



We kept paying attention to face masks and disinfection. As the number of people increased, so did the topics. The main topics were studying Japanese, the current corona situation, and so on.

<http://www.ia21.jp/talkroom2011.jpg> ←Talking

#### Chinese poetry created by Prince Nagaya (Leshan City Committee)

When the new corona virus broke out in Wuhan, China in January this year, one poetry, which was written in kanji on relief supplies shipped from Oita City to Wuhan, became popular in China and its value has increased. Its poetry was created originally by Prince Nagaya (AD684-729), the grandson of Emperor Tenchi, and was sent to China by the Mission to Tang.

“No same mountain or river in China and Japan, The Sun and moon, all beneath the same sky. Hope is placed in children of the Buddha, To create the future together as one.”

Also, when the steel company in Wuhan requested supports, the factory in Oita pref. accepted and trained about 200 Chinese engineers. And many Japanese engineers were also invited to Wuhan and transferred technology to them. They started exchange widely such as education, sports, and agricultural inspections between Oita and Wuhan.

I am touched by these facts that there are people in both Japan and China who understand and respond to Chinese poetry and cultural exchanges 1300 years ago and now. Although it is not always good relationship, we share the rare kanji culture in the world together, value cultural exchange mutually, and wishes for the prosperity of Japan-China friendship and exchange.

#### Current status of Japanese Language Classes (Japanese Language Committee)

After the temporarily closing last March, Japanese language classes in Ichikawa have been gradually reopening since August and almost 80% of the classes are now active. Among them 30% of the classes are providing online lessons using software such as Zoom. It will take some time for the classes to become fully active due to physical restrictions in the classrooms to maintain social distancing.

You can check the latest situation of classes in this URL.

<http://www.ia21.jp/jpnschool.html>

#### Yoga Lesson (Buddies)

Buddies had stretching and Yoga Lesson in October with our instructor, Mr. Shinozaki . As it was the first meeting after a long absence due to the impact of coronavirus, members were happy to see faces each other. We shared each one's experience how to spend the time in the self-restraint period. We came to know that someone enjoyed walking outside, someone discovered a new hobby and all members gathered were well and active.

The stretching was easy to learn and I decided to repeat it at my home.

At the next meeting, we will share the tips to enjoy daily life in each country's manner, and it must be fun.

<http://www.iaa21.jp/buddiesyoga20111.jpg> ←yoga lesson

<http://www.iaa21.jp/buddiesyoga20112.jpg> ←yoga lesson

### **High school entrance exam guidance for non-native Japanese speak parents and students**

This event was threatened due to the coronavirus, but we were able to finish it safely. The number of participants were 24 junior high school students and their guardians. A total of 84 people participated, including high school teachers, interpreters, and volunteers. To prevent corona infection, this guidance was divided into two parts and all participants were measured the temperature at the entrance. They disinfected hands and put on a mask. The organizer paid attention to ventilation, disinfected and cleaned tables and chairs when exchanging 1st and 2nd parts.

The entrance exam system will change from this year. Just one chance only. This new system will be tougher for foreign students who are handicapped in Japanese. After the detail explanation of the entrance exam system. high school teachers explained characteristics and life of their high schools.

Thanks to everyone's cooperation, we were able to proceed as planned without any problems. I am deeply grateful. I hope that all students will be able to overcome this entrance exam and enter high schools successfully.

### **Events information**

Please see <http://www.iaa21.jp/e/index.html>