

Study Tour ● Shimbun

修学旅行 新聞 Shūgakyokō Shimbun - Newsletter Join Japan

www.joinjapan.nl

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Only 7 months until departure

With only 7 months to go, it is time for the first Newsletter of the Study Tour Join Japan. The Study Tour committee is taking only half of the 'normal' amount of courses and that makes that the Study Tour Chamber, HT1213, is more and more used. The more time for organising the study tour is visible in the progress. For most of you is already a contract research scheduled, and behind the doors of HT1213, excursions and the educational part are organised. Progress went from a sprinter, to a intercity, and will hopefully go to a high-speed train and in the end a maglev (see page 4).

The response of you is however still like a very slow light rail train. We would like to change that to the much more noisy Bufalo, which disappeared from the track a few months ago. In the lower left corner are some To Do-points. Further, there is a challenge on the last page of the newsletter. Because we obviously do not want to derail, we would make clear what to think about

when planning the after study tour travelling.

The study tour ends Sunday 21 October in Hiroshima. It is possible to travel by Shinkansen in all directions that day, free from charge for you.

The first flight back is Monday 22 October from Tokyo at 10:00 a.m. For the people taking this flight a hotel will be booked for 21 October to 22 October in Tokio.

After your own organised travel you have to take a flight on either Sunday 28 October (1 week), 4 November (2 weeks) or 11 November (3 weeks) from Tokio at 11:00 a.m. The committee arranges this flight.

So if you did not yet let us know what your plans are: do it now! And then after you also send your introduction text and picture: enjoy reading further.

To Do + Dates to remember

To Do

Send an introduction text and picture of yourself for the website:
See the infomail of January.

1 Mar

Let Anouk know your after study tour travel plans:
travel@joinjapan.nl

31 Mar

Deadline first payment (€ 400)
IBAN: NL79 RABO 0396 7607 40
Studievereniging ConcepT, Studiereis
Deelnemersbijdrage termijn 1 [Lastname]

9 May

Stadium Generale Japan.
Keep 9:00 - 12:30 free

Japanese 101

How are you? - お元気ですか? (o genki desu ka)

What's your name? - お名前はなんですか? (o-namae wa nan desu ka)

My name is... - ... です (... desu)

Pleased to meet you - 初めまして (hajimemashite)

Goodbye - さようなら (sayōnara)

Have a nice day - 良い一日を (Yoi ichinichi o)

I don't understand - わかりません (wakarimasen)

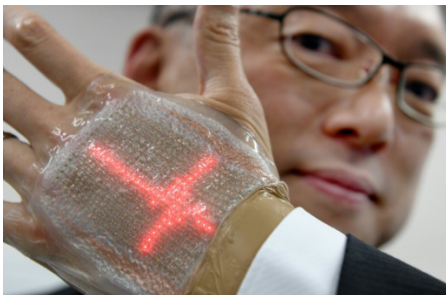
Do you speak English? - 英語はできますか (Eigo wa dekimasu ka?)

Sorry - ごめんなさい! (gomen nasai)

Help! - 助けて! (tasukete!)

News from the land of the rising sun

Japanese team builds skin message display



Palmreading could take on a whole new meaning thanks to a new invention from Japan: an ultra-thin display and monitor that can be stuck directly to the body.

The display consists of a array of micro LEDs and stretchable wiring on a rubber sheet. It also incorporates a lightweight sensor composed of a breathable “nanomesh” electrode, and a wireless communication module. “Because this device can stretch, we now can paste a display on things with complex shapes, like skin.” It can be placed on the human body for a week without causing skin inflammation, and is so light that users might forget they are wearing it.

Takao Someya, the University of Tokyo professor who developed the device, envisions it as a boon for medical professionals with bed-ridden or far-flung patients, as well as family living far from their relatives. Slapped onto a hand, it could flash reminders to patients to take their medicine, or even allow far-away grandchildren to communicate with their grandparents.

NTT develops eco-friendly battery



Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp says it has developed an eco-friendly battery that can be disposed of in soil without harming the surrounding environment. The Japanese telecommunication giant assumes it will become difficult to retrieve and recycle all batteries used in sensors and other parts of those products, likely damaging the environment.

Unlike conventional batteries, which contain zinc alloy, rare metals and, in some cases, materials harmful to the environment, the new battery is made from components of fertilizer and other natural elements so it can safely return to soil.

NTT tested the safety of the battery by burying the smashed fragments of the used battery beside a vegetable, and it did not negatively affect the growth of the vegetable in contrast to a conventional battery. However, since the battery’s capacity is still limited, NTT will continue its research to commercialize it.

