

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, July 2008

GUN CONTROL IN THE US AND ARTICLE 9 IN JAPAN

It has been reported that about 100 people are killed by guns every day in America. We have to understand that most of the victims are common people, not gangsters. This is a really difficult problem for the American people, and it has been discussed for a long time. When we talk about gun control, we have to include the NRA, The National Rifle Association. Even the US president, G. W. Bush, belongs to this association. It's easy for us to guess that there is a close connection between the NRA and gun control. In short, it seems that this association has a great influence on politics.

Usually when you obtain guns, you have to show your identity card. Of course a person who has a history of crime is prohibited from having a gun. However, at what is called a gun show, people can buy guns without showing an identity card. This is the so-called "Gun Show Loophole", where a lot of people get guns illegally.

Many people get guns to guard against harm. One is reminded of an incident that happened in America a few years ago. A Japanese student was killed by his friend's family during Halloween when that family told him to "freeze", but the student misunderstood this for "please". He was shot when he moved. It is clear that this problem was not just about guns, however it is hard for Japanese people to understand how such a thing could happen, because we don't have guns in our daily lives here.

- Article by Kenji in AI



One of the most interesting things in the Japanese Constitution is Article 9. In it, the renunciation of war is declared. We haven't had any wars since World War II, and this is our pride.

But now, half a century later, a movement to "revise" the Japanese constitution, and Article 9 in particular, has arisen.

On May 3rd, Constitution Day, a survey for or against the revision of Article 9 was carried out on 88 streets in Japan. In Matsuyama, 36 people agreed with a revision, 336 people didn't agree, and 60 people had no idea.

Recently, others from the around world have become interested in Article 9. An Article 9 conference was held in Chiba prefecture on May 4-6th. About 12,000 people attended it. Mairead Corrigan Maguire from North Ireland, who won the Nobel peace prize, and Cola Wise of the USA, who sponsored the Hague Peace Conference, pleaded the case for peace.

I recommend a book, 'I Am Chary, an Earthman', in my web blog. Chary is a man traveling all over Japan by bicycle handing out paper cranes, "9 Chan" (named after Article 9), to people on the road.

In Japan, there are over 8,000 A9As (Article 9 Associations). We hope that there will be no more wars; that nobody will die in war ever again.

- From Ayuko in SCB1

Net News

NET LESSONS: Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?... Try our *lessons on the Internet!* It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *on-line!* Call for details: **089 9217595**

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

For a copy of the Constitution of Japan in English:

www.solon.org/Constitutions/Japan/English/english-Constitution.html

NET NOTEBOOK: Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: Well, it's really turning humid, and hot, again! It seems as though each year is getting more extreme – “Global Warming”? But we have a solution – don't complain (I know, I know, that's difficult!), just enjoy it! How? Well, for one thing, we have our roof-top B-B-Q party coming up at the end of August. Cool drinks, fresh air... FUN! And, of course, the end-of-term party and performance night is on this month too. Check out P3 for details. See you there!!

Junko Says: As one of the new projects we are introducing in our 25th anniversary campaign this year, we are going to make an Internet version of our Newsletter available to all our students who would like to have it. So, if you want to receive our Newsletter in your e-mail “inbox” just let me know and I will arrange it for you. You can even request a copy to be regularly sent to a friend if you think they would enjoy it – free of charge!



Michael Says: I realize that it's July, but listen to what I recently learned: June used to be the name of the 4th month, and not the 6th. Why was it moved, you may wonder? It turns out that May was a month for Death, and consequently people would postpone their weddings until the month after. June is named after Juno, wife of the chief Roman god, and goddess of weddings. So as you may have guessed, the Romans thought it better to have the month following May to be named after the goddess of weddings!

Owen Says: Forecasters have told the UK it should brace itself for "unusual summer weather" with high-winds, storms, and heavy rains. It seems the world's weather is changing more and more. The UK has had floods, during the last few Summers, that have damaged hundreds of homes. Have the weather patterns changed much in Japan? As I enjoy the, admittedly humid, heat in Matsuyama, I can honestly say I prefer the rainy season to the cold and damp of home.



Greg Says: Isn't it scary how fast time zips by? I can't believe it is nearly the 2008 Olympics already. It seems like only yesterday when I was in Sydney watching the 2000 Olympics. Speaking of 2000, can you remember the commotion everyone was worried about during the turn of the millennium and the Y2K virus? It seems that day by day time stands still but when we look back we scratch our heads and wonder what we did with the years!! What will you do differently in the next 10 years? What do you wish you had done differently in the last 10 years?

Emilie Dit: La terrible bagarre de l'homme contre le moustique a commencé. Le temps est chaud et humide (*mushiatsui*); et de la rivière les moustiques font leur berceau. Adultes, ils se répandent à travers la ville, et la nuit venue ils tatouent par surprise la peau d'un poinçon rouge. En Français, il existe l'expression « avoir une peau à moustiques », c'est-à-dire avoir une peau qui attire tous les moustiques des environs. Ainsi au regard des pointillés rouges qui balafrent la peau de certains de mes amis, j'ai pu constater qu'ils ont malheureusement « une peau à moustiques », et que par chance la mienne, intacte, n'est pas au goût de tous.



