

ようこそ にほんご クラスへ

Conversation Class

1. Introductory Course
2. Basic Course

Writing Class

1. Hiragana
2. Katakana
3. Kanji



Have a look at a Japanese Class!!

JICA Tokyo offers various Japanese language classes to its training participants. All who took the class say "the other JICA participants shouldn't miss this chance!" What is the secret of this fascination? Let's have a look!!

JICA Tokyo Japanese Class is not like being stuck to a desk. It is more like going to the gym!

えきはどこですか?

Where is the station?

あそこです。

Over there.

おくには?

Where are you from?

ネパールです。
Nepal.

かいわクラス Conversation

What scene do you imagine when you think of Japanese Classes? Students, frowning at a textbook and listening to a teacher lecturing? Once you step into JICA Tokyo Japanese Class, you will find such an idea is totally wrong.

Following a brief introduction of a new phrase or sentence, you will practice it in various enjoyable yet effective ways such as playing games, walking around the class and holding short conversations with the other students, performing role-plays and so on. Everyone enjoys these activities and the class is filled with merry laughter.

Another attractive feature of this class is the well-designed curriculum and refined teaching methods. And of course, the marvelous teachers!

Merely eight or nine days of study will allow you to communicate comfortably in your daily life with a minimum number of expressions. These include greetings, ordering at a restaurant, asking for the time / directions / prices and much more!

もじクラス Writing

The Japanese writing system uses three different characters, Kanji, Hiragana and Katakana. Kanji, or Chinese Characters, are graphic symbols that represent ideas or concepts, while the others are phonetic symbols that represent sounds. To be able to read a newspaper, one should know at least 2,000 Kanji letters and all Hiragana and Katakana, each of which consists of 46 basic letters. You might think there are too many letters to learn in such a short period as your stay.

But, wait a moment! JICA Tokyo Writing Classes enable all students to read and write all Hiragana, Katakana and 50 Kanjis without hard work. As with the conversation class, the writing classes are designed for all beginners to be able to learn easily while having fun.

Furthermore, you will be able to do things such as the following examples:

In Katakana Class

- * Write your name and country name
- * Read simple restaurant menus

In Hiragana Class

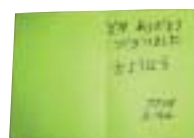
- * Write a simple thank you card
- * Read and write the names of stations or major cities such as Shinjuku, Kyoto

In Kanji Class

- * Recognize signs often seen in public places or on the street, such as "Emergency Exit", "Danger"
- * Read the names of the stations you may often use, such as Hatagaya or Akihabara

In addition, you will learn the origin of Japanese characters and the proper pronunciation of each syllable!

ありがとうカード



Thank You Card

Before attending the class, I thought Japanese was difficult. But once I joined the class, I found it was easy to learn. If we have a good teacher, no language is difficult!



A great chance to meet and make friends with many new people!



"Disney's Magic" in your hospital!?

Wonder of Disneyland

Have you ever been to Disneyland? The moment you set foot in the entrance, the world of dreams and magic, far removed from daily reality, spreads out. By the way, did you ever wonder why on the floor of this park there isn't even a minuscule amount of trash, though the number of visitors to this park per day amounts to around seventy five thousand? Did you ever wonder where in the park do the staff who are called "the cast" take a break? Disney's unknown secrets are hidden in places where normally we don't see.



The participants listen eagerly to the lecture of the hospital director, Dr. Sakamoto

A similarity between "Disney" and "Medical Services"

The essence of the success of the productions that Disney shows is how to maximize customer satisfaction. And the importance of finding the way to provide the best service is equally applicable in the field of medical care. However, in developing countries, there are many countries where the medical level is still low and fostering of healthcare workers is not enough.

Objective of this training

Now, JICA Tokyo conducts a course called "Nursing Management(A)" intended for a total of 10 nursing managers from 7 countries including Afghanistan, Liberia, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka for the period of about 3 months from May to July. Participants of this course are expected to learn about Japanese nursing management through such topics as management of organization and nursing services not only in theory but also through practice. The main objective of this training course is that those who are in a position of leadership like nursing directors learn and practice through this training and then implement what they have learned to enhance the quality of nursing management and nursing services in their organizations when they return to their home countries.

