

## INSIDE this issue

|   |   |
|---|---|
| PAAM'S ANNUAL DINNER 2019   | 1 |
| PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE   | 2 |
| WHAT IS AOTS  | 2 |
| ANNOUNCEMENTS   | 2 |
| HEALTH TALK   | 3 |
| UPCOMING ACTIVITIES   | 3 |
| CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2019-2020   | 3 |
| JAPANESE LIFE-LIFETIME EMPLOYMENT   | 4 |
| PASSION PREDICTS SUCCESS  | 5 |
| REPORT ON AOTS 10 <sup>TH</sup> WORLD CONVENTION & 60 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION | 6 |
| COURTESY CALL ON MR MITSURU SUGIYAMA, MANAGER OF JAPANESE LANGUAGE TRAINING CENTER (JLTC)   | 7 |
| JAPANESE CONVERSATION BASIC CLASS   | 7 |
| COURTESY CALL BY MR EGUCHI, FORMER GENERAL MANAGER OF AOTS MYANMAR                          | 7 |
| TANABATA CELEBRATION 2019   | 8 |
| ONE DAY TRIP TO IJOK/SEKINCHAN  | 8 |

## PAAM'S ANNUAL DINNER 2019

PAAM had just successfully held its 2019 Annual Dinner on Saturday 12 October 2019 at Saujana Hotel Kuala Lumpur.

A total of 101 members, friends and their family members attended this event.

This occasion was also graced by PAAM's immediate past President En Abdul Aziz, the President of ALEPS, En Isrami Ismail, Mr William Khiung, President & Mr Lee Hock Leong, Vice President of ABK AOTS Penang as well as the representative of JAGAM, Mr Alvin Ng.

There were a lot of fun and excitement as members, friends and their families enjoyed the sumptuous dinner, interacted with one another as well as drawing out for themselves exciting prizes. Indeed, everyone who attended the Dinner went home with a prize!!



A section of our diners enjoying their meal & participating in the lucky draws....



Lucky draws in progress...



Sorting out some of the prizes...



En Mohd Jauhari, a lucky prize-winner with the President, Mr Tan



Another lucky draw winner, Mr Raman



Group photo of all the participants

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## PAAM PARTICIPATION IN FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR JAPANESE AMBASSADOR

On 14 October 2019, the Embassy of Japan held a reception to bid farewell to the outgoing Ambassador. PAAM was invited to this reception. Ms Valerie Cheong, Assistant General Secretary, represented PAAM in this reception.

*Ms Valerie Cheong wishing the outgoing Ambassador farewell and our best wishes for his future undertakings.*



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Mr Tan Teng Ek  
President

It is now October 2019. Three quarter of the year has passed. We have just successfully held our Annual Dinner at Hotel Saujana Kuala Lumpur with 101 members, friends and their family members participating! Very soon we will be preparing to host our Annual General Meeting. Time really flies!

8. The recently concluded Annual Dinner at Hotel Saujana Kuala Lumpur;
9. Courtesy call on JLTC, AOTS;
10. Courtesy call by Mr Eguchi, former General manager of AOTS Myanmar to PAAM.

We have in the pipeline a health-talk to be facilitated by Dr Kim Kah Hwi, to be held on 2 Nov 2019 from 3.00pm to 5.00pm at PAAM's premises. The title of the health talk is: HEALTH ATTACKS! and it is open to all members and non-members, free of charge.

In this issue of your Newsletter, we will focus on the following activities and areas of interests:

1. The recently concluded Tanabata Celebration;
2. Successful day trip to Ijok/Sekinchan;
3. AOTS 10th World Convention and 60th Anniversary Celebration in Tokyo;
4. The recent half day tea talk on "Diabetes and care of diabetic wounds";
5. Tracking the progress of our on-going Japanese Language Conversational classes;
6. Examining the issue of lifelong employment in Japan which used to be extolled as the post-war labour system that made Japan a leading and very vibrant economy then.
7. Courtesy call on Japanese Language Training Center (JLTC), AOTS;

Last but not least, I would like to appeal to all you members to write and contribute your original articles to this Newsletter. Any articles that are of general interest would be most welcomed. A token of appreciation (in the form of a cash voucher) would also be forwarded to contributors for their efforts.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all our Indian members and friends, "Happy Deepavali".