669 dubious cryptocurrency transactions reported in 2017



A total of 669 cases of dubious cryptocurrency transactions, such as suspected money laundering cases, were reported by exchange operators to authorities in Japan in 2017, a National Police Agency report showed. About 500 cases, or over 70 percent of the total, were reported in the final three months of the year.

Beginning April last year, cryptocurrency exchanges are obliged to report suspicious transactions to authorities. According to the Financial Services Agency, in Japan as of Feb. 2, there were 16 registered cryptocurrency exchanges and as many exchanges applying for registration.

The report showed that 146 cases of dubious transactions were reported to authorities by jewelry and precious metals dealers, up over five-fold from the previous year. The rise apparently reflected growth in the number of gold bullion smuggling cases.

News from the Study Tour Chamber

part of the tour with the educational board to ensure the courses are as challenging and entertaining as possible. Furthermore, Jeroen is working on arranging excursions in Japan. For this, we maintain in close contact with professors of Japanese universities. As you might know, Japan has a strong hierarchical structure. In this way, we have the most chance to visit exciting locations.

But we’re not only going to visit civil engineering related sites. We’re also interested in the beautiful scenery and culture that Japan has to offer. Therefore, Anouk is working hard to complete the travel journey, coordinate all your travel plans and of course find the best leisure activities.

As some of you already have discovered, and some of you will soon, all of this comes at a price. To reduce this price, you’re obliged to fulfil the contract research to partly pay for the tour. Willem is busy with finding suitable researches for all.

Whilst we as committee are working hard to make the study tour possible, it might be a little vague what we’re all up with. Therefore, we’ll give you a quick update. At this time, we’re working on almost all aspects of the study tour. We’re discussing the educational

How to eat with chopsticks

We have already seen some worried faces. ‘Oh no, we have to eat with chopsticks, right?’ and ‘I am definitely going to lose weight, I can’t eat with chopsticks!’ are phrases we have heard from you. Don’t worry! Here is the solution! Special for you, a tutorial about how to hold and use chopsticks and some etiquettes you should not forget.

Step 1: Hold your dominant hand loosely. People who clench their chopsticks usually just end up flinging their food all over the place. Place the first chopstick in the valley between your pointer finger and thumb. Balance it on your ring finger.



Step 2: Place the second chopstick in the valley between your pointer finger and thumb along with the first chopstick, but rest this one on your middle finger instead of your ring finger.



Step 3: Use your thumb, pointer and middle fingers to grasp the second chopstick a bit more tightly.



By: Anouk van Daatselaar

Step 4: The first chopstick (on the bottom) remains more or less stationary. The index and middle fingers do all the heavy lifting with the second chopstick. Lets have a demonstration (don’t worry you don’t need to eat your grapes with chopsticks, this is just an example). Using your index and middle fingers to move the top chopstick up and down, open up your chopsticks.



And close them over the food. Remember to keep your hand loose but still maintain good control over that chopstick. You’ll really be tested when picking up heavier pieces of food.



Once you’ve got a good grip, go ahead and pick it up.



And that’s it.

I am pretty sure you will get this under the knee. And don’t worry, for your soup you will get a spoon. → continues at page 4...

More about excursions

During the meeting 3 weeks ago, something was told about some interesting excursions. Here, Jeroen will tell some more of 3 of these excursions

New National Stadium 新国立競技場



The new National Stadium is a multi-purpose stadium under construction in Tokyo. The stadium will serve as the main stadium for the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as being the venue for track and field events at the Olympics of 2020. The old Olympic stadium is demolished and on the same place, this new stadium arises. We'll probably have an excursion to the stadium and have a look at the construction site.



Kansai airport 関西国際空港



Kansai opened 4 September 1994 to relieve overcrowding at Osaka International Airport, which is closer to the city of Osaka and now handles only domestic flights. In the 1960s, when the Kansai region was rapidly losing trade to Tokyo, planners proposed a new airport near Kobe and Osaka. Osaka International Airport, located in the densely populated suburbs of Itami and Toyonaka, was surrounded by buildings; it could not be expanded, and many of its neighbours had filed complaints because of noise pollution problems. An artificial island, 4 km long and 2.5 km wide, was proposed. Engineers needed to overcome the extremely high risks of earthquakes and typhoons (with storm surges of up to 3 m). The water depth is 18 m on top of 20 m of soft Holocene clay which holds 70% water. A million sand drains were built into the clay to remove water and solidify the clay.

Maglev JR-Central



Maglev (derived from magnetic levitation) is a system of train transportation that uses two sets of magnets, one set to repel and push the train up off the track as in levitation (hence Maglev, Magnetic-levitation), then another set to move the 'floating train' ahead at great speed taking advantage of no friction.