Learning from "the Disney Philosophy"

We covered the course that visited Higashi-Omiya General Hospital in Saitama Prefecture. This hospital was accredited by the Japan Council for Quality Health Care in September 2005 and also known for its high level of customer satisfaction. This day we asked Dr. Sakamoto, the director of the hospital who had learned "Disney Management" to give an unique lecture. Above all, the participants took a great interest in methods to raise the morale of staff and some of them eagerly took notes when the director explained that in Disneyland they coach cleaners saying that "Your job is not only to clean the place but to create a happy space for customers." Among other interesting things he talked about, he took an example of the murals of Cinderella Castle decorated in detail using some 60,000 stones. He said that it is important to pay attention to places where usually nobody takes notice. Besides, in the latter part of his lecture, he explained how active communication is made between those working in the hospital. Some participants made positive remarks saying that "Right after returning to my country, I would like to provide a regular meeting opportunity to discuss with nurses how to improve our daily business operations."



The badge which all of the hospital staff wear

"Management Skills" and "Leadership"

Nursing leaders are required not only to have an ability to manage a whole hospital to provide the best medical care for patients who are the recipients of services but also to provide strong leadership to raise awareness among



Some earnest discussion

the staff who provide individual services and lead them to their mutual goal.

Through the lecture this time, the day may not be far off when "Disney's Magic" works in each hospital where each participant belongs.



Masanori ABE
Human Development Division
JICA Tokyo

Interview with **JICA Rookies**

Have you ever wondered who is writing "That's Kenshu" article, what kinds of people are working in JICA or how they became so passionate about their jobs? To answer such questions, I would like to introduce two JICA rookies, Mr. Masanori ABE and Mr. Tomonori WAKABAYASHI.



Mr. ABE is in charge of Health field training courses and works hard to conduct the training programs every day.

When he was in graduate school, he was the only Japanese student in his seminar and the rest of them were international students from Asian countries. In this

particular circumstance, he found the interest of learning the diversity of their social backgrounds and started to think about what he could do to improve their lives. This unique experience triggered his interest in building up his career in the field of international cooperation.

After entering JICA, he received one year of on-the-job training (OJT) in headquarters and in an overseas office.

In headquarters, he belonged to the Budget and Accounting Department. This department is the place to control the whole budget. It not only makes budget requests to the Ministry of Finance but also has a responsibility to declare how JICA used the budget even it was a small amount. He said, "I got a chance to be involved in making documents for the budget requests and also observe the budget negotiations so now I realize how well the projects are managed. I also felt strongly that the fund for our every project is supported by the Japanese taxpayer so we must always have a great awareness of its appropriate usage."

In his OJT in overseas office, he was dispatched to Laos. His main job there was to assist JICA experts in the governance field. He went to the project sites with them and found out what the local needs were and how the experts met them. He also observed the site where the volunteers worked, and he learnt the

importance of seeking out the solutions to their challenges from the local people's point of view.

He commented on his experience there, "I was very impressed by the name recognition and the project scale of JICA in Laos. Through my OJT experience, I've learned many people are involved in the projects and each plays an important role to operate the project. As a JICA officer, I would always like to think about what I can do to make the projects more effective for further development for other countries: not simply to fulfill my current job but to aim at a further achievement. This is my challenge for the future."

At last, he concluded with his ambition, "When I came along with a training course, I learned "Disney Management." If I use one of the methods in my work, I would focus on individual precise support for participants to carry out their action plans more easily when they go back to their countries. For example, giving them some information about ongoing projects and showing how they can collaborate with those projects. In order to offer this support, I need to perceive accurately the circumstances each country is facing and to review the current projects there." The eyes of the young officer who said this are full of enthusiasm and look ahead to the future.



Vietnam

Myself, five years ago and the society five years later.



For Mr. Tran Viet Cuong who took part in the group training course "The Seminar on Administration by Competent Authorities for Better Management of Water Services" *1 which was conducted from Jun. 7, 2009 to Jun. 20, 2009, this is the second time to participate in JICA training. We interviewed him and asked for his impressions of the previous and present training.