Thank you and warmest regards.

Tan Teng Ek  
President PAAM

### What is AOTS?

AOTS or the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarships, a Japanese agency, jointly supported by Japan METI and the industry, is entrusted with the task of developing human resources in the third world. It has trained over 8000 Malaysians over the last 3 decades. AOTS is now renamed as HIDA.

All AOTS ex-trainees are entitled to be admitted as a member of the Persatuan Alumni AOTS Malaysia (PAAM) which is the alumni association for all who have participated in AOTS training programs or even events conducted locally by PAAM.

To be a member all you need to do is to fill up a membership application form and submit it to the Secretariat office. There are 3 categories of membership ie life member, ordinary member and corporate membership.

#### PAAM OFFICE

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### Announcements

#### Articles for Newsletter

To make your newsletter more interesting, we would like to appeal for interesting articles from members. Your articles can be on any topic but should not be too technical. We would appreciate articles that are original and will make an interesting read, between 100 to 200 words. As a token of appreciation, PAAM will send you cash vouchers for articles that are published in PAAM Newsletters.



#### Japanese Language Teacher - Vacancy

**WANTED** – PAAM is looking for a free lance Japanese Language teacher who can teach small groups preferably in the evenings in clients' office premises. The person we are looking for must have teaching experience and must be able to speak the language fluently, if he/she is not a native speaker. Must have own transport. Interested – please write in to paam@aots.org for further details etc.





## TEA TALK ON “DIABETES AND DIABETIC ULCERS” BY DR. CLEMENT APONG, WOUND CARE SPECIALIST



By: Yap Choon Ming  
Hon. General Secretary

We are glad to inform that the above talk was successfully held on Saturday 17 August 2019 at 3.00pm at PAAM office. A total of 18 participants, including PAAM members, their friends, family members and some friends from the Technological Association of Malaysia, attended the above interesting talk.

The half day event was facilitated by Dr Clement Apong who has his own medical clinic in Petaling Jaya, treating many cases of diabetes, wound care for diabetic wounds and pressure sores.

After attending the talk, we were made more aware of how to change our lifestyle to avoid suffering from diabetes and how wounds resulting from chronic diabetic conditions can be properly treated.



A group photo after the talk.



A token of appreciation to the speaker, Dr. Clement Apong.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: HEALTH TALK ON “HEART ATTACK”



In this talk, you will learn how our heart channels vital energy to all our organs and whole body via our vascular blood vessels and oxygenated blood supply to maintain life. Of all the organs, our heart is the most vital organ. If it stops, everything else in our body stops as well.

Get to know how it can function well to pump blood essentially throughout our body to keep us alive. Learn how we can measure our blood pressure, regulate and keep it healthy. Learn the early signs of heart failure and impending problems and to detect them. Learn what precautionary measures that can be taken before it is too late.

### Speaker: Professor Dr. Kim Kah Hwi

Highly accomplished scientist, researcher and academic in medical science at the University of Malaya.

UKM-medical science degree

USM-Master degree

GIFU University, Japan – Doctorate in Neurophysiology.

