



2017 Winter Meeting

NISEKO - FEBRUARY 24TH - 26TH

Now that winter vacation is over, February is right around the corner, and with it comes our Winter Meeting! This year's winter meeting will be held in Niseko, known around the world for having some of the best powder. We will be staying in the town of Kutchan, where we will be able to see (and even walk to!) the mountain and the slopes from the backyard. Those who are not winter sports-inclined, have no fear! Niseko is also known for its hot springs and delicious food - there will be plenty to keep everyone busy. We have some great seminars planned, an enkai, a concert, the whole shebang, and to top it off, we will be welcoming the new members to the Prefectural Council at the general meeting! I hope to see everyone there!!

Schedule

Friday, February 24^h

6:00 pm (onward) - Check-in (For those staying at the Freedom Inn/Weiss Hotel.)
8:00 - 9:00pm - Seminar I "The English You Never Knew You Never Knew"
9:00 - 9:30 pm - Welcome Kanpai
9:30 - 10:30 pm - PC Meeting

Saturday, February 25th

7:30 - 9:00 am - Breakfast*
9:00 - 10:00 am - General Meeting
10:00 - 11:00 am - Workshop II "What to Expect at the School Year's End"
11:00 - 12:00 pm - Workshop III "Winter Indoor Hobbies"

- Free Time -

8:00 - 9:30 pm - Enkai (Jojo's Restaurant)
10:00 - 12:00am - Winter Concert (Jam Café Bar)

Sunday, February 26^h

7:30 - 10:00 am - Breakfast*
10:00 am - Check-out (For those staying at the Freedom Inn/Weiss Hotel.)

** Breakfast is only offered for those staying at the Freedom Inn or Weiss Hotel, and lunch is not provided.*

Accommodation

As per tradition, we will be staying at two locations, the Freedom Inn and the Weiss Hotel. The cost for staying both Friday night and Saturday night will cost **15,500 yen**, and that includes breakfast! For the few of you who said that you'd be only staying Saturday night, the price is **8,250 yen**.

The earlybird RSVP that I released in December garnered so much interest that it nearly topped off our available hotel space. As such, I'm afraid those of you who are responding now for the first time will be placed on a short waitlist until the people from the earlybird RSVP respond.

The meetings will be held at the Freedom Inn and the shuttle to and from dinner will be leaving from the Freedom Inn. There are many other options in the Niseko area, but you will be in charge of booking your own hotel and arranging transportation to and from the events.

Freedom Inn Hotel

〒044-0083 北海道 虻田郡倶知安町字旭305-8

TEL: 0136-22-3322

Weiss Hotel

〒044-0084 北海道虻田郡倶知安町花園79番地

TEL: 0136-23-3311

Seminars

The English You Never Knew You Never Knew

Have you ever had one of those moments where your JTE or student turns to you and asks you about a grammar point, stress/accents, or the dreaded question, "Why?" In this seminar, lead by Catrina Caira, we will be taking a look at some of these rules of the English language that, as native speakers, we never formally learned. In addition, we will discuss ways to teach the students these rules, and maybe even dip our toes into some of the complicated history of the English language that accounts for why we have so many weird rules in the first place.

What to Expect at School Year's End

So it's April and it seems as though someone has turned your school on its head - everyone is running around, preparing for graduation ceremonies, entrance ceremonies, staff transfers, farewell parties. What do you? This seminar will give you the low down on what to expect come April. First years - this is for you!

Winter Indoor Hobbies

At the end of February it may seem like winter is already on its way out, but in Hokkaido, Winter takes its sweet time to leave. There will probably still be snow around all the way into May. So for those of us who aren't as winter-sport-minded, this seminar will provide a few of presenters who will share with us the ways they keep busy in the Winter, so that we can turn all the time we have indoors into productive, fun time.

SEMINAR LOCATION: All seminars will be held at the Freedom Inn. See accommodation for address.

Enkai

The enkai (it's a bit late in the evening to account for the later nijikai so make sure you have a good lunch!) will be held at **Jojo's Restaurant**, a large western-style restaurant with a great view of Mt. Yotei, that will be providing us with a nomihodai + meal plan for **3,500 yen** total. If you have any dietary restrictions, please be sure to note that on the RSVP form. I will do my best to work with the restaurant to make sure everyone has enough to eat.

Jojo's Restaurant

北海道 虻田郡俱知安町 山田 179-53 NAC CENTRE 2F

TEL: 0136-23-2220

Nijikai

This year we will be welcoming back a long-standing tradition: the **Winter Concert!** The concert will benefit HEC (the Hokkaido English Challenge) so please throw your change in the guitar case! There will be a mixture of predetermined performances and (if we have time) open mic slots. The concert will be held at the Jam Café Bar, a quirky snow covered bar just a 10 min walk from the enkai. Along with our live concert, we'll be having a 2 hour nomihodai for 3000 yen. I know it's a bit expensive but Niseko's a popular place and we have the whole restaurant to ourselves that evening. Plus, the performances will absolutely make the cost worth it!

If you are interested in performing, please note so on the RSVP form or contact me at vp@hajet.org.

Jam Café Bar

北海道虻田郡俱知安町山田 1 8 9

TEL: 0136-23-0700

Sightseeing

There is a lot to do in Niseko, and while a few options are provided below and on the RSVP form, feel free to do some looking around yourself as well! Because Niseko gets so many tourists, the level of English is much higher than in many other places in Hokkaido, so maybe you can find some hidden gems of fun as well!

Onsen Relaxation

Looking to escape the cold and warm up those chilled bones after a day in the snow? If so, then join other warmth seekers in a trip to the **Weiss Hotel Onsen**. The group will meet at **3:30 pm** at the Freedom Inn (those already in the Weiss Hotel won't have to travel at all!), so feel free to hit the slopes beforehand.

Hit the Slopes!

Many of you will probably come for the powder. Luckily, the Freedom Inn is located right next to the Hanazono ski lift in For those who do not have equipment, but want to give it a go,

Freedom Inn can also set up pre-orders for lessons and rentals. Please let me know if you'll need to rent gear so I can pass that on. **Cost:** Relative, depending on type of pass and if you need rentals.

Food Frenzy

Niseko has a ton of restaurants and a lot of options. Western food, Japanese food, and a whole lot more. It's a bit overwhelming, but I am positive that one of these many delicious spots will pique your interest. Check out [this website](#) which has a bunch of them listed. If you are interested in meeting up with a group of foodies who are not throwing themselves down a mountain on sticks, this is the one for you! Meet time will most likely be just after the seminars in the morning. **Cost:** However much you would like to spend!

Miscellaneous:

NAC Adventure Center (Tubing, snowshoeing, etc.): <http://www.nacadventures.jp/en/>

Watch the International Snow Ball Competition in Showashinzan: <http://www.yukigassen.jp/championship>

Receipts

For any of those who need receipts for your contracting organizations, please select the appropriate option on the online RSVP form.

Questions

For any questions, concerns or comments, please contact Nikolai Muth at vp@hajat.org.

RSVP Deadline: Friday, February 15th to vp@hajat.org

For those needing accommodation, please reply by February 1st or ASAP! That includes those who filled out the earlybird RSVP form!