



京都 News **KAPS**

Newsletter of the Kyoto Association of Pinoy Scholars (KAPS), Vol. 1, No. 1 September 11, 2006

Yokouso... Omedetou...

Congratulations new Pinoy scholars bound for Japan!

KAPS: Upholding Pinoy scholarship, rich Pinoy heritage

Geared towards the goal of upholding Filipino scholarship and the rich Pinoy heritage and culture, and with a strong bond, solidarity and common interest and aspiration that tie them as Filipinos and as scholars and ambassadors of goodwill in Kyoto, Japan, a group of Filipino scholars-students met on April 16, 2006 to finalize the founding of the Kyoto Association of Pinoy Scholars (KAPS), its structures and framework.



The group again held a meeting on July 17 at the house of Prof. Casilda Luzares and elected the following officers: President, Jose Camacho Jr.; Vice President, Nova Navo; Secretary, Ria Parsram; Chair, internal affairs, Rhoda Agdeppa; Chair, external affairs, Nicolle Comafay, Co-chair, Emily Antonio; Chair, finance committee, Roderick Bugador, Co-chair, Ryan Banal; Chairs, Publication & Information, Vincent Louie Tan, Consorcio Namoco. The advisers are Prof. Jojo Abinales, Prof. Ruth Carlos and Prof. Casilda Luzares.

KAPS' next major activity is its participation at the Pistahan sa Kyoto '06, to celebrate Philippine – Japan Friendship. Two symposia will be organized. One will tackle Japan's official development assistance and development cooperation in the Philippines. The other will discuss issues and problems of Filipino students and professionals in Japan. A Filipino booth will also be set up to showcase the rich culture and heritage of the Philippines. The group also plans to launch a KAPS website and an emergency loan-financial assistance scheme. (Ria Parsram, MA Language Education Program, Ritsumeikan University)

Come, Join Us! Pistahan sa Kyoto '06

Pistahan sa Kyoto '06 is a celebration of the Japan-Philippine Friendship Year. It aims to further cultivate development cooperation, cross-cultural interchange and communication between Philippines and Japan. The relationship between these two countries has been dramatically advanced and further heightened not only at the level of diplomacy and economic cooperation, but also in tourism, culture, and education.

Pistahan sa Kyoto '06 will be held on November 3, Friday (Japan's National Holiday), 10am to 7pm at the Campus Plaza Kyoto (7 minutes from northwest exit of JR Kyoto Station). The program is being coordinated by Professor Mamoru Tsuda, and Atty. Ivy Pascua, Research Student, Osaka University of Foreign Studies.

KXU "...the common thread that binds us all"

Current and past Pinoy scholars in Kyoto are strongly linked to each other through KXU, an e-group created by Joy Duldulao, a Monbukagakusho doctorate scholar in Chemistry at Kyoto University. Joy is now back in the Philippines as a



supervising science specialist at the Philippine Rice Research Institute, based at the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. In the e-group's homepage, Joy wrote "Kyoto, the K of KXU, is the common thread that binds all members of this group. It is the locale we call our home away from home. (cont'd, KXY p 2)

(KXU, from p. 1)

The X and U signify the diversity of the group. A diversity which, when taken in a positive stride, can lead to the fruition of brilliant thoughts and deeds. Otherwise, it leads to worthless divisiveness.

X and U also broadly define the membership of the group. The U's (you) are the current members while the X's (ex) are those who have left Kyoto. This explains, together with our diversity, the Unlimited in our name.

Though unlimited, membership to KXU comes with a big responsibility. Since we number so little relative to other foreigners in Kyoto, there are only a few we can rely on. It is thus imperative that we support each other's needs in whatever way, be it moral, spiritual, financial or academic. It is also on these areas that the X's can share their wisdom. We might be as diverse as the schools we came from, as the schools we are in now, as the lives and families we left back home, but these cannot be reasons for us not to be one in helping each other and in having a little slice of fun.

Welcome to KXU!!!