**Date / Time:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2019 / 3pm-5pm

**Venue:** PAAM Office-52A Jalan SS22/25, Damansara Jaya

**Dressing:** Smart Casual

**Closing Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2019



Source from food.ndtv.com

### CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2019-2020

| Name of CCM     | Position                | Name of CCM              | Position         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Tan Teng Ek     | President               | Siao Kent Wah            | Committee Member |
| How Chee Seng   | Vice President          | Yang Chor Leong          | Committee Member |
| Yap Choon Ming  | General Secretary       | Jacqueline Ooi Fatt Choo | Committee Member |
| Cheong Lye Foon | Asst. General Secretary | Stephen Wong Kam Sun     | Committee Member |
| Khor Kai Tong   | Hon Treasurer           | Yeong Soon Seng          | Committee Member |
| -               | Asst. Hon Treasurer     |                          |                  |

## JAPANESE LIFE - LIFETIME EMPLOYMENT



*This is a regular column contributed by Mr Tan Teng Ek on the peculiarities of the Japanese language as well as his observations and insights on everyday life in Japan.*

When I first visited Japan in the mid-1980s, lifetime employment was much extolled by both Japanese employers and foreign observers. Many proclaimed that it was because of this post-war labour system that Japan was able to become a leading and very vibrant economy then.

For our information, Japan's post-war employment system adhered to the following four pillars:

1. lifetime employment;
2. the seniority wage system;
3. the bonus system; and
4. enterprise unions.

In reality, lifetime employment and all the rest of the above-mentioned pillars of the Japanese labour system are actually enjoyed by less than a quarter of the total work force i.e. only those employees employed by the very big corporations. Today these employees are considered indeed the most privileged part of the labour force. Whilst smaller companies try to imitate these giant corporations in order to keep their workers, these employment practices are expensive for the smaller companies to maintain. Moreover, these four pillars of the labour system reduce employers' flexibility to respond to changing economic conditions and often become very burdensome. Hence the other 75% of the workforce have to do without such lofty benefits.

Many foreigners then ask "If the lifetime employment 'guarantee' is so burdensome and not feasible, how is it that the Japanese had, in the first place, come out with this labour concept?" Well, this system evolved with Japan's long period of post-war economic growth. Back then in the fifties till seventies, Japan had a young, energetic work force and its economy was growing by leaps and bounds. So lifetime employment worked well during till the late seventies.

But this narrative started to change during the deflation-plagued years of the eighties when the costs of maintaining loyal salarymen began



*Traditionally, Japanese university students attend presentations from company recruiters during the job-seeking season of 'shushoku katsudo', or shukatsu (Credit: Alamy) (Source: BBC.com)*

to outweigh the benefits of owning a stable and predictable labour force. Lifetime employment therefore worked well in Japan till the late 70s. The prolonged economic recession in the nineties coupled with an ageing workforce started to make cracks in the lifetime employment system in Japan.

Nowadays, it doesn't count much to many younger Japanese employees whether or not there is lifetime employment. I believe that I would not be too far wrong to say that it is no longer the trend for Japanese employees to work to death or to show extreme loyalty to their employers. After all, many employers, especially those in the larger corporations, are beginning to cut costs by employing more and more temporary workers or short-term contract workers. These types of workers are generally cheaper because they are paid about 60% of what permanent employees get. In fact, driven by cost-cutting plans, many large auto and electronics manufacturing firms are leading the way in the temp-hiring surge.

In conclusion, I would like to remind my fellow Malaysian workers not to be complacent in whatever state they are in but to put in their heart and mind in their vocation. Their employers are dependent on the loyalty and dedication of employees in order to do well in their business. And if the companies do well, the employees also are safe in their employments and will be able to continue to enjoy all the perks and benefits awarded to them thus far. Let's hope that the employment market in Malaysia will not come to the state that many Japanese workers are experiencing now.

## PASSION PREDICTS SUCCESS



*By Stephen Wong who is also a  
Committee member of PAAM*

In the June 2019 issue of PAAM Newsletter, I talked about tenacity in business, entrepreneur or academia and how it enables us to persevere towards personal success. The next personality trait that contributes significantly to personal success in business, entrepreneurship or education is the trait of PASSION.

