japanese people & delegates.

On the day of arrival in Tokyo, we met with our program coordinators and they gave us overall orientation of JENESYS 2017 program. Our entire program consisted of key note lectures on understanding of Japan by Mr. Kimura Hideo, visiting the areas in Tokyo, Shinkansen ride to Kuji-shi, Iwate Prefecture, courtesy call, home stay, traditional culture experience, visits to local industries, farewell party with host families and reporting session on the final day.

In Tokyo, we visited Tokyo Imperial Palace, Fukagawa Edo Museum, Odaiba, Akihabara and Miraikan. At Miraikan, we experienced our future society in which humans and robots co-exist through performance of ASIMO chan – world’s most advanced humanoid robot. Japan’s next-gen participates in The Science Workshop at Miraikan – a space where they can

experience cutting-edge science and technology through experiments and dialogue.

We moved to Kuji-Shi via Tohoku Shinkansen. The bullet train ride was one of my most memorable experiences. After reaching there, we met Mayor of Kuji-shi and got to know about Amber, Ama, bullfighting and more. It was very cold outside and continuously snowing. After having lunch with Mayor, we visited Moganpia where we saw the Kuji National Oil Stockpile and Underground Science Aquarium which was completely destroyed during 2011 Great Earthquake and Tsunami and they have rebuilt the aquarium in three years. We witnessed Ama Chan demonstration at Moganpia. Next day we visited Amber Museum – only museum in Japan dedicated to Amber where we participated in Amber Magatama Making Workshop, Kuji Biomass Energy Co. Ltd. where unused timber is being effectively used through biomass power generation system and Mushroom Farm - a large scale production unit of organic mushroom without use of any chemicals.

The experiences we have had in Japanese home stay will remain with us forever. I along with Priyanka san and Varsha san spent 2 nights with Shimizu family in their house.

Okasan prepared various Japanese cuisines for us. They took us for shopping and local sightseeing. They helped us to wear their Kimono and we also helped them to wear sarees. We cooked Indian dishes for them. Their hospitality and utmost care during our stay was very warm. We had our farewell party with all our host families following day.

On the final day of our program, we returned back to Tokyo. Fortunately we got to see Sakura in full bloom in Tokyo. After our reporting session, we went out for a night out to explore Asakusa Temple, Sky Tree and Tokyo Tower.

JENESYS 2017 program was a lifetime experience for all of us and a nice platform to get to know about Japanese science, technology, lifestyle, culture and their ability to bounce back from disaster.



Pampa Saha Roy

**GO KKKON  
OMEDETOU  
GOZAIMASU!**

**ANUPAM SAN &  
SOMASREE SAN!**



**JAPANESE CROSSWORD**  
(July - August)

1	2	3		4	5
6			7		
8			9	10	
	11	12			
13		14			15
16					

**ACROSS**

- 1) To clap
- 4) Fire
- 6) Shopping
- 8) Pond
- 9) Viscera
- 11) To be caught
- 14) Famous food of Japan
- 16) Opening ceremony

**DOWN**

- 1) Expensive
- 2) Confrontation
- 3) Spider
- 5) Dictionary
- 7) Hoped for
- 10) To sell
- 12) Faint/dim
- 13) Deer
- 15) Waterfall

*Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee*

**Answers to  
JAPANESE CROSSWORD  
(May - June)**

1 あ	2 つ	3 か	4 ま	5 し	6 い
7 し	ん	か	ん	せ	ん
	8 ど	く	せ	い	
9 た	く		10 き	か	11 い
か		12 し		13 つ	き
14 い	け	ば	な		る

**WORD JUMBLE – 55**

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

**What is the proverb?**



1. さいき (Description, mention)

○			
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2. がらなかしし(However)

○	○				
---	---	--	--	--	--

3. ましいいさ(Brave)

○				
---	--	--	--	--

4. ねんせい(Youth, young man)

○	○		
---	---	--	--

*Sontu Debnath*

**ANSWERS TO  
WORD JUMBLE - 54**

- 1. いっしょ
- 2. すいどう
- 3. かんさつ
- 4. かきかた
- 5. はやくちことば
- 6. みょうじ

い	っ	す	ん	さ	き	は	や	み
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If undelivered please return to:  
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