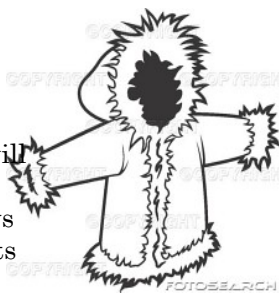
USEFUL INFORMATION FOR EASY LIVING IN JAPAN

Living alone, in a foreign country at that, can be a very daunting experience. That is one of the reasons why KAPS was formed, to help ease the difficult transition of starting a new life (at least for a few months) in Kyoto. Do not be ashamed to ask questions TO ANYONE. Also, do not forget to grab a copy of "Easy Living in Kyoto," which is issued for free by the Kyoto City government. It outlines everything one has to do to stay legitimately in Japan, among other useful information. Use your university's foreign student division to get as much information as possible. If language is a problem, make them find someone to translate to you everything in English. That is their job. Finally, if all else fails, DO NOT hesitate to approach any KAPS member for help.

THINGS TO BRING:

Warm Clothing

Don't bring much because it will eat up your precious luggage space. Besides, you can always buy these items in flea markets and bazaars in your area.



Footwear

Bring comfortable footwear (formal and casual). Avoid high heels for ladies since long-distance walking is common in Japan.

Formal Wear

For formal gatherings such as seminars, school affairs, parties etc.

Native Costume

For gatherings or functions where you will represent the Philippines

Medicine

Basic items such as pain relievers or paracetamol, diarrhea, cold medicines and vitamins. Please take note of the expiration date.

Toiletries

For immediate use such as bathsoap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, and sanitary napkins for women

Philippine Souvenirs

For your Japanese and foreign classmates and host families.

Gift for Adviser

In general, it is a standard to give gift to your adviser but some adviser gives other meaning to that gesture, so be aware and careful with that. (Cont'd *USEFUL*, p.3)



(USEFUL from p 2)

ACCOMMODATIONS

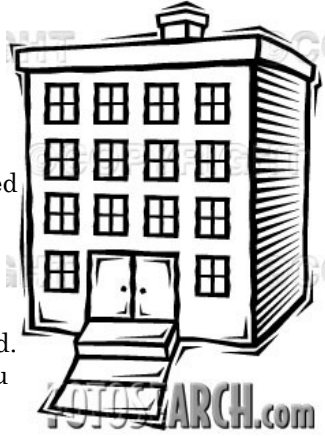
Dormitory

Dormitories are relatively cheap than apartments and usually furnished with shared toilet and bath, and kitchen.

Apartment

Apartments compared to dormitories are not furnished. Aside from monthly rent, you need to pay for utilities. However, sometimes it is included in

the rent, depending on the company. A two or three month deposit is also required which is usually refundable upon termination of the contract. Likewise, key money, which is considered as “gift money” to your landlord is not refundable. The amount depends on the company/landlord. In the Kansai area, the key money is relatively high.



TRANSPORTATION

Train

Train is the best way to travel in Japan. From local trains to shinkansen (bullet trains), Japanese trains are classified into the following categories:

Local – trains stop at every station

Rapid – trains skip some stations

Express – trains stop at even fewer stations than rapid trains

Limited Express – trains stop only at major stations

Super Express (shinkansen/bullet train) – only operated by Japan Railways (JR) and uses separate tracks and platforms. A limited express fee has to be paid in addition to base fare.

Bus

In many cities or city centers, for example in central Kyoto, a flat fare applies, i.e. you always pay the same price regardless of how far you travel (Y220 for adults and Y110 for children). Enter the bus through the back door (or front door if there is only one door. If you do not have the exact fare, use the changing machine to get small coins next to the driver.

Taxi

Taxi fares typically start around Y600-700 for the first two kilometers and increase by roughly 100 Yen for every additional 500 meters traveled. The cost also increases when the taxi is not moving for a prolonged time. Late in the evening, rates are raised by 20-30 percent. The taxi's left rear door is opened and closed remotely by the driver. You are not supposed to open or close it by yourself.



Bicycle

In Japanese, bicycles are known as *jitensha* or *charinko* (slang). The most common bicycles for every day use are typically equipped with a basket and/or a child seat (or two), a simple lock, a kickstand and just one gear. If you buy a new bicycle, the registration process will likely be handled by the store, but if you take over a used bicycle from somebody else, you are supposed to re-register the bicycle under your name at the local police station in order to avoid misunderstandings.

BANKING

Japanese banks are usually open Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 15:00. In order to open an account at a Japanese bank, a foreigner requires to present his/her Alien Registration Card, the document any foreigner needs to apply for when staying in Japan for more than 90 days. An *inkan* (personal stamp) or signature is also needed. Japanese banks offer automatic teller machines (ATM) and cash dispensers (CD). At ATMs, one can pay, withdraw, deposit, transfer money and pay bills. At CDs, however, it is usually only

possible to withdraw money. Most ATMs and CDs are unavailable on weekends and during the night, but the

number of 24h ATMs are increasing. The machines found in convenience stores, for example, are often available around the clock.