Passion, defined as the “consciously accessible, intense positive feelings” (Cardon, Wincent & Singh, 2009, p. 517), is one of the most influential traits associated with our self-identity. High passion drives high-spirit and self-confidence, giving rise to our SELF-IDENTITY, i.e. we know who we are in what we do (Navis & Glynn, 2011). With passion, we always look forward to returning to our work when we are away. Passion causes us to devote time and effort to building our knowledge and competence, leading us to success. Conversely, a lack of passion for our work can lead to business or career failure (Cardon, Zietsma, Saporito, Matherne & Davis, 2005). Intense passion can be a strong driver and source of energy that help us on our long hard road to success, (Murnieks, Cardon & Haynie, 2018).

According to the self-identity theory, we act towards things we believe in, deriving through our social interaction with people, giving meaning to the objects that constitute our social world (Snow, 2011). There are three principles in which we interact with our social world. First, we act towards things based on the meanings we attach to these things. Second, these meanings are derived through our social interaction with our friends, family, colleagues, etc. Third, we then manage these meanings by interpreting and transforming these things into objects that constitute our social world. Simply put, our self-identity is manifested only through our social interaction with others, revealing who we are and how we have succeeded as a result of our intense passion for what we do. For an example, in my social world, I will be known

among my friends, family, colleagues or peers to be successful if I make lots of money in business/ entrepreneurship or being a well-sought after trainer/consultant or being a student with straight As result. I have therefore manifested a successful self-identity in my social world.



Source: [blog.edmentum.com](http://blog.edmentum.com)

However, while intense harmonious passion enables us to set high goals, having big vision, develop good self-confidence to succeed, it must be noted that obsessive passion can result in unrealistic goals, visions, and over self-confidence, leading to our failure. To achieve success in a short time, we can sometimes act beyond our means and capability, thus putting ourselves in jeopardy. Indeed, obsessive passion can make one to be irrational, may lead us to failures, causing disharmony in our social world. When this happens, things become distorted, resources become overly stretched, relationships break down, mistrusts set in our social world, and we ruin ourselves instead. Hence, as Vallerand (2008) suggested, exercise harmonious passion, be rational, achieve things progressively a step each time. Set a high but realistic goal, then lift the bar to the next level when that goal is achieved. Intense harmonious passion predicts success because it enables us to exercise control and rationality in our judgements and dealings with others.





## REPORT ON AOTS 10<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CONVENTION & 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION HELD FROM 31 JULY – 2 AUGUST 2019



By: Mr How Chee Seng  
Vice President

**AOTS** recently celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as well as hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> World Convention in Tokyo. The theme of the Convention was Live in Harmony Together, Grow Together.

Approximately 380 delegates representing the various AOTS Alumni Societies from all over the world, together with their family members attended this 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration as well as World Convention.

PAAM was officially represented by its Vice President, Mr How Chee Seng. Two other PAAM members ie Ms Valerie Cheong and Ms AL Lim also attended as member representative of our Association.

To coincide with the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, AOTS organized a half-day international symposium on 31 July 2019. The World Convention was officially opened on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019. Later all the official delegates adjourned to their respective Discussion Groups where the delegates focused on specific issues and agenda that affect all the Alumni Societies.

Of the four Discussion Groups ie A, B, C & D, delegates from PAAM opted for Discussion Group A (tasked to examine Information exchange with AOTS & Improvement of AAS management and activities), Discussion Group C (where AOTS specially chose PAAM to give a presentation on its on-going Japanese Language classes which was adopted as a successful case study model on Japanese Language project) and Discussion Group D (which was tasked to look into new joint projects by the AOTS and AOTS Alumni Societies)

On the last day of the Convention, all members of AOTS Societies in the ASEAN region (FOSAAS) decided to hold a brief meeting to exchange ideas and consider proposals for greater future collaborations.

The AOTS 10<sup>th</sup> World Convention closed with a simple farewell dinner, held at Tokyo Kenshu Center. Generally, most of the delegates were quite satisfied with some of the initiatives and topics discussed for greater cooperation amongst all the various alumni groups. It was also a good occasion for the renewal of old friendship as well as networking within the AOTS world-wide family.



