

Regarding the illustration of 'Bankokuki' in Marugoto: Japanese Language and Culture Elementary 1 A2 - Coursebook for communicative language activities (Katsudo)

At the bottom of page 84 in Marugoto: Japanese Language and Culture Elementary 1 A2 - Coursebook for communicative language activities (Katsudo), in order to depict a scene at an international exchange event, there is an illustration of a Japanese, Philippine, Russian, German and Korean national flag arranged together tied to a piece of string. This illustration shows a section of bunting known as 'Bankokuki', which is used at sports events and many other events in Japan.

'Bankokuki' is often made by tying the left side of small horizontally oriented national flags of about 20 to 30 cm in size to a string. As a result, when the string is hung horizontally at events, the orientation of the national flags is rotated by 90 degrees (see photograph 1).

If you were to look at this illustration without having a clear idea that it shows 'Bankokuki', you might have the mistaken idea that the national flags are drawn in a hanging position. Moreover, as in the case of the Philippines, depending on the country, the meaning of the flag might also change if viewed as a national flag in a hanging position.

However, this illustration does not show national flags in a hanging position drawn incorrectly by mistake, but is intended to reflect the way 'Bankokuki' are made and displayed. In addition, 'Bankokuki' can normally be viewed from both the front and back, so if viewed from the back, the flags look like they are in the opposite orientation to their official orientation (see photograph 2).

Thank you to everyone that uses Marugoto for your understanding, and we sincerely hope you will continue to make use of Marugoto.

01/12/2014 the Marugoto production team

photograph 1



photograph 2

