



希望の鐘 *The Bell of Hope*

The Y's Men's Club of Kawagoe
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Club President: Taro Tonegawa/ CP's Theme: Return to the origin and support the Kawagoe YMCA.

Vice President: Atsuko Matsukawa

International President: A. Shanavaskhan (India)

Treasurer: Kimiyo Yoshida

IP's Theme: Together for a Better World

Secretary: Katsusaburo Yoshino

IP's Slogan: Arise and Shine

Asia Pacific Area President: Joan Wong (Hong Kong)

Theme: Make a great impact.

Japan East Region Director: Kohei Yamada (Utsunomiya)

Theme: Instill Confidence in our Youth

Kantotobu District Governor: Goshiro Yamamoto (Kawagoe)

Theme: We may be small, but we are not powerless!

Scripture for June

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but live eternal life. (John 13 :16)

Uganda. Mr. Yamamoto will report the details in a separate document.

At our regular meeting, Mr. Bobby Ogwang gave a talk on Uganda titled "Discovering the Pearl of Africa." Mr. Yamamoto will report on the content of the talk in a separate article.

I will now give a summary of the May meeting.

1. The Hyderabad Club's visit to Japan is coming soon. The visiting group is eager to introduce Indian dance and is offering to give a lecture on the subject, accompanied by a video of their dance performance in Kawagoe.

Therefore, the Kawagoe Club has decided to hold an Indian Dance and Vegetarian Evening on Monday, June 9, at the Kawagoe YMCA as an introduction to Indian dance and a vegetarian menu dinner. All interested parties are invited to attend.

2. Six members from the Kawagoe Club and their families will participate in the Japan East Regional Convention on Saturday, June 7th. We will be selling sweet potato snacks and coffee to raise funds for charity.

The IBC signing ceremony between the Hyderabad Club and the Kawagoe Club will take place at 15:15 during the Regional

May Statistic (For May 10th, 17th, and 24th)

Attendees 10 members Attendance Rate: 90%

Kawagoe Club's May Meeting Report

Taro Tonegawa, Club President

May has arrived, and the mornings and evenings are pleasant. There are many days when we can feel the change of the season, with rainy days reminiscent of the rainy season. However, many days feel more like mid-summer heat than early summer, and one must be careful not to suffer from heat stroke. It is a season when it is easy to get sick, but all members of the Kawagoe Club attended the regular meeting in good health. Before the meeting, we sorted out used books, which had been a long-awaited task. Since it had been after we had a luncheon, everyone was in good spirits, and we were able to unload books from the third floor to the first floor in a friendly atmosphere. Thank you for your hard work.

At the regular meeting, Mr. Bobby Ogwan gave a talk titled 'Discovering the Pearl of Africa' about

Convention. Additionally, the Hyderabad Club will present an Indian dance performance at the banquet, starting at 19:20. The traditional Indian dance is sure to be well worth seeing, as all the visiting dancers are so talented.

3. Seven (7) Kawagoe Club members and their families are currently scheduled to participate in the Asia Pacific Area Convention in Kumamoto from August 1 (Fri.) to 3 (Sun.), 2025.

4. Upcoming events

- June 28 (Sat): Budget proposal for the next fiscal year, Kawagoe Club Constitution review, and upcoming activities for the next fiscal year
- July 26 (Sat): Financial report by the treasurer
- August 23 (Sat): Sweet potato tasting party (tentative)

The above is the main content of the May meeting. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 28, at 14:00 at Kawagoe YMCA.



[The 28th Japan East Regional Convention in Utsunomiya](#)

President Taro Tonegawa

From June 7th (Saturday) to June 8th (Sunday), just before the rainy season in the Kanto, Koshin'etsu region, the 28th Japan East Regional Convention in Utsunomiya was held at Light Cube Utsunomiya as the main venue. From the Kawagoe Club, Kenji and Hisayo Arai, Atsuko Yamazaki, Goshiro Yamamoto, and Taro and Keiko Tonegawa participated. On the day before the opening, Friday, June 6th, a pre-convention party was held at the "Utsunomiya Terrace bari Sheep" next to the main venue. Welcoming Asia Pacific Area President



Joan Wong, many Y's Men participated in the lively pre-festival gathering.

The conference featured an annual delegate meeting, Menette Hour, a YMCA staff meeting, and a youth gathering held simultaneously in the morning. During the Menette Hour, members from the Hyderabad Club, who were in Japan to establish an IBC agreement with the Kawagoe Club, presented a lecture on 'Indian Dance' which received great acclaim. A video was shown highlighting the diverse performances that took place in Nagoya before they visited Kawagoe, accompanied by a detailed explanation from President Nisthala. Ms. Sudha Mala is someone who nurtures many dancers, similar to a master in Japan.

Registration was held before noon, and entry began. The Kawagoe Club sold sweet potato snacks and coffee from the Tai Akha tribe in the venue's foyer as a fundraising effort. Ms. Yamazaki was in charge, and we received a lot of support.

