

## Discussion on Tokyo AA becoming a Linguistic District in Japanese AA

### History:

From its origins, the English speaking AA (EAA) in Japan has for the most part been a separate entity from Japanese AA (JAA). This was probably because many early members of EAA did not speak Japanese, or lived in Japan for only a short time before returning to their home country. As a result, there really wasn't a need or desire to get involved with our Japanese brothers and sisters.

Over the years though, the number of EAA members staying long term or settling in Japan has increased. As a result, the number of members who can speak Japanese, who are married to Japanese nationals, or who are children of mixed families has increased. Some EAA members are now attending JAA meetings and involved with service work. Also, the number of Japanese members who speak English or join EAA meetings has grown.

In response to these changes, the issue of EAA becoming a linguistic district within JAA was brought to my attention last year. Discussion has been taking place between members of EAA and JAA, within Intergroup, at the JAA district assembly last year, and with the Japanese Service Office (JSO). Much of the response has been positive, and thus maybe the time has come to have a discussion on the issue.

### Background:

A linguistic district means that an area is defined by language rather than its geographic location. In this case, all the EAA meetings in a certain area, such as the Kanto area, would register together as a linguistic district with JAA. The linguistic district would then have official representation in the Kanto-Shinetsu area of JAA. The EAA would then be able to send a bilingual representative to the district assemblies, and this representative would have a "voice" and a vote for the EAA. If the linguistic district wants, it can also get involved in local area and national service committees, such as H & I, PI, etc.

These types of linguistic districts are growing in AA in the U.S. and other parts of the world. For example, there are Spanish speaking linguistic districts in California and New York.

Goals:

- 1) EAA would have a vote in matters that affect AA as a whole in Japan. Information and decisions from the assembly would be passed onto Intergroup, EAA groups and its members through the representative. For example, information on round-ups, new literature, service opportunities, and fellowship with JAA.
- 2) Vice versa, information and decisions from Intergroup and EAA would be passed onto JAA, and to its groups and members. For example, round ups, service opportunities, and fellowship with EAA.
- 3) Hopefully an increase in English speaking Japanese newcomers joining EAA- our primary purpose.
- 4) The service structure of EAA would be enhanced with more service positions and service work.
- 5) Increased interaction between EAA and JAA
- 6) A positive influence on JAA by EAA and vice versa.

Steps to take:

- A) Discuss the idea at Intergroup.
- B) Take the information back to the AA groups for discussion.
- C) Bring group feedback to Intergroup, discuss, and either make a motion or dissolve it.
- D) If the motion passes at Intergroup, take the idea to JAA Kanto-Shinetsu area assembly.
- E) If it passes at the area assembly, elect a bilingual linguistic district representative.