UTILITIES

Electricity

The voltage throughout Japan is 100 Volt. The frequency of electric current is 50 Hertz in Eastern Japan (including Tokyo, Yokohama, Tohoku, Hokkaido) and 60 Hertz in Western Japan (including Nagoya, Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Shikoku, Kyushu) however, this frequency difference affects only sensitive equipment

Water

Tap water is treated and safe for drinking.

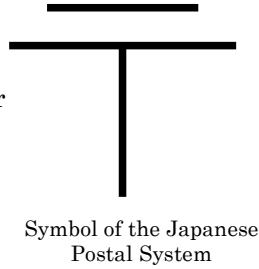
Gas

Gas is used for cooking, hot water and gas heaters. There are various types of gas region and supplier. If you acquire a gas appliance, make sure that it is compatible with the type of gas in your apartment. (Cont'd USEFUL, p. 4)



POSTAL SERVICES

Post offices provide a range of postal services including the shipping of post cards, letters, parcels and registered mail, as well as savings and insurance services. Door-to-door delivery services, known as takuhaibin, are also provided by various companies other than the post office. Post offices also accept payments for utilities and other services.



Post Office Operating Times

Neighborhood Post Offices

Monday – Friday 9:00-17:00

Larger Post Offices

Monday – Friday 9:00-19:00

Saturday 8:00 – 17:00

Sunday 9:00 -12:30

GARBAGE

In Japan, garbage is basically separated into burnable, non burnable and recyclable items. At least two kinds of litter boxes can therefore be found in most households and in public places. Garbage collection days and hours will depend on the area you live in. Burnable garbage is usually collected two or three days during the week, while non burnable garbage is usually collected once a week. The disposal of large sized garbage such as furniture, bicycles and electric appliances is handled by a special collection service against a pick-up fee, usually on an appointment basis.

TELEPHONES

Mobile Phones

Due to different technologies used, mobile phones from the Philippines, including GSM phones, are not likely to work in Japan. Most other mobile phones in Japan are sold in combination with a monthly and yearly contract and are usually only available to residents of Japan. Foreign residents including students will need to present their alien registration card in order to subscribe to such a contract.

FLEA MARKETS AND BAZAAR

You can buy inexpensive used goods such as clothes, kitchen utensil, appliances, furniture, home décor etc. in flea markets and bazaar. The schedule depends on your area.



TABLE MANNERS

Eating

In Japan, you say "itadakimasu" ("I gratefully receive") before starting to eat, and "gochisosama (deshita)" ("Thank you for the meal") after finishing the meal.

Drinking

When drinking alcoholic beverages, it is a Japanese custom to serve each other, rather than pouring the beverage into one's own glass. You are supposed to periodically check your friends' cups, and serve them more once their cups are getting empty. Likewise, if someone wants to serve you more alcohol, you should quickly empty your glass and hold it towards that person.

Do not start drinking until everybody at the table is served and the glasses are raised for a drinking salute, which is usually "kampai."

USEFUL WEBSITES:

Statistics Bureau:

<http://www.stat.go.jp/english/index.html>

Prices of Commodities:

<http://www.stat.go.jp/data/kouri/2004mm/zuhyou/sankou.xls>

Postal website:

<http://www.post.yusei.go.jp/english/index.html>

World Eki-net (JR): <http://www.world.eki-net.com>

Japanese Train Route Finder:

<http://v202.jorudan.co.jp/norikae/cgi-bin/engkeyin.cgi>

About Japan:

http://www.studyjapan.go.jp/en/about_stope.html

<http://www.thejapanfaq.com/>

Compiled by Wy Gonzales, JICE/JDS, Policy Science
Ritsumeikan University

NIHONGO (for the first 10 days in Japan)

Congratulations to the new batch of Pinoy scholars! At this point in time, you maybe busy with all sorts of preparations before coming to Japan. Indeed you will be away from your loved ones in Philippines for a longer time and will be staying in a totally new environment. As part of your preparation, please allow us to give you some friendly advice that we feel you should include, first and foremost in your preparations. That is, learning the Japanese language. For a start, why not practice writing the Hiragana and Katakana and memorizing them by heart? This is the important step just like when we were first taught of the alphabet. Then simple Kanji can follow later. After you become familiar with the Hiragana and Katakana, you will be immersed into the Japanese intensive class and there you will be taught on how to read, the rules on the grammar plus enriching your Japanese vocabulary. Of course, you will be taught of the proper ways of reading and writing kanji.

