

IIA News No.77, which is scheduled to be issued in September, has been postponed to be issued in another month because of drastic decrease of news and events due to the spread of COVID-19.

However even under this circumstance, each committee shares wisdoms and tries to restart activities using ICT communication tools such as ZOOM.

We, public relation committee, decided to launch "Mail Magazine" to inform IIA members of current situation or news updated as promptly as possible. There will be some defects on configuration or contents at the initial stage of publishment but we will alter them step by step. Another reason why we launch Mail Magazine is the high mailing cost of IIA News. The budget for this FY was built on aiming the decrease of deficit as much as possible but the reduction of contracted projects from the city because of COVID-19 increased the deficit. We need to save any cost as much as possible and the utilizing the internet communication tools may help cost reduction. The first Mail Magazine was sent to the members who approved to reveal their mail addresses to IIA and we would like to encourage other members to follow them.

We expect you to give us your strong support and understanding for this Mail Magazine.

If you do not need the Mail Magazine in the future, please inform us at info@iia21.jp. (PR Committee)

Gardena City Committee

I found a word "Safer at Home" on official web site of the City of Gardena. This is a slogan of LA county's order against COVID-19 which includes many measures against novel coronavirus. In Japan, "Stay Home" request has been lifted and the

infection is spreading again. USA has not yet come to end of the pandemic of COVID-19 and California is not excepted.

Under this situation, we expect the exchange projects with Gardena; dispatch of Ichikawa youth delegation in 2021 and the interactive visits of official/citizen group commemorating the 60th anniversary of the affiliation of the Sister City in 2022. I sincerely hope those projects will come true.

The committee has not been able to plan specific activities under the current situation but we are now studying how to operate the online lectures or workshops so that the members can join at their homes. We will inform you of the concrete program if it came to good shape.

“Safer at Home” will be still in effect in couple of month to come and best wishes for the health of each one of the members, we remain.

Leshan City Committee

The committee's Chinese language class restarted in June for the first time in 3months.

It was our great pleasure to have two new members in our class although the novel coronavirus is still spreading.

Since many of the members in our class are very knowledgeable in various fields we could have a fun time with them chatting a full varieties of subject. Some of them has an experience of China related works and some has worked with Chinese people in volunteer activities.

The next class will open in September as it is closed in August in summer holiday season.

Medan City Committee

Some events planned at the beginning of the year were canceled from the perspective of preventing novel coronavirus infections.

So far the situation is not changing in better way but we will look for any event that the members can join with rest in peace and release any topics with regard to Medan.

Please look forward to having them and also give us your opinions.

This time, we will introduce you the video of Medan which Mr. Haruo Umeda, who was very helpful to us when we visited Medan City, sent to us. Those who visited Medan can remember the townscape, Indonesian foods, and friendly Indonesians in this video film and those who have not visited yet will be able to feel fresh with those pictures. Please enjoy yourself. <http://www.iia21.jp/folder/medan20.mp4>

Rosenheim City Committee

Ichikawa citizen group visited Rosenheim City last October and received a great welcome from the people of Rosenheim. This year we ought to reciprocate their hospitality when people of Rosenheim visit Ichikawa. The committee is conducting German language class almost every month so that we can well communicate with them but unfortunately, their visit was postponed to next year and on.

Now is the time for us to learn German step by step avoiding the exposure of novel coronavirus and look forward to having their visits from Rosenheim in near future.

Issy-les-Moulineaux City Committee

Our committee is running a French language class almost every month. In September, we will have the class on Saturday 19th from 12:00 to 14:00 at Zennikkei Hall. Every time in the class, we talk about "What have I done in the last one month". Monsieur Samuel

encourages us to speak French. If you want to learn French, join us and onyva! (let`s go!)

Interpretation & Translation Committee

Our translation and interpretation activities had been restricted widely by Covid-19. The interpretation services have been gradually restarted with measurements to prevent infections of the virus.

