

Hi and big Hello to all members, associates and well wishers. September Newsletter, as usual is full of lot of information, forms (INBP) and so on, also don't miss the first instalment of reminiscences of Mr. Wagle who has held all positions from Member to President, AAAWI. You will also get motivated the way he was 40 years ago. Needless to say, miscellaneous is updated along with events.

Happy Browsing

1. The new Committee is firmly in place and has already renewed contacts with Consulate, FAAA, HIDA, JETRO et al
2. While you are reading this, first lot of new batch of Interns is already winging its way into Mumbai. Orientation is scheduled at JETRO on 4th September. Again all ideas regarding making their stay fruitful are welcome.
3. Be reminded that deadline for INBP is fast approaching, the form can be downloaded from our website www.aaawi.org
4. The WNF circulars have been sent and responses have started coming in
5. A FAAA meeting has been scheduled in Delhi on 17th September, hopefully we will get an update regarding sale proceed of Delhi property.
6. Gallery has photograph of Piano concert by noted Japanese pianist, Toshiki Usui

With best wishes for the festive season,

Sincerely,
Prasad Patwardhan
Editor

Arun Wagle Reminisces

As an ABKD kenshusei (trainee), I came to stay in ABK in January 1971 that is when I met Hozumi sensei and became my mentor. The initial two/three months, till December, 1970, I spent in YKC at Shiomidai, near Isogo eki, in learning the Japanese language.

During my entire stay till August, 1971, it was my routine to spend some time in the evenings, after returning from work, with the sensei, of course if he was available. The discussions would be mainly in Japanese and some time through a translator - Ogiso san. Ogiso san is now the Director General of ABK.

It was very touching to know why he started the movement that has come to be now known as Asia Bunka Kaikan Dosokai (founded in 1964) and the Association of Overseas Technical Scholarships (founded in 1959). He was immensely disturbed by the role played by Japan during the world wars and the wounds inflicted on the Asian community. His benevolent nature would not rest till he with his like minded colleagues would try to heal those wounds to the best of his abilities. In time he achieved that. He was a great philanthropist. His colleagues have acknowledged the fact that his philosophy – to quote his words –

“ No matter where the other person belongs, that person must always be regarded as human being. Dealing with one another on a one to one basis, it is possible to achieve total mutual understanding. Japan is part of Asia and Japan exists together with Asia.”

I am associated with ABKD and AOTS Alumni Association and its activities since I returned to India in Sept. 1971. Till today I served my Alumni in various capacities as a office bearer/Managing Committee member. The credit, if I may say so, goes to the Sensei. In April/May, 1971 what I thought was an insignificant incidence took a nasty turn. One Indian inmate and my neighbour in ABK, turned mentally sick. We later learned the reason- a love affair went sore. He received a good beating from his Japanese “competitor”. He locked himself in his room for days. The stench emanating from his room made me doubt about his well being, till which time I was not even aware of his illness or its cause. The room was broken open. He lay there staring at the ceiling with blank expression on his face. The ABK Management decided to send him back to India and asked me to communicate with his family in Delhi. Though I was doing this in good faith for the good of him, his family might have thought that I had some ulterior motives. Next day I was summoned from my work to ABK. An Embassy official was waiting for me to ask questions. Ogiso san could convince him of our good intentions and the official convinced himself after having a look at the “patient”. He was packed off to India. I had to pack the belongings left behind by him and have it shipped by sea to India. The same official came to meet me again, this time in the evening, to search my room. The patient’s father, a politically well connected person, was pulling strings through the embassy. He insinuated me of stealing his son’s precious goods- like a pearl necklace, etc. Ogiso san again came to my rescue. He not only told the official that the belongings that are now on their way to India, have been packed in his presence and that they would not tolerate any further nuisance to Wagle san.