What was the training like that you participated in last time?

Cuong: It was a training course named "Engineering on Water Supply Systems" and I participated in it five years ago. I learned from it practical content for engineers such as the examination of water and the designing of water treatment facilities. Although I am an administrator, I could learn technical matters intensively from that training and as a result I came to understand well what engineers of my country talked about.

Also, during the training this time I met my training coordinator again who took care of me five years ago! It is one of the pleasantest things I experienced this time. I still keep in touch sometimes with my fellow participants from that time.

What were the good things about participating in the training five years ago?



Mr. Cuong (right) and the training coordinator (left) who met again after five years.

Cuong: After returning home, I was transferred to a section involved with planning, implementation and assessment of a project. When I was involved in a project introducing a system to detect leakage, I could make use of the materials I received in Japan and advice I had heard from experts during the training. The materials contained more than

1,000 pages and were very heavy. It was hard to carry them back (laugh). And as I attended lectures in English and had to join the discussions for more than two months, I gained confidence in using English. This time I was able to take part in the discussions without hesitation.

How did you come to participate in this training this time?

Cuong: When my boss told me about the training, my experience five years ago was brought back to memory. What is attractive about JICA training is that it provides us not only an opportunity to learn from Japanese experience but also to discuss things with participants from different countries. So, I decided to apply for this course immediately.

I am very grateful because I am the only one in my organization where nearly a thousand people are working who could come to Japan for the second time.

What kind of things could you learn from the training this time?

Cuong: I was able to gain experience of a lot of advanced technologies from the symposium*2 I took part in during the training. Although introduction of those technologies into Vietnam may be a long way off, it was valuable for me that I could envisage the picture of the future.

In Vietnam, there are such issues as the growing contamination of rivers due to rapid urbanization, a

Interview with ★ JICA Rookies



Mr. WAKABAYASHI devotes himself to carrying on the training course in the field of Environment.

When he was a graduate student in Japan, he joined the one year graduate school program in the U.S. and stayed in a school residence where the international students were staying. He also did his internship in an environmental Non-Profit organization. These experiences taught him about the different views of developed and developing countries on environmental problems, and led him to seek further how these countries can get along with each other.

For his OJT in headquarters, he worked for the Performance Evaluation Division in the General Affairs Department. The function of this division is to evaluate the total performance of JICA as an independent administration agency. One of his roles was to review a few topics in the performance evaluation report. "While I was working in this division, I understood that JICA has a wide variety of works, operations and schemes, and it was definitely a valuable experience," he said.

Then his stage of OJT moved to Senegal. He worked alongside JICA experts and consultants in agricultural/fishery development and environment fields. "I observed the micro aspects of the field such as how people in villages were working for vegetable farming and the effective usage of water supplies from water towers." He added, "Thanks to this experience, I understood more about the real situation in Senegal, and let my imagination run on the situation in other countries. I think it is essential to consider the various situations in



Listening to an explanation about the leak prevention technology at the exhibition site of the symposium.

supply that cannot catch up with the growing demand for water, insufficient funds for capital investment because of low water rates and little understanding among ordinary people about water supply services. Speaking of the people's understanding, there are those who think that a river and each home is connected by nothing but a pipe. They do not think of the water treatment plant that exists in between. Unfortunately, it seems that the function of a water treatment plant is not well understood. And since big



He explained the present situation of waterworks in Vietnam and his future action plan.

rivers flow through several provinces, negotiations among various local governments are becoming difficult. The challenge is to get various concerned parties involved in solving problems working cooperatively.

I had the chance to exchange opinions on these issues with the Japanese experts on water supply services and with the participants from other countries like Brazil, Zambia, Honduras, Philippines, and Nepal who are engaged in water supply services. I will take these results back to Vietnam and convey them to my boss and my colleagues.

At the end Mr. Cuong told us, "My daughter who was one year old at the time is now six. For my daughter's generation, I will try my best to improve the situation even a little five years from now." He took the time for the interview while he was talking with his daughter on the internet. The young father's learning will continue for the future of Vietnam and to deliver good water for the people today.