As they say that language is a tool we can use to clearly express our thoughts and feelings, and although Filipinos are famous for their English (cont'd *NIHONGO* p5)

We were 15 in class, only 5 were women. We used to be 16, but one man chickened-out. He was a sit-in, a Linguistics Major. He said he didn't know anything about International Governance and Democracy and just wanted to satisfy his curiosity. He was probably drowned by the flood of information. We might have touched on a lot of things on the first day. Maybe he was yet catching his breath. Haha! Well, what did he expect, it was an intensive course. What should be discussed in 15 sessions was squeezed in a week.

I can't blame the drop out. I must admit the professor was a bit demanding. His readings were voluminous and exacting- definitely not for beginners, though I must say I was impressed by the lecturer's selection of materials. He wanted to cover a vast scope of topics which reflected his extent of knowledge. His texts were meaty. I could see that he liked brushing elbows with the great thinkers in his field. His name was imprinted on the title of some of the essential readings, either as co-author or sighted for his comments. He must have a reputation at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

For some reason I found myself a bit jumpy in his class. Maybe I was intimidated by him. I mean, he seem so young (and mighty good-looking, too, if I may add.) I think he was only in his thirties then, and already he has been publishing theoretical books on international relations and political economy. He said he's into this ambitious research- I think it's about cosmopolitan democracy or the legitimacy of international organizations or something in that line.

His English wasn't perfect. It's his third language. He's half German, half Italian. He explained the IR theories as if he was imparting to the class how his day went- boring as usual. Haha. His indifference was charming. Maybe it was just me but I found it quite interesting how one perceives globalization as a myth when I, in contrast, can sense it everywhere.

First day was all his. That was four and a half hours of him talking- with only a few interruptions whenever some smart aleck pops in some mind-boggling contradiction in the theory he's expounding on.

I am pleased with my peers- they all seem mature and informed. I got a lot from their inputs. It's amazing how diverse minds from different worlds produce varied perspectives.

The multi-cultural class composition truly enriched the exchange in viewpoints. My classmates came from various regions in the globe – a state in transition from the former USSR, from a European Union-member country, from an African state, from China, Japan and Indonesia. (I feel the need to

specifically mention these three Asian countries. I do not subscribe to the delusion that 'All Asians look the same.')

Everyone valued everyone else's opinion. In the forum, a fellow from a developing country has as much right to speak as the fellow from a super-power. Hegemony is abhorred. Openness and tolerance guide the argumentation and debate that followed every presentation.

Grievances from neighboring Indonesia against imperial Japan were frequent. China and Uzbekistan, though not really in collision, weren't also in harmony. Hungary and South Africa fit in satisfactorily in the persona of a dual citizen. A German married to a Japanese was most concerned about sovereignty issues. (How times has changed!) In such an atmosphere, one is forced to consider things in a broader perspective.

Therein, I was as much a voice from the tiny Philippine archipelago as I was a citizen of the world.

(NIHONGO, from p4)

competence, it would be of little use in every day living in Japan. As you know, Japanese hardly speak English and their conversation skills is not really that good. And us, who chose to come here are the ones who have make the necessary adjustments. With this in mind, we listed a few Japanese words and phrases we hope you could use.

Do you speak English? -- Anata wa eigo wo hanashimasu ka?
I don't speak Japanese. -- Nihongo wo hanashimasen.
Do you understand? -- Wakarimasu ka?
Yes, I understand. -- Hai, wakarimasu.
No, I don't understand. -- Iie, wakarimasen.
Please say it again. -- Mou ichido itte kudasai.
Please speak slowly. -- Yukkuri hanashite kudasai.
Please wait a moment. -- Chotto matte kudasai.
Where is it? -- Doko desu ka?
I am lost. -- Michi wo mayotte imasu.
What time is it? -- Nan-ji desu ka?
How much is it? -- Sore wa ikura desu ka?
I will take it. -- Sore wo kudasai.
No, thank you. -- Iie, kekko desu.
It's all right. -- Daijobu desu.
Left -- Hidari
Right -- Migi
Straight ahead -- Massugu
Bank – Ginko
If you want to ask for a certain place:
_____ wa doko desu ka? -- Where is _____?
If you want to go somewhere:
_____ he ikitai desu. -- I want to go _____.
(cont'd NIHONGO, p6)