"Ichimail"- an email service for foreign residents in Ichikawa - is providing useful news about Covid-19 and related information in English and in "easy Japanese". To register "Ichimail",

Japanese Language Committee

Japanese language classes in Ichikawa City are forced to reduce their activities by Covid-19. While regular face-to-face lessons are taking measures to prevent infections of the virus, online lessons are introduced in some classes. If you are interested in learning Japanese, please contact coordinators of the classes and get the latest information. To contact classes, please refer to this website.

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

Home Stay,Visit Committee

Last year, as a result of asking for all the members to host exchange students, many responded positively and went very smoothly.

However, it is very disappointing to face dramatically different situation due to the global pandemic.

I sincerely hope that everything will return normal but until then, we will exchange opinions.

We sincerely hope for your cooperation when homestay program resumes.

Cross Cultural Exchange Committee

Our activities this year are moving forward slowly and surely under this severe circumstance. without losing sight of our original goals and philosophies of activities.

I like to explain the targets and activities in this year.

- Reduction of the budget: We challenge to reduce the communication expenses which shares 1/3 of our total budget. I hope you to communicate using e-mails.
 - A bus tour for foreigners: We will consider this, depending on the service status of the Ichikawa City Training Bus. (Currently not operating)
 - Culture Lessons among members: Online lectures and social gatherings using Zoom tele-communication system. We are looking for the lecturers and leaders to coordinate these events.
 - To support International understanding education class, request by elementary and junior high schools and public halls.
 - To support "Chef teacher" project requested by Ichikawa City
- Various activities have to be postponed or canceled, but we go forward step by step carefully, paying the utmost attention to prevent infection. We look forward to your ideas and information.

Foreign Residents Committee

We performed two times of Yogas and Zumba dance exercise using tele-communication systems "Zoom", co-sponsored by Cross Cultural Exchange Committee, though many people felt uneasy about face-to-face activities under the corona disaster. Everyone could easily participate at home and had a free talk without having to wear a mask. I'm so glad to see my IIA friends on PC screen after a

long time.

We hope we can do various online activities during our self-restraints. The next online events are

Tai Chi on August 22 <http://www.iaa21.jp/folder/rmttaichi.pdf>

Yoga on September 26. <http://www.iaa21.jp/folder/rmtyoga.pdf>

We are planning a field trip such as a mini tour around fall.

Also borrowing the facility of Ichikawa Japanese Language Institute, the Talk RoomSalon will be launched. It will be very useful for foreign residents to exchange information and create a place to enjoy.

Youths & Students Committee

I am newly appointed chairman Koizumi.

Our true mission is to actively discuss future prospects for the Youth and Student Committee and support students to be dispatched.

Unfortunately, with the corona pandemic, all of those are halted and we are facing to endure this harsh reality.

On top of that, contactable number of OBs and OGs is extremely limited.

However, I am positively thinking to move toward a bright future.

I have already participated twice in the IIA board meeting, and all the senior executives are playing active roles in various scenes, and it helps me a lot.

I am looking forward to seeing all the OBs and OGs I haven't met yet in the future.

IVIS (Ichikawa Volunteer Interpreters' Society)

Our current activities in the corona pandemic are as follows.

(1) The regular meetings to improve our interpretation and translation skills have unfortunately been reduced to twice

a month (once on Wednesdays and once on Saturdays) due to the corona pandemic. We use larger rooms to avoid the 3Cs. The frequency of the meetings will vary depending on the future status of the corona infection. To make up for the decreased in person meetings, we currently hold online meetings irregularly about three times a month.

(2) Foreign residents' assistance desk at the city hall has been opened as usual at present despite the corona pandemic

(3) It is unclear whether the English Open Seminar will be held in February as usual, but a venue will be secured.

(4) The bus tour has been suspended due to difficulties under the current situation, but we are considering if we can do something in a different manner.

(5) Year-end party is highly likely to be canceled this year.

We hope that the corona epidemic will end soon and we can resume our normal activities.

Buddies

It is scheduled to resume activities in September, but we are considering gathering outside the Disaster Prevention Park.

We also are looking for ideas from members to review future activities.