Editing Listener:

Tomonori WAKABAYASHI

Economic Infrastructure Development
and Environment Division, JICA Tokyo



***1 :** The training course is for administrators involved in water services in developing countries with a lot of problems such as leaks, deterioration of pipes and water pollution. They are to learn how to deal with various problems and how to improve their administrative services through observation of water supply facilities and lectures by Japanese waterworks experts.

***2 :** The 8th International Symposium on Water Supply Technology. Experts on water supply services got together from both inside and outside Japan and active discussions were held for the improvement of water services.

participants' countries when I make a plan on the training course."

While he always tried his best, he made some mistakes in the unfamiliar environment. "I miscalculated the accommodation charge on my first business trip," he admitted with a wry smile, "It was two weeks after I arrived in Senegal and when I got to the hotel in Louga, I found I was some hundreds of dollars short! I desperately negotiated a discount with the front desk and somehow I succeeded in getting the discount." He continued, "This emergency was a very good lesson for me. Now I know the importance of making a confirmation by seeking the reliable information source."

In closing, he expressed his experience as an interviewer, "The interview with Mr. Cuong reminded me that each of the participants comes to Japan with their own background as an individual. By sharing ideas based on their interests, I hope to bring a small seed of happiness to the participants and their families. To build a good relationship with them may lead our cooperation to achieve the most in the future." His positive stance without fear of failure is shining with hope.



Events at JICA Tokyo

JICA Tokyo organizes various
Let's take an advantage of

SHODO ~Japanese Calligraphy~



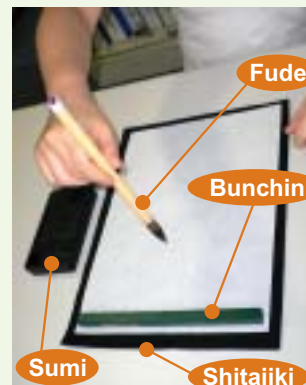
Many participants in "Shodo" class said it was a good opportunity to feel Japanese culture. But what is "Shodo"? For those who have little idea of Japanese Calligraphy, here is the outline of "Shodo":

Q: What is Shodo?

A: It is a form of calligraphy, or artistic writing, of the Japanese language. It is written with "Sumi" (Indian Ink) on "Washi" (Special Japanese Paper). Instead of a pen, "Fude" (Writing Brush) is used.

Q: What is the charm of Shodo class?

A: It must be fascinating and interesting for non-Japanese people to write their names in Japanese letters. Also, working in a quiet atmosphere filled with participants' concentration on writing will give them a good feeling and help them forget their daily stress.



Q: Do you have any advice to the participants of this event?

A: It is better to come to the event in dark clothes. The Indian Ink used for Shodo is like a dye. It is very difficult to wash out the ink if once you get it on your clothes.

IKEBANA ~Japanese Flower Arrangement~

Ikebana has its own principles and arrangement rules differ from western flower arranging. What is it like? Ms. CORPUZ-CABAUATAN from the Philippines tells us her experience.



The teacher of Ikebana taught us the principles and the basic mechanics of Ikebana. By learning Ikebana, I saw the Japanese ability to apply such impressive skills to the art of flower arrangement. Though one has to follow certain rules to do Ikebana, one has to

incorporate imagination and creativity to formulate one's own way from the basics. My experience of Ikebana made me conclude that the creativity in Ikebana could be the same principle the Japanese apply to various products such as cars or electric appliances.

Ikebana sometimes uses plants which look like mere weeds. Regarded as impediments in the growth of ornamental plants, they are cut down and thrown away in my country. However, Ikebana uses them to enhance the beauty of the other flowers being arranged. This idea was totally new to me, and I am happy I learned a new way of appreciating the beauty of nature.

Learning Ikebana not only refreshes yourselves, it also deepens your understanding of Japanese culture and its people.



Ms. Mary Jane CORPUZ-CABAUATAN
(The Philippines)

ORIGAMI ~Japanese Paper Craft~

ORIGAMI is one of the traditional Japanese arts. The characteristic of ORIGAMI is to create an object from a piece of paper without using any glue or scissors.