The convention consisted of a banner ceremony following the welcome performance of Finlandia (with choir), an opening ceremony, a memorial hour, the Regional Director's annual report, a youth action report, a delegate meeting report, and then the awards ceremony.



The Kawagoe Club has been awarded the Best Bulletin Award, marking its second consecutive win following last year's Best Club Award. The reasons for this accolade included not only the richness of the Bulletin's content but also the issuance of an English version in each issue. I want to express my gratitude to Ms. Oikawa, who has taken the effort to translate it into English. Furthermore, this

two-year consecutive win is solely due to the support of all of you. I want to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported the Kawagoe Club.

In addition to this, Kawagoe Club received the IBC Agreement Award, Environmental Program Award, Excellent Award for Environmental Campaign, Youth Program YIA Promotion Award, Non-Drop Award, and the Grand Sam Award for achieving the minimum requirement for CS Contribution, AFS Contribution, FF Contribution, BF Contribution, TOF Contribution, RBM Contribution, YES Contribution, and Youth Activity Support Contribution.

After the award ceremony, the IBC-DBC signing ceremony was held. We will report separately on the IBC signing ceremony between the Kawagoe Y's Men's Club and the Hyderabad Club in India.

After the board member handover ceremony, a commemorative rakugo performance by Master Harunosuke Tachikawa was held. He entertained us with behind-the-scenes stories about being selected for "Shoten," and his exceptional storytelling made the hour fly by.

After the closing ceremony, a banquet was held in the large hall with a break in between. At the banquet, Mr. Vemaraju Vijaya Kumar from the Hyderabad Club introduced the club, and President Nisthala Sudha Mala provided commentary on Indian dance, featuring performances based on mythology. Many attendees came to the front of the stage to enjoy video recording and photography. The historically rich stories, gorgeous costumes, and magnificent dances were very well received.

I briefly reported on the Japan East Regional Convention. It was a very hospitable and energetic event. I want to thank Chairman Okubo and all the members of the Utsunomiya Club, as well as everyone involved. Thank you very much.

[Report on the IBC Signing Ceremony between Hyderabad Club and Kawagoe Club](#)

President Taro Tonegawa

The IBC Signing Ceremony between Kawagoe Y's Men's Club and Hyderabad Club in India took place on June 7th at the 28th Japan East Regional Convention.

Thanks to Mr. Okubo, the chairperson of the Convention Host Committee, the members of the Utsunomiya Club, and everyone involved, the IBC signing ceremony was carried out smoothly under the watchful eyes of the participants of the Japan East Regional Convention. I want to express my

gratitude here.

From Kawagoe Club, Atsuko Yamazaki, Goshiro Yamamoto, Kenji and Hisayo Arai, and Taro and Keiko Tonegawa were present. From the Hyderabad Club, Ms. Nishtala Sudha Mala, Mr. Vemaraju Vijaya Kumar and Mrs. Vemaraju Rama Devi, Mr. Koosam Chakrapani, Ms. Nisthala Sai Krishna Swetha, Ms. Madhavimala Buddhavarapu, Ms. Bangalore Sreekantham Mekhala, and Ms. Reni Sreejith were present.

While Asia Pacific Area President, Ms. Joan Wong and Japan East Regional Director, Mr. Kohei Yamada, watched as witnesses, Taro Tonegawa, President of the Kawagoe Club, and Nisthala Sudha Mala, President of the Hyderabad Club, signed the IBC agreement.



Report on the Welcome Reception for the Hyderabad Club

President Taro Tonegawa



On June 9th (Monday), the day after the completion of the East Japan District Tournament in Utsunomiya, we welcomed Mr. Vemaraju Vijaya Kumar and Mrs. Vemaraju Rama Devi from the Hyderabad Club, as well as Mr. Koosam Chakrapani, and held a sightseeing tour of Kawagoe and a welcome party.

It is a staple of Kawagoe sightseeing; we explored the Bell Tower and Candy Street. Although they had visited Kawagoe before, they were pleased to feel nostalgic, and we also enjoyed the sound of the bell at 3 o'clock, spending a delightful time together in a friendly atmosphere. We visited 'Touho Yamawa' (a pottery shop) owned by my classmate. Inside the shop, the trolley remnants remain. We also checked out the Choki-in temple adjacent to the kindergarten I graduated from. We deepened our friendship, including some personal matters.

After sightseeing in Kawagoe, we borrowed the Kawagoe YMCA to watch a video of Indian dance from Nagoya, and we held a welcome and discussion meeting with vegetarian dishes and Indian cuisine that we took out from the Indian restaurant 'Kamana.' Participants from the Kawagoe Club included Ms. Yoshida, Mr. Yoshino, Mr. Yamamoto, Ms. Arai, Ms. Kawai, Taro and Keiko Tonegawa. Mr. Mitsuhiro Namekawa, a friend who has been in contact with Mr. Pani since he did a homestay during his Japanese language training visit in Japan, also joined us. Mr. Namekawa is a professor at Kaetsu University in the School of Business and Economics and has participated in academic conferences around the world, including India, which made for lively discussions.

