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★ IIA News Letter, December 2020 ★

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It is entering the busiest season of the year. This issue contains the report of the IIA events such as study session and also public information from the Cabinet Secretariat. The big bright news is breaking in. Hayabusa 2 brought back the treasure box “Tamatebako” from the mini planet “Ryugu”. I hope it will include not only the data of origin of the earth but also the key to destroy coronavirus. We hope you will have a good year in new manner, even if we are being suffered by COVID-19.

【Outdoor Study Meeting on Nov.1】 (Interpre. & Transl. Committee)

Avoiding "3Cs" this year, the I&T Committee members went to the Ichikawa City Archaeology/History/Folklore Museum and Horinouchi Shell Mounds instead of the regular bus tour. We met on-site and took curators' lectures first.

Their interesting talks made us think about the people who lived here in the Jomon period. Dividing into two groups, we looked around museums and shell mounds while learning how to translate Japanese into our languages in charge (English, German, Spanish, and Chinese).

We were able to spend a wonderful and productive time on a clear autumn day.

(Hiromi Nagasawa

<http://www.iia21.jp/itckogai20101.jpg> ←Participants and lecturers

<http://www.iia21.jp/itckogai20102.jpg> ←Participants, listening history of Ichikawa seriously

【World Friends: Video Letter】 (Interpre. & Transl. Committee、 Public Relations Committee)

This year, Fukijima Elementary School and St. Nicolas School in Issy-Les-Moulineaux City are participating. The first video was sent from Japan at the end of August. Children were speaking in English about school days, subjects, and annual events. Now, we received the letter from Issy, speaking about the origin of the school, information about the school, a day at the dormitory and so on. It was shown to all sixth graders on December 1st. Children are so curious about French

school systems and questioned many. The third video will be sent from Japan in December. They must be an ambitious work that incorporates their questions.
(Tsuyoshi Shinohara)

【Folk tales related to epidemic disease in Ichikawa】 (Leshan City Committee)

I have listened three folk tales below.

- The tale since 13th century to Myoshouji, Kitakata. If we take a decoction of cherry bark, smallpox is cured perfectly.
- The tale of Harakiri-sam since 17th century to the small stone pagoda, Kitakokubun. It is called Cough God, who mourns the samurai who loved Sake and died with hara-kiri or. suicide by disembowelment. If you recite the sutra 500,000 times and step on, the cough is cured perfectly.
- The tale of fireworks since 18th century in Minato Shinden. Only the fireworks of certain period were being permitted to mourn the dead people. However, one official who did not allow fireworks since the epidemic cold occurred and he died first.

I prayed that COVID-19 would end soon and the peaceful life would return. (Kazuko Sato)

【Cabinet Secretariat Public Information】

- Refrain from going to places where the Three C's are likely to occur, such as events, going out to eat, and other places where infection prevention measures are not strongly enforced. You should particularly refrain from attending parties and events where an unspecified number of people can gather and talk in loud voices.
- If you participate in any events, go out to eat, etc., take appropriate infection prevention measures by keeping a safe distance from others, disinfecting your hands, wearing a mask, and refraining from speaking in a loud voice.
- Refrain from late night drinking in crowded streets and restaurants or participating in similar events as much as possible.
- Find new ways to have fun at home such as spending time with your family or joining online events.

<https://www.pref.chiba.lg.jp/kokusai/english/information/residents/coronamatsuri.html>

←each language

【Latest Events Information】

<http://www.iaa21.jp/e/index.html> ←Click here