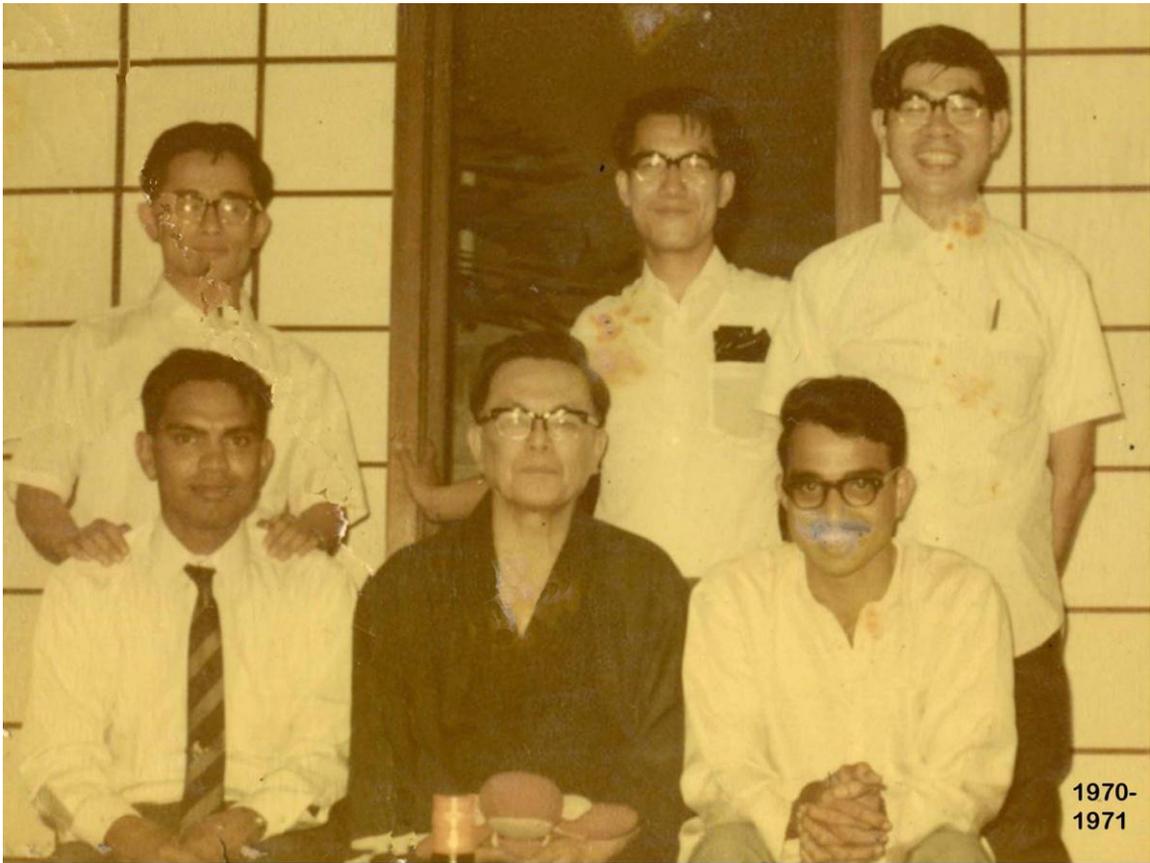
Hozumi sensei learned of this incidence. In his most calming voice he gave me his assurance of a smooth stay for the rest of my period in ABK. It was very uncharacteristic of him not to be unapologetic. I do not know why he confided in me but he made me promise one thing for him. Waglekun, he said, when you return to India, pursue your work but promise me that you will devote part of your time in invigorating the ABKD of Bombay to the best of your abilities. In lighter vein he said – I have seen your ability in packing off that Indian and braving the “consequences”. I and my ABK will always be with you.

I have tried to fulfill that promise I made in 1971. I am attached to this movement like a leach but with a difference. I have given part of my blood to this movement. I will keep on giving it till my colleagues at AAWI feel enough is enough! I am certain they will not say that and allow me to continue to work and pay back to ABK/AOTS/HIDA in a small way as a tribute to the SENSEI and his MOVEMENT.

Arun Wagle

19.08.2014

(I flew to Tokyo from Delhi by JAL flight exactly on this day 44 years ago!)



**HINODE SAN
SEQUERA SAN**

HOZUMI SENSEI

**YANASE SAN
WAGLE SAN**

OGISO SAN