Lesson 44:   Honoring a Retiring Worker at a Ceremony

By Xandra

1. Dialogue

First, repeat after your tutor. Then, practice each role.

Hydra Computers is holding a retirement ceremony for Mr. Smith. He will be honored and given an award for his service to the company. Makoto is the speaker for the ceremony.

Makoto: Good evening, everyone. Tonight, we're celebrating Mr. Smith's retirement.
(Everyone claps while Mr. Smith waves to everyone.)
Makoto: We're also honoring him for his loyalty to the company. Mr. Smith, would you please join us on the stage?
(Mr. Smith walks up to the stage)
Makoto: Mr. Smith, how many years have you been with the company?
Mr. Smith: I've worked here since 1973. I've devoted 42 years to