

Invitation to ACES (Akita Communicative English Studies)

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ACES stands for Akita Communicative English Studies. We meet twice a month -- on the second Saturday and the fourth Sunday at Akita University. At a meeting we invite a guest speaker from a foreign country. They give a talk about a certain topic. While enjoying their presentation, participants can understand the issues, their points of view and their cultures. At the same time, it is a good opportunity to improve their English skills.

Here are the topics for the recent sessions. 1) Why ordinary people do evil?; 2) The Baha'i faith and the age of a global society; 3) Let's make a new religion!; 4) Becoming a Fatherhood; 5) A biography of a famous New Zealander; 6) Saint Cloud State University; 7) Comparing Japanese and American TV; 8) Books for younger children; 9) My bike trip; 10) Cambodia's development as it currently stands.

The last session's topic was "Why ordinary people do evil?" To give you a clearer picture on how a meeting goes, let me introduce the following description of the guest speaker about the topic.

"The psychology of the individual is traditionally the foundation for understanding why people behave the way they do. However to understand how characters transform, their environments or situations need to be understood, and so do the systemic factors which create and maintain these environments.

"Understanding how these three factors interplay offers insight into how individuals, groups, and societies can be influenced to behave in ways that might typically be considered unspeakable and impossible in modern society.

"This topic will broadly discuss the points and examples raised in the Philip Zimbardo lecture. He knows how easy it is for nice people to turn bad. In this talk, he shares insights and graphic unseen photos from the Abu Ghraib trials. Then he talks about the flip side: how easy it is to be a hero, and how we can rise to the challenge."

The following website will give you more information about ACES:

<http://www.edinet.ne.jp/~takeshis/images/AES.htm>

or you could contact Mio Kimura at mk-yk@cna.ne.jp or 018-835-6166.

ACES' activities between November, 2009 and October, 2010

No.	Date	Guest's Name	Topic	Attendance
219	11/14/2009	Ms. Carol Elk	Talking it Out	10
220	11/22/2009	Mr. Thorfinn Tait	Building A House	7
221	12/12/2009	Mr. Evan Cacali	Japanese Internment Camps in America during WWII	13
222	1/9/2010	Mr. Wayne Malcolm	Scandals—A Discussion About the Incidents, the Perpetrators and the Voyeurs	6
223	1/24/2010	Mr. Douglas Perkins	Giving Away Your Work On the Internet	10
224	2/13/2010	Ms. Shirley Belda Saito	English Education in Elementary Schools	13
225	2/28/2010	Ms. Kiera Waldron	Herself, Her Experiences and Australian Culture	8
226	3/13/2010	Mr. Charles Tait	North Highlands of Scotland	10
227	3/28/2010	Mr. Kola Olagboyega	Oman, Learning Behind The Veil	11
228	4/10/2010	Mr. Stephen Shucart	Nepal—35 Years of Change	14
229	4/25/2010	Ms. Amanda Spiegel	Cambodia's Development As It Currently Stands	9
230	5/8/2010	Mr. Jimmy Ramsey	My Bike Trip	7
231	5/23/2010	Mr. Thorfinn Tait	Books for Younger Children	7
232	6/12/2010	Ms. Lee Sanghyun	My Trip and My Life	9
233	6/27/2010	Mr. Josh New	Comparing Japanese and American TV	10
234	7/10/2010	Ms. Lindsey Lechner	Saint Cloud State University	10
235	7/25/2010	Mr. John McLaughlan	A Biography of A Famous New Zealander	11
236	8/22/2010	Mr. Wayne Malcolm	Becoming a Fatherhood: The highs, middles, and lows	10
237	9/12/2010	Mr. Tim Ernst	Let's Make A New Religion	11
238	9/26/2010	Ms. Guita Ram Youssefian	The Baha'I Faith and the Age of a Global Society	10
239	10/24/2010	Mr. Peter Legg	Why Ordinary People Do Evil?	11