

## **An Invitation to ACES (Akita Communicative English Studies)**

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ACES stands for Akita Communicative English Studies. We meet once a month -- on the third Sunday at Akita University. At each meeting we invite a guest speaker from various countries. They give a talk about a certain topic. While enjoying their presentation, participants can understand the issues, their point of views and their cultures. At the same time, it is a good opportunity to improve English skills. Please join us.

FYI, here are the topics for the recent sessions. 1) Competition--A Basic Instinct 2) Movies and Social Issues 3) An Introduction to Social Learning Software 4) The Czechs and Slovaks from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to Today-Major Events 5) Super creativity 6) The EU, how it was established, its main institutions and functions, etc 7) 10 ways to keep Dementia at bay and more 8) What does my voice sound like?

Here is a part of the presenter's summary of 2) Movies and Social Issues. "I spoke about movies and social issues. This includes war, racism, bullying, oppression, genocide and nuclear power. I began with Native Americans and Hollywood. First, I talked about "Little Big Man" (1970), starring Dustin Hoffmann and Chief Dan George. This movie shows the Native American view through the chief of the Cheyenne, played by Chief Dan George. Next, I looked at Kevin Costner's "Dances with Wolves", where all of the Native American actors speak Lakota Sioux, which is the language of the tribe in the story."

The summary of 4) The Czechs and Slovaks. Czech Republic and Slovakia today are two states with very similar historical development, languages and cultures. The Czechs and Slovaks were once united as two nations after the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and lived side by side throughout the 20th century from 1918, most of the time as a federation, until Czechoslovakia peacefully separated in 1993. After gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1989, the state was turning capitalistic and was undergoing a turbulent time of privatization and reforms. Both states' ideas of the necessary reforms and leadership were too different to find a compromise and thus the state split into Czech Republic and Slovakia. However, in 2004 both states joined the European Union and thus again enjoy liberties of free movement of people, goods, services, and capital."

The following website will give you more information about ACES. Or you could contact Mio Kimura at [miokimura\\_2000@hotmail.com](mailto:miokimura_2000@hotmail.com) or call at 018-835-6166.

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

## 2011年11月～2012年10月までの ACES 活動内容

No.	Date	Guest's name	Topic	No.
260	2011.11.20	Mr. Aaron Halford	My First Impression of Japan	12
261	2011.12.18	Ms. Stephanie Assman	Online Representations of the Shokuiku Campaign: Food	☆14
262	2012.01.22	Mr. Wayne Malcolm	To Study Abroad, or Not Study Abroad—The Answer is Easy	☆10
263	2012.02.18	Mr. Mick Kimble	What does my voice sound like?	4
264	2012.03.18	Mr. Tim Ernst	10 Ways to Keep Dementia at Bay and More	☆9
265	2012.04.15	Miss Miriam Wendel	The EU, how it was established, its main institutions, and functions, etc.	☆9
266	2012.05.20	Mr. Simon McLaughlin	Super Creativity	11
267	2012.06.17	Mr. Jan Rada & Mr. Daniel Pavlik	The Czechs and Slovaks from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to Today—Major Events	11
268	2012.07.15	Mr. Renaud Davies	An Introduction to Social Learning Software	☆13
269	2012.08.19	Mr. Ron Adcock	Movies and Social Change	9
270	2012.09.16	Mr. Tim Ernst	Competition—A Basic Instinct	7
271	2012.10.28	Mrs. Guita Ram Youssefian	A look into the root causes of mistrust and prejudice in the history of man" With a subtitle of " We live in an age that a 'Video clip' or 'a statement' can cause social unrest, confusion and chaos, how to go about building a healthier global society?"	8

cf: The numbers on the right show how many people attended the sessions

☆ means we had either a debate or a discussion after the first session