Mr How with Mr S Kuwayama,  
President AOTS



Ms Valerie with Mr Susuki of  
AOTS and Mr Paulo Hirai of  
Brazil



A group photo of FOSAAS Delegates



Mr How and Ms Lim at World Convention Farewell party



## COURTESY CALL ON MR MITSURU SUGIYAMA, MANAGER OF JAPANESE LANGUAGE TRAINING CENTER (JLTC)

The fact that PAAM, thus far, was able to successfully carry on with our Japanese Language classes was partly due to the strong support we have regularly received from Japanese Language Training Center (JLTC), AOTS Japan.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2019, the Vice President, Mr How Chee Seng together with Ms AL Lim paid a courtesy call on the Manager of the JLTC division of AOTS Japan, Mr Mitsuru Sugiyama.

During the meeting, both parties updated each other on the latest developments in PAAM and AOTS in respect to the teaching of the Japanese Language. JLTC expressed the hope for more closer collaborations and support on future Japanese Language undertakings between PAAM and AOTS JLTC.



Mr How with Mr M. Sugiyama

## JAPANESE CONVERSATION BASIC CLASS

Arising from the popular demand from members for Japanese classes to be conducted for members, an inaugural Japanese Language conversational class was started on 17 July 2019 with an enrolment of 15 members and non-members. Conducted on a weekly basis, this Module One of the Japanese Language conversational class is progressing on track and is expected to complete by end of Oct 2019. The classes are being facilitated by President Tan Teng Ek and are held every Wednesday, from 4pm to 6pm at the PAAM premises.



Mr T E Tan with students of the Japanese language conversational class

## COURTESY CALL BY MR EGUCHI, FORMER GENERAL MANAGER OF AOTS MYANMAR

On Wed 25 Sept 2019, PAAM received a courtesy call by Mr Eguchi, former General Manager of AOTS Myanmar. Some of the committee members, led by President Mr Tan, warmly welcomed Mr Eguchi and had a short discussion with him. Mr Eguchi also joined the PAAM's weekly Japanese language class which coincidentally was in session. He then observed and interacted with all the students who seized the opportunity to practise their Japanese language skill with a native speaker!



Mr Eguchi with PAAM's Japanese class students & some CCM members



## TANABATA CELEBRATION 2019



*Origami session in progress*

This year's Tanabata Celebration was held on 7 July 2019 at PAAM's Training Center.

A total of about 60 adults and children attended this event which began at about 10.00 am with a short video and story-telling on the story of Tanabata.

An origami session was then held for all the attendees. Participants were later invited to a Yukata photography session as some yukata outfits were

available for them to wear, as they had their pictures taken for their own album. The event wrapped up with a lunch catered by a nearby restaurant.

Mr Khor Kai Tong, the key organizer of this event officially closed the occasion by thanking everyone for coming to make this activity a successful one for PAAM.



*A section of the crowd participating in our TANABATA activities*



*Group photo before TANABATA celebration ended*



## ONE DAY TRIP TO IJOK/SEKINCHAN

**PAAM** organized a day tour of Ijok/Sekinchan on 27 July 2019. A total of 18 members and their families turned up for this trip.

It was indeed an eye-opening trip as we visited the many local attractions like fruit farms, rice milling factory, Sekinchan Redang beach where we could buy lots of handicrafts, souvenirs and sea food products, boating out into the open sea at Sasaran to watch fishermen at work as well as at the jetties to watch migratory birds roosting and fishermen sorting out their day's catch.

Though it was a long and tiring trip, we enjoyed the various visitations and fellowship with one another. One important take-away for all of us was that surprisingly, there are so many interesting/beautiful places within our very own country we as locals have yet to explore. Yet, come holiday seasons, we seem to be automatically heading out to join overseas tours which are so much more expensive.



*Group photo before the start of the trip to IJOK/SEKINCHAN*