With Maglev technology, there are no moving parts. The train travels along a guideway of magnets which control the train's stability and speed. Maglev trains are therefore quieter and smoother than conventional trains, and have the potential for much higher speeds. A new high speed maglev line, the Chuo Shinkansen is planned to become operational in 2027, with construction starting 2017.

... → continuation of page 3

Etiquette with chopsticks

Never leave your chopsticks crossed on your plate, bowl or table: For the same reason as the one above.

Do not spear food on your chopstick: It is not kind. Japanese people see chopsticks almost as something holy.

Do not pass food with chopsticks, placing it directly on someone's plate: A part of a Buddhistic cremation is to pass bones of the diseased person with chopsticks.

Do not use two different chopsticks: Also this is related to funerals and sacrificing.

Do not speak or walk with chopsticks in your mound and do not use them for another purpose than eating.

Apparently, a lot of dead and misery comes with eating with chopsticks. I hope we will not experience that.

Never put your chopsticks upright in your rice: It's the way a bowl of rice is offered to the spirit of a dead person, at their deathbed or in front of their photograph on the household Buddhist altar.

City of the month: Nagoya

During the study tour, we will visit several Japanese cities. However, there are many cities we will not visit. In this series, some of the cities we will not visit are explored. In this first edition: Nagoya.

Nagoya is with 2.28 million inhabitants (in 2015) the fourth biggest city in Japan. The total Chūkyō metropolitan area has more than 9 million inhabitants. Nagoya is located in the center of Japan's biggest island Honshu, and therefore an important city connecting east and west Japan. Its location on the Pacific Coast makes it one of the important harbors of Japan.

The history of Nagoya begins in 1610, when the powerful landlord Tokugawa Iyeyasu moved the capital of the Owari Province from Kiyosu to the more strategic Nagoya. The full city of Kiyosu was moved to the new-built city around a new castle. This castle and the Atsuta Shrine, a waystation on the road between the two capitals of Kyoto and Edo (now Tokyo), are the places that formed the city.

Between 1887 and 1912, problems due to floods of the Kisogawa river were solved by channelization of the river, a plan developed by the Dutch Johannes de Rijke.

In the twentieth century, Nagoya started to grow as an industrial hub for pottery and cotton, and later aviation industry with the Mitsubishi Aircraft Company. Today, automotive is Nagoya's main industry. The city of Toyota-shi is situated near Nagoya. The harbour of Nagoya is the biggest harbour in Japan measured to tonnage.



Nagoya University is one of the best Universities in Japan, and ranked 72nd worldwide. It won four Nobel prizes in Physics and two in Chemistry. Also Biology, biochemistry and mathematics are famous for their high research standards.

Fun fact: The car brand Toyota was not named to the city Toyota-shi, but the city was named to the car brand.



Japanese dishes for students:

Reishabu chilled sliced pork salad with ponzu

Enjoy this chilled salad on a hot summer's day. Reishabu comes from the words for 'chilled' and 'shabu-shabu' the meat dish where you place thin strips of meat in boiling water to cook them. Using thin strips of pork belly or loin makes this not only easy to cook, but also fun as well. Paired with ponzu soy sauce and grated daikon, this is a refreshing dish sure to cool you on the hottest of days.



Ingredients

- 250 g thinly sliced pork, belly or loin
- 50 g daikon mooli radish
- plum tomatoes
- mixed salad leaves
- ponzu citrus soy sauce

Preperation

1. In a small saucepan, bring some water to the boil. Reduce to a simmer once boiling.
2. Take a slice of the pork loin or belly as per your preference, and place it into the simmering water. Allow to cook for about 1-2 mins until the colour has fully changed. Set the slice on a refrigerator safe plate.
3. Repeat the previous step for all remaining slices.
4. Place the cooked pork slices in the refrigerator until chilled. If you want to speed this process up for a quick meal, feel free to place the pork in a bowl of ice water until chilled.
5. Grate the daikon mooli radish; this is called oroshi in Japanese. Cut the tomatoes into quarters.
6. Plate the mixed salad leaves on a plate and top with the tomatoes and pork slices. Top with the grated daikon and then pour on the ponzu citrus soy sauce to taste. Enjoy on a hot summer day for lunch or a light dinner.

Rectification

During the pub quiz there was some confusion regarding the longest bridge of Japan and the world. The answer stated that the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge is the longest bridge of the word with a length of 3.911 metres. This is not true. The Akashi Kaikyo Bridge has the longest central span of any suspension bridge. The suspension is 1.991 metres long, pretty impressive still.

