

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter September, 2013

ELECTRIC CARS COULDN'T HAVE COME ANY SOONER

Throughout the World, urban communities are presently striving for ways to reduce the demand for energy. One of the main reasons for this push is to alleviate our dependence upon fossil fuels and emission of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere together with its adverse effects upon world climate. To this end, global initiatives such as C40, a network of the world's megacities, have been taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings and transportation. Tokyo is an exemplary member of the C40 group with an ambitious program to reduce building thermal load (through insulation) and use more natural energy, conservation programs, and efficient energy management.

Use of electric vehicles has reached a point where the benefits of this form of transportation can now be fully marketed. However, one of the hurdles that industry and the society at large face is how to promote these cars compared to the internal-combustion engine (ICE) car in terms of cost, serviceability and environmental benefits.



Mitsubishi i-MiEV

NISSAN LEAF

Net News

NET LESSONS: Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?....Try our *lessons on the Internet!*

SITE OF THE MONTH:

Here's some interesting info on Electric Cars:

http://www.kids.esdb.bg/smart_inventions.html

Japan is poised to be a World leader in electric car production and usage. They were the first country to mass produce a hybrid vehicle in 1997. Since then, global sales of Toyota Prius reached one million by May 2008, and 4 million by October 2012. The hybrid Synergy Drive (HSD) allows the car to run on an electric motor at low threshold speeds or when stopped, and a gas-powered motor at higher speeds. The all-electric Nissan LEAF and Mitsubishi i-MiEV run on electric power alone with no ICE as a back-up. In Japan, it would cost about 45,340 yen to re-charge an electric car over the course of one year for an average driving distance of 11,100 km. This compares with 111,500 yen for the cost of gasoline to operate an ICE car (6.2 L/100 km) over the same distance.

Much of the yearly cost to run an electric car could be met by a solar car port. Not only would this reduce the operating costs to virtually nil, it also avoids emission of carbon to the atmosphere. In this respect, one must bear in mind the carbon output from electric power generation itself when comparing the carbon emissions of electric cars with ICE cars.

The advantages of the electric car for short-distance urban travel far outweigh its disadvantages. Firstly, electric cars could significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. Secondly, they would reduce the incidence of heart disease, stroke and several forms of cancer that come about from just too many ICE cars in our urban living space. And thirdly, they are definitely cheaper to drive than ICE cars. As gasoline prices continue to rise, people ought to be thinking about switching their mode of travel.

Article by Kenneth

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: It's gratifying to hear from our students and ex-students about their experiences overseas. Our goal as a language school, of course, is to help people expand their horizons, to join in with the international community and become part of the world citizenry. Even those who do not have the chance to go overseas for an extended stay can still be part of this experience just by becoming speakers of a second language.

Junko Says: We all know that Tokyo will be the host city for the Summer Olympics in 2020. I remember the time Tokyo became the host city for the first time in 1964. Japan joined the world economic wave then. With that big historical event, and with the following Osaka World Expo 1970 event, Japan's bubble economy took off. I hope the new Tokyo Olympics 2020 will create a new cycle of international economic growth for Japan.



Kenneth Says: The summer break is over and our kids are back to school. It was a good summer with a couple of excellent fireworks displays in Iyoshi and Mitsu. We enjoyed a trip to the Science Museum in Niihama, and the Ehime History Museum in Seiyo. A daytrip to Tobe to see the Ehime Kodomo no Shiro was popular with the kids too.

Adrienne Says: I was in the storehouse putting my sons' elementary school artwork into plastic containers; it took me several hours to do this because I looked at each work of art very carefully. I realized that I had not looked at the artwork very carefully when they first brought it home. What was I so busy doing? I thought. Then, I felt sad. I have a lot of free time now, but I think I was happier when they were home.



Stephanie Dit: Bonjour ! Comment ça va ? Oulala il fait encore chaud à Matsuyama ! Rien de tel qu'un plongeon à la piscine pour fuir cette chaleur ! Si comme moi, vous vous déplacez à vélo, je compatis... En France, Septembre est le mois de la rentrée des classes pour les enfants et des vendanges pour les amateurs de bon vin ! Le saviez-vous ?

NOTICE BOARD

A report from our ex-Chinese student, Ren in Beijin

... I started my life in China on August 11th this year in Beijing. But even before arriving in Beijing, I had trouble. My flight was delayed due to bad weather. The airport staff told us the flight might even be canceled! Nevertheless, in spite of the delay, we managed to get to Beijing on the day.

After I arrived, my support staff helped me open a bank account and find my hotel. There are sooo many people living in the place I am staying in.

I started going to Chinese school the day after I arrived. These early days have been a little tough. I recognized that my Chinese language skills are still too weak to live in this country normally. I have to keep studying as hard as possible. In addition, I have had other things to do in order to start my life in China; many applications and emails to school, embassy and company. I was so busy with these matters I didn't have a chance to travel around during the first week.

I know it was late, but on the first weekend I finally decided to travel by train. I planned and decided on my destinations on the day!

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH.....



The hotel where I stay

Another message from Takuya Masaoka in England

How are you, everyone? I have already spent 2 months here!! I have been to Alnwick, Edinburgh and Manchester, and I want to go to London as well.

My course is going well, but the university staffers are so lazy.... After nearly a week of exams, I'll have a month's break, so I'm struggling to finish all my tasks first. Then, I'll have to apply for a visa extension.

The weather is changeable and a little cold, but I'm still comfortably riding to school by bike.

These are some pictures from my trip to Manchester



Pet's Corner

Rupert Grint (the red-haired actor who played Harry Potter's side-kick at Hogwarts)



keeps one of these as a pet. So does David Beckham and other celebrities. It seems that pigs are all the rage as pets for the rich and famous.

This little guy is a "Teacup Pig", a miniature pot-bellied pig. When he was born, he weighed no more than 3 or 4 kg, and was the size of a teacup! (hence, the name.)

Somehow it seems fitting that Mr. Grint would have such a pet, given all the time he has spent going to HOGwarts...



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See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.