(NIHONGO, from p. 5)

Also, the Japanese you learned at school is slightly different from the Japanese you will actually hear in the Kansai area. Kansai-ben, or the varieties of Japanese spoken in Kansai (Osaka, Kyoto, Kobe, etc.). One characteristic of Kansai-ben is the shortening of standard Japanese words. For example, chigau "to be different, wrong" becomes chau, omoshiroi "interesting, funny" becomes omoroi. Also, the negative form of the verb (-masen, -nai) is changed to -hen, like wakarimasen, wakaranai "I don't understand" becomes wakarohen. Here are some Kansai-ben words and phrases.

- akan -- (Standard: dame) a mild expletive
- aho -- (Standard: baka) idiot, fool; used affectionately
- donkusai -- stupid, clumsy, inefficient, lazy; literally "stupid-smelling"
- hon'nara -- in that case, if that's true;
- honma -- (Standard: hont?) true, real
- meccha -- (Standard: totemo) very
- shindoi -- (Standard: tsukareta) tired, exhausted
- ookini -- (Standard: arigatoo) thank you
- nanbon -- (Standard: ikura desu ka?) how much?

(Ria Parsram, MA Language Education Program, Ritsumeikan University; from the idea of Ryan Banal, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Kyoto University)

The Hiragana

a	i	u	e	o
あ	い	う	え	お
ka	ki	ku	ke	ko
か	き	く	け	こ
sa	shi	su	se	so
さ	し	す	せ	そ
ta	chi	tsu	te	to
た	ち	つ	て	と
na	ni	nu	ne	no
な	に	ぬ	ね	の
ha	hi	fu	he	ho
は	ひ	ふ	へ	ほ
ma	mi	mu	me	mo
ま	み	む	め	も
ya		yu		yo
や		ゆ		よ
ra	ri	ru	re	ro
ら	り	る	れ	ろ
wa				wo
わ				を
				n
				ん
ga	gi	gu	ge	go
が	ぎ	ぐ	げ	ご
za	ji	zu	ze	zo
ざ	じ	ず	ぜ	ぞ
da	ji	zu	de	do
だ	ぢ	づ	で	ど
ba	bi	bu	be	bo
ば	び	ぶ	べ	ぼ
pa	pi	pu	pe	po
ぱ	ぴ	ぷ	ぺ	ぽ

The Katakana

a	i	u	e	o
ア	イ	ウ	エ	オ
ka	ki	ku	ke	ko
カ	キ	ク	ケ	コ
sa	shi	su	se	so
サ	シ	ス	セ	ソ
ta	chi	tsu	te	to
タ	チ	ツ	テ	ト
na	ni	nu	ne	no
ナ	ニ	ヌ	ネ	ノ
ha	hi	fu	he	ho
ハ	ヒ	フ	ヘ	ホ
ma	mi	mu	me	mo
マ	ミ	ム	メ	モ
ya		yu		yo
ヤ		ユ		ヨ
ra	ri	ru	re	ro
ラ	リ	ル	レ	ロ
wa				wo
ワ				ヲ
				n
				ン
ga	gi	gu	ge	go
ガ	ギ	グ	ゲ	ゴ
za	ji	zu	ze	zo
ザ	ジ	ズ	ゼ	ゾ
da	ji	zu	de	do
ダ	ヂ	ヅ	デ	ド
ba	bi	bu	be	bo
バ	ビ	ブ	ベ	ボ
pa	pi	pu	pe	po
パ	ピ	プ	ペ	ポ

Hiragana and katakana tables are courtesy of <http://www.learn-japanese.info>

News-KAPS Newsletter Vol.1
 No.1. Editors: Vincent Louie
 Tan, Ria Parsram;
 Contributors: Nova Navo,
 Wyleen Gonzales. The News-
 KAPS is the official
 newsletter of the Kyoto
 Association of Pinoy Scholars
 (KAPS), a group of Filipino
 students-scholars/fellows
 based at various universities
 in Kyoto. For comments,
 suggestions and inquiries
 about the newsletter and
 KAPS, please email
kaps2007@gmail.com