To make matters worse. The pictures you were shown weren't the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge. The pictures were of the Great Seto Bridge, which is 13.1 kilometres long, still not the longest bridge on earth though. However, the Great Seto Bridge is a double deck bridge. And there is where the confusion is complete, because it's the longest double deck bridge in the world. So, to summarize, you were shown the Great Seto Bridge, which is the longest double deck bridge in the world. The question referred to the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge, which has the longest central span of suspension bridges.



Akashi Kaikyo Bridge

3,991 metres long
longest central span of any suspansion bridge: 1,991 metres



Great Seto Bridge

13.1 km long
longest double deck bridge of the world

Will we survive the Japanese culture?

By: Willem Trommelen

One of the main reasons we decided to go to Japan, are the cultural differences. Investigating those differences will be part of the educational part of the study tour, but what are the most important difficulties we can expect during our trip? I did some research to the cultural differences that will surprise us during the study tour.

The Japanese culture

To find out what causes the huge differences, we have to go back in time. Since the 15th century, almost the entire world has been colonized at least once. There are only 5 countries in the world that have never been (partially) colonized or influenced by Europeans: Thailand, North Korea, South Korea, Liberia and... Japan!

In those centuries, from 1600 until 1867, the Japanese lived under control of the Tokugawa family. The regime during this period was very strict and this is an important cause of the standards nowadays in Japan.

The Tokugawa dynasty determined which clothes to wear for all social classes and people lived according to a fixed pattern. Hierarchy was very of the Tokugawa period. Combined with schools where creativity is not part of the program, this lead to some differences we will experience.

Japanese people will not deviate from their standards and values when they speak to someone, because in that situation they have to confront that person to use creativity to respond.

Those standards and values also mean that people always want to belong to groups, for example the family. Mothers found it very important to involve their babies in the family. Therefore, a mother will carry her baby by herself and not in a pram. A baby sleeps in his parent's bed as long as possible. Because Japanese people always want to belong to groups, they often work at the same company their whole life.



Visiting companies in Japan

Formal clothes are important in Japan, so do not forget them! Japanese business men wear simple suits, because they are afraid not to be taken seriously. Do not claim a chair immediately when entering the room, because your chair is determined by your status. The host will tell you where to sit. You greet someone by curtsying. Do not shake hands.

It will be appreciated to give a business gift, but not in a multiple of 4 (or a package of 4). In Japanese, four is pronounced the same as death. If people are too shy to speak English, let them write down their sentences or drink some alcohol with them in a karaoke bar.



The second thing you should not forget is a business card, because the Japanese want to know your function. You have to take the card from a pocket in your jacket, do not keep them in your back pocket.

The Japanese kitchen

Another cultural aspect we should prepare for is the Japanese kitchen. Japan consists of islands, so fish is often the most important ingredient. Other important ingredients are rice, soy sauce and wasabi. Rice is a main ingredient in the breakfast, lunch and dinner. As you know, we have to eat with chopsticks in Japan, also soup! You have to drink the soup and you should make slurping noises, because the taste will increase if you do so.



The most discussed Japanese dish is blow fish, which is the most delicious fish according to the Japanese. The fish itself is incredibly toxic and can therefore only be cooked by a certified cook. The toxic elements of the fish should not be touched when preparing the fish, because the toxic will come free then. Every year people die from the consequences of wrongly prepared blow fish.

Addresses

The final cultural difference that will surprise us the first day are the addresses. I think we will all get lost in the busy streets of Tokyo. Not only because taxi drivers do not speak English, but mainly because Japan doesn't use street names. Have a look on Google Maps, you will see that an address is formed by the province, city, neighborhood, postal code and a house number. That means that you do not know whether consecutive house numbers are located next to each other or for example around the corner.

Adress of the University of Tokio:

東京都文京区本郷 7 - 3 - 1

Japan, Tokyo, Bunkyo-ku, Hongo, 7-3-1

Japanese puzzle

You have a grid of squares, which must be marked either black or white. Next to each row of the grid, the length of a number of consecutive black squares is shown in that row. Above each column of the grid, the length of the number of consecutive black squares in that column is shown. Your goal is to find all the black squares.

Left click on a square to make it black. Right click on the mark with X. Click and drag to mark more than one square.

[illegible]

Challenge

Three weeks ago was the first participants activity. Of course, we are planning to do more activities. In order to consistently set up a successful activity, we think it is a good idea to involve you here. That is why we have the challenge to come up a fun participant activity. Take into account a budget of approximately € 10 per person. Send your answer to info@joinjapan.nl. The best entry will get a nice price!