

Vedanta and Sanskrit Classes in Japan



Cetanananda's Class Bhagavadgita by Skype

AVG, Anaikatti are teaching by helping each other. Swami Cetananandaji has taught for 8 years. Kiran, Mukti, Michika and Yuri who graduated from the last long term course in AVG also have begun to teach.

Swami Cetananandaji teaches in Tokyo, Osaka, Hiroshima and

Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati himself taught twice in Japan. His first visit was in 2009 for Tattva Bodha 7-day-camp in Tokyo, and next visit was in 2010 for Bhagavad Gita 2nd chapter 8-day-camp in Hiroshima and Tokyo. Thus, Pujya Swamiji sowed the seeds of Vedanta in the mind of Japanese people. Now those seeds are growing.

Pujya Swamiji gave the name of Paravidya Kendram for a center in Japan. There several graduates of long term course in

Kyoto. He regularly teaches Bhagavad Gita by using Gita Home Study as a class text. Twice a year, he teaches Tattva-Bodha 7 day-course in Tokyo and Osaka. Students can attend his classes through internet too. In the classroom of one yoga studio, there is a big video screen on which students and the text book are projected. Students who attend through internet can see Cetananandaji and students who attend in the class room. Internet is one useful tool for communication.



Cetanananda's Class in Tokyo (Sivananda Tokyo Center)

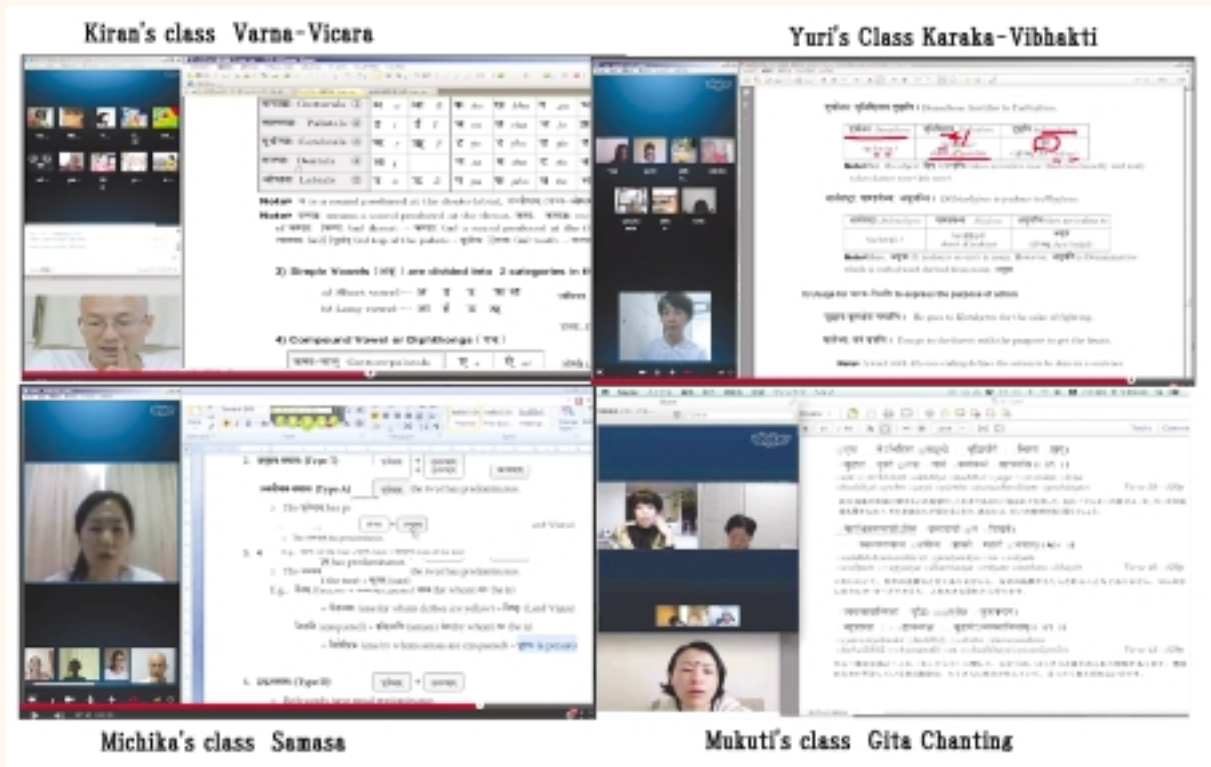


Pujya Swamiji taught Bhagavadgita 2nd Chapter in Hiroshima 2010

Swami Cetananandaji says, “Vedanta is 100 percent communication between teacher and students. Therefore, the actual class in which students can sit in front of a teacher is very important. But many students who live in remote places could not attend our classes regularly. Some serious students wanted to attend every class in every weekend. So, we allowed them to attend through Skype. Naturally, we found some effective ways of using internet for our

classes. We often have discussion time in which students in the class room and students on Skype can come together on the screen and discuss the same topic. And it is very exciting time in which students can assimilate, from which good questions arise.”

“Every class is video-recorded. These videos are kept on internet (in Google drive), and our students can open video folder of Paravidya Kendram and see any class at



any time.”

“I am also teaching Gita using Bhagavad Gita Home Study daily from 6 am to 7 am in early morning. More than 20 of regular students are studying there. Students who are living in society and home can keep studying only in the early morning. I give a guided meditation too in the morning class relating to the topic from Gita. Having listened to Gita, students can begin the day and it is very wonderful. Some of students have been attending this class for five years.”

Kiran, Mukti and Yuri are also teaching several classes in the yoga studios and also through internet. We teach Gita, Gita chanting, Introduction to Vedanta, etc. Recently, Kiran, Mukti, Midori, Hiro and Yuri made a team and begun to teach Sanskrit very systematically by three semester system in a year. Kiran divided a Samskrit text into five steps and gave each teacher responsibility for one step during one semester. So each teacher teaches a step at the same time from 6 am to 7 am in every weekend. This is wonderful because those who want to begin Sanskrit leaning can start in any semester which re-starts in every 4 months. And each student also can choose any step according to his or her level of understanding. Moreover, through Skype from India, we have two wonderful teachers. In every Thursday morning, Michika, who is a regular Sanskrit teacher of the current long team course in AVG, also teaches Panini Sutra to Japanese students who completed the five steps. 5

teachers also have a meeting every week which is very helpful for maintaining and developing their own knowledge. Venkateshji who is also a graduate from AVG is also helping Japanese students by teaching the chanting, Vishnu Sahasranama.

Swami Cetananandaji says, “I have been moving around in Japan for the last 8 years and I see serious students but Paravidya Kendram did not have a place where teachers and students can come together and stay for studying. By the grace of Pujya Swamiji, some of serious students for this knowledge may be allowed to stay for the long team course in India. But there are students who cannot have chance to go to India. They want to study with nearby teacher doing daily prayer and puja. So recently Paravidya Kendram had a place where students and teachers can stay, study, and do puja together. It is not big place, so it may allow only 10 people to stay in two halls, separately for ladies and gentlemen. Yuri is taking care of this place.”

By the grace of Pujya Swamiji, may Paravidya Kendram be auspicious without obstacles. May it grow following Dharma and be a center for the Japanese spiritual seekers. May the teaching tradition which starts from Dakshinamurti flow in Japan with the effort of all students and teachers helping each other. We do daily prayer to Dakshinamurti and our Guru parampara.

*Reported by Yuri from Japan
<http://www.para-vidya.com>*

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