

## IOC April 2007 Committee Meeting Minutes

5 Members present: Lisa, Rie, Yuri, Eric, Koji

KTO advertisement placement.

- April advertisement appeared in the sports section – yay, thanks Will.
- We discussed also paying to have a better placement. It was decided that every 3 or 4 months we could pay for an ad in the meeting section. Will will look into this.
- Koji suggested advertising for speakers at our meetings (see Meeting presentation schedule heading below)

Problems with hotmail

- Email and event messages are sometimes delayed between hotmail and yahoo. This could mean that some members may miss out on events where there is a participant number limit.
- Make members aware of this.

Meeting presentation schedule

- Where possible we would like to advertise meeting presentations in advance in KTO.
- Will to do a presentation on Vietnam at June 9 meeting??
- The July meeting will be held at the Biwako camp (see below).
- Discussed the idea of members bringing a photo/info of a favorite outdoor spot as a meeting presentation.
- Discussed paying specialists to give presentations (finding someone to present in English or a translator could be difficult). We could advertise for speakers in KTO.
- Yuri said she will give another first aid lesson. Last year this was held at a fire station in Rokkomichi. She inquired into the possibility of doing this in Osaka but was told she has to be a resident. Rie, as an Osaka resident, agreed to look into this.

Website issues

- conversion to English provider – the next webmaster after Koji can undertake this task.
- Using kanji on website – at the March meeting it was suggested that Japanese characters for place names etc be used in addition to English on the website in order to increase hits from searches in Japanese. However, the website does not allow Japanese characters, unless it is in a PDF file.
- Google hit ranking poor. Koji said that because there is a login mode on the top page, Google recognizes the site as a commercial site. Also, pages that are restricted to members only such as the photos pages and members contact details lower the google ranking.
- The 2004 IOC webpage ([www.geocities.com/ioc-kansai](http://www.geocities.com/ioc-kansai)) is top ranking with the keywords "osaka hiking". It was suggested that we should modify the site and guide it automatically to [iockansai.com](http://iockansai.com). Problems of accessing the site? Koji thinks that Chris has access. At present, there is a message redirecting to [iockansai.com](http://iockansai.com)

People have started paying dues

## Biwako camp

- Several committee members cannot attend the Biwako camp scheduled for 26-27 May. It will also still be a little cold in May. For these reasons it was decided to reschedule the camp to July. We should mention the date change on the website because the KTO article in the forthcoming issue mentions the May dates for the camp.
- The July general meeting will be held at the camp.

## Use of IOC budget in 2007

- The previous committee decided to buy 3-4 goretex tent and Dutch oven in Dec 2006. These were never bought.

- We have decided not to buy the Dutch oven.
- The IOC currently has 4 tents:
  - 5-6 man tent – too heavy, only really suitable if driving to campsite
  - 3-4 man tent – good.
  - 2-3 man tent – old
  - 1-2 man tent – old

The suggestion was to buy another tent like the 3-4 man one: it is 4-season, light, waterproof but at 70,000yen, it is expensive. We will ask members their opinions at the general meeting.

- Rie suggested that we could also use some of the budget to organize special events outside of Kansai. Other committee members agreed.
- We will no longer pay members who write activity records.
- Travel expenses for committee members to committee meetings will be paid once or twice a year, rather than at each meeting to make accounting easier. Eric will keep a record of committee member attendance and travel expenses.

Change the secretary address on the registration form from Damien's address to Yuri's

- Koji has contacted Damien about this as he has the file.
- Koji deleted Damien's address from the document.

## May Meeting Agenda

- **IOC Budget/Tent purchase discussion**
- **Can Eric/Yuri tell us the current membership numbers?**
- **Could Rie do a quick present the upcoming events at the general meeting and explain the procedure of organizing an event (ie. emailing event details to her)?**
- **Biwako camp organization**
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## IOC April 2007 General Meeting Minutes

12 Members present: Lisa, Rie, Yuri, Eric, Koji, Mauricio, Peter Zinnai, Keiko, Estella, Dominic, Ken, \_\_\_\_\_

1 New member: Edward

1 Potential new member: Chay

We showed a video from the Polar Bear Charity Biwako Swim and announced that over 140,000yen was raised for the Nature Conservancy.

Lisa gave a presentation on her trip to Northern Vietnam

Informed members of the occasional problems that we are having with email to/from hotmail and yahoo.

Asked for volunteers for meeting presentations.

- Estella said she could do one.

Informed members that many potential members are looking into IOC at the moment (start of the year, often a large number of guests browsing the site, KTO article will be appearing in May issue) so it's a good time to post events.

Asked members to link their blogs to the IOC website to help improve google ranking.

IOC budget:

- Explained that tent was not bought last year.
- Asked members for their opinions re tent purchase. This prompted much discussion.
- Lisa will post a message on the site calling for suggestions and comments regarding the purchase of a tent. (As an update...Lisa has collated these and will bring them to the next meeting for discussion.)