JICA Tokyo invites an ORIGAMI instructor from NIPPON ORIGAMI ASSOCIATION and she teaches you how to

fold and create an object by using an OHP.



The person in charge of this class, Ms. Yayoi NUMATA tells us about the class.



We create four objects in a class. Every time the objects we create are changed but the Active Form Crane and the Hang Glider are regular objects.

The most popular object in this class is the pounding heart. After you fold a piece of paper step by step, what a wonder! A square

paper turned into the heart shape! Moreover, if you pull a tab on the back of the heart, it starts pounding.

You might think that you should be skillful with your fingers to create ORIGAMI, but don't worry! Besides the instructor, four staff will be there to assist you if you cannot quite follow the instruction. Please join us to experience Japanese Paper Art!



events all through the year! these opportunities to enjoy your stay in Japan!

Japanese Cooking Class

When we talk about the autumn in Japan, it's autumn eating!"

In Japanese Cooking class, we are going to cook Japanese Clear Soup, Tempura, Vinegar Seasoned Rice with Mixed Vegetables(or Steamed Rice with Mushroom), and a Sweet Flower Potato Basket. This is part of the typical Japanese home cooking so you can glimpse a Japanese kitchen through this class!!



The highlight of the cooking class from the cooking instructor Ms. Yoshiko KOTAKE:

There are two ways to enjoy Japanese cuisine. One is to enjoy the taste of the natural flavor of the ingredients. Another is to enjoy the layout and presentation of the food. I hope this class triggers your understanding of a part of the authentic Japanese sense of beauty and culture. Please join us and enjoy Japanese food with your tongue and with your eyes.



Comment from Ms. Dorothy FOLIAKI (Tonga):

The Japanese cooking class was an awesome experience. The lady chefs were very friendly and skillful. Above all, the food was both healthy and tasty!

Live Music Concert by Suginami High School Wind Orchestra

Music is one of the best ways to relax and unwind. Enjoying live music with friends gives you great energy. JICA Tokyo invites Suginami High School Wind Orchestra twice a year and many JICA participants are uplifted by their music.



A Message from the Conductor, Mr. Kiyoshi IGARASHI

Suginami High School Wind Orchestra consists of 100 high school students aged between 15 and 18.

At our concert, you can enjoy various types of music such as classical and pop. Not only that, but you can also enjoy a dance performance. It is a fantastic event! Feel the music with your whole body.

Clap your hands, or sing along with the familiar melodies. Enjoy the music in any way that you want to. Please come to our live concert when you feel the need to take time out from your training.

Suginami High School Wind Orchestra is a top level wind orchestra, having won the second prize at the National Wind Orchestra competition.

We believe our concert will provide you with great memories of your stay in Japan.



Nishihara Community Sports Day

The autumn is the season for sports! Every October, our neighbors, Nishihara Community holds the Community Sports Day! Of course, all JICA participants are invited to this event. Those who are active or feel a lack of exercise or are just curious about a Japanese Sports Day, let's work up a nice sweat with local people under the brisk autumn sky!!!

Human Caterpillar: Two people get in a caterpillar made from a cardboard box and line up inside. Then, they move it forward like a tank. Once you get in the caterpillar, you never know which direction you go. It's a fun and thrilling game!



Big Couple: In this game, you unroll toilet paper! Then, you find a partner and carry a balloon and break it with him or her. The secret of its popularity is you can do the things you can't do in our everyday life and share a common goal with an unknown partner.



The popular games introduced by the coordinator, Ms. Junko SATO:



Mixed Relay Game: The rule is quite simple. You just need to receive a baton and run and pass it to the next person. It doesn't matter if you are a fast runner or a slow runner. Your participation is what counts!



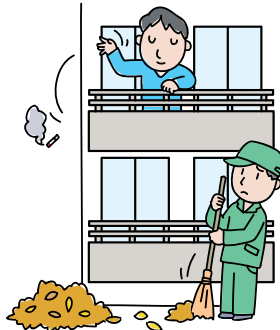


"Fire?" That's not going to happen to me!" If you think like this, please think again!