Regarding future exchanges, topics such as cultural exchange, language-related exchanges and support (Japanese language learning), and relationships with IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) were discussed. Additionally, there was a proposal from Yamamoto, the Regional Service Director of International Exchange, about whether it would be possible to conduct a work camp for youth in collaboration with the YMCA, with support from Hyderabad.

We received an invitation from Mr. Vemaraju Vijaya Kumar to visit Hyderabad. If the opportunity arises, we want to consider mutual visits as well.

The members of the Hyderabad Club must have been tired from their long stay in Japan, starting from the Hikone Club, performing in Nagoya, and participating in the Numazu Club and Utsunomiya convention. Still, I feel that their visit to Japan,

including the presentation of Indian dance, was memorable for many Y's Men. In the future, we will strive to facilitate meaningful exchanges and programs while leveraging each other's strengths.

"Visiting Monet's Exhibition" (Essays)

Miki Oikawa

Recently, I visited Monet's exhibition. I, too, love Monet's paintings with their soft gradations. When I gaze at his work, I feel a gentle and calm emotion. Additionally, I was deeply moved to learn that he continued to paint despite suffering from cataracts in his later years and experiencing declining vision. Monet was a painter who skillfully expressed light and color. However, as his vision deteriorated, his world became blurred, and the way he perceived colors changed. Nevertheless, he never let go of painting and continued to create works from a new perspective. In his later works, there is a softness in the outlines and more vivid colors. This may reflect a world not seen with his eyes but felt with his heart. Monet's attitude teaches us the importance of "not giving up on creativity in the face of adversity." He devoted his life to painting and continued to create beautiful worlds even after losing his vision. His way of life and art seem to question us about "what is truly important." This resonates with the seniors of Kawagoe Y's Men, who seem to be pouring more passion into their work, volunteer activities, and hobbies as they age. I, too, wish to be like that.

●Editor's Note

We look forward to Mr Goshiro Yamamoto's contribution next month.

"Keiko's Monthly Briefing of YMI/ASP"

Keiko Tonegawa

International President Meets with the Pope

On June 11, A. Shanavaskhan, the International President, and Jose Varghese, the International Secretary General, who were visiting Rome for the charter of a new club, met with Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican. This was an excellent opportunity to showcase that the Y's Men International is a global service organization and to announce its existence to the world.

In the fiscal year 2024-2025, there were four (4) countries (Austria, Botswana, Lesotho, Rwanda) that chartered Y's Men's Clubs for the first time, and six (6) countries (Israel, Italy, New Zealand, Portugal, Switzerland, Togo) where clubs had been revived, expanding the Y's community to 84 countries worldwide.



●YMCA Report

[Dandelion's June activities]

During the rainy season in June, we usually choose outdoor activities in places where we can continue even if it rains. This time, the Dandelion Group went to the 'Fossil and Nature Experience Museum' in Higashi Matsuyama City. This area was said to have been underwater 15 million years ago, and many fossils, including shark teeth, were discovered during the construction of the industrial park, leading to the establishment of an indoor 'Fossil Excavation Experience Museum.' Since its opening in 2016, it has received much more popularity than expected, making it difficult to make reservations on weekends, holidays, and long breaks. When YMCA made the reservation this time, it was 'fully booked' just one minute after the reception started.

After listening to the explanation in the video, each person used a sieve to experience excavation and enjoyed breaking rocks with hammers. Unfortunately, 10% of the members did not find any fossils, but they were able to receive a fossil as a souvenir.

Picture 1

Picture 2

"Would you like to participate in a tour of the Outer Metropolitan Area Drainage Channel on August 11 (Monday) from 10:00 to 15:15?"

Recently, the urban area has been repeatedly hit by guerrilla rainstorms. To protect people's lives from urban flooding, we will visit the massive facility built deep underground called the "Outer Metropolitan Area Drainage Channel (Kasukabe City)." It is one of the largest underground drainage channels in the world, with a depth of 50 meters and a length of 6.3 kilometers, constructed over 13 years. We will travel from Kawagoe by the YMCA bus. We hope you will join us!

Picture 3

● Editor's Note

Thanks to everyone's cooperation, the Kawagoe Club's Bulletin "The Bells of Hope" has been selected for the "Best Bulletin Award" at the 28th Japan East Regional Convention. The fact that we publish an English version every month is especially appreciated. I want to pay my respects to the efforts of Miki Oikawa and Keiko Tonegawa. As someone who has been in charge of editing, I cannot express how honored and delighted I am by this.

Even so, why can't humanity live in peace? Everyone wishes for peace, yet we are shocked to know about the situations where people kill each other. The efforts of the United Nations are not achieving significant results. In our home, we have a 'Peace Calendar' promoted by the Tokorozawa Club on display. Any small activity is valuable.

(KY)