After the hot and humid summer is gone, we have a nice and cool autumn. In this season, the air is getting drier and the wind is getting stronger. We also have many deciduous trees and sidewalks will be covered with fallen leaves. Under these conditions, fire is more likely to break out. Now, let's review what we can do to prevent the fire in our daily life.



Do you discard cigarette butts on the street or from the balcony of your room?



Do you smuggle cooking devices like cooking stoves into your room and cook in your room?



Do you smoke in your bed?

If one of these questions rings a bell, please stop now. It's already too late when it happens. It's not only your problem but also others too. We are sharing the living space with many people, so let's follow the rules to have a comfortable life in TIC!



Beautiful Shin-hanga ? Revitalization of Ukiyo-e

よみがえる浮世絵展 —うるわしき大正新版画展—

"Shin-hanga", the modern woodblock print using traditional techniques like the Ukiyo-e woodblock prints of the Edo Period, flourished from the early 19th century in Japan. At that period, the traditional woodblock technique was dying out, so the painters, block carvers, and printers started to produce more than 2000 "Shin-hanga" to revive the traditional techniques and to create new art. In 1930s, "Shin-hanga" was introduced to and acclaimed in western countries.

Robert Muller was one of the collectors of "Shin-hanga". Since the first time he saw it in the showcase of a Japanese art shop in NY, he was very impressed by the exquisite printing techniques and the straightforward depiction of nature or scenery. This was the beginning of the Muller Collection. After he passed away, his family donated over 4000 prints of his collection to the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery.

In this exhibition, you can see 30 prints from the Muller Collection and this is the first time they have been shown in Japan. Why don't you take this chance to immerse yourself in the Japanese modern art?

Kōka Yamamura,
The Actor Matsumoto Kōshiro VII as Sukeroku, from the series of "Rien no hana"

Place: Edo-Tokyo Museum (江戸東京博物館)

1 Floor Exhibition Room

(3 mins walk from West Exit of Ryogoku Station on JR Sobu Line, 1 min walk from A4 Exit of Ryogoku Station on Toei Oedo Subway Line)

Date: until November 8 (Sun.)

Closed on Mondays (however, opens on October 12(Mon.), closed on October 13(Tue.))

Time: 9:30~17:30 (until 19:30 on Saturday)

Last entry 30mins before the closing time

Admission: ¥1,300

* Free tickets are available at the JICA Tokyo Information Desk on a first-come, first-served basis.

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THE HABSBURGS

THE ハプスブルク

The Habsburgs made a sudden rise in Europe in the 13th century and reigned until the early 20th century. The successive kings loved the arts and gave them sanctuary. This sanctuary built a high-quality collection to hand down the essence of European Arts.

In this Exhibition, not only court painters related to the Habsburgs like Durer, Tiziano, Velazquez, and Rubens but also Cranach, Raphael, El Greco, and Goya's masterpieces are shown. The picture book which the Meiji Emperor had given to the Emperor Franz Joseph I as a friendship gift is also showcased for the first time in Japan. This is a large scale exhibition and you can see about 120 pieces of pictures and craftworks related to the Habsburgs from the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Wein and the Budapest Museum of Fine Arts.

This year is the 140th anniversary since Japan established diplomatic relations with Hungary and Austria. Let's take advantage of this special occasion and let our minds drift over the era when the greatest royal house flourished in Europe!

Andreas Möller
Empress Maria Theresia(1717-1780)at the Age of Eleven
©Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna

Place: The National Art Center, Tokyo (国立新美術館)

(Directly connected to Nogizaka Station on Chiyoda Subway Line, or 4 min walk from Exit7 of Roppongi Station on Oedo Subway Line)

Date: until December 14 (Mon.)

Closed on Tuesdays (however, opens on November 3 (Tue.), closed November 4(Wed.))

Time: 10:00-18:00 (till 20:00 on Fridays)

Last entry 30 mins before the closing time

Admission: ¥1,500

* Free Tickets are available at the JICA Tokyo Information Desk on a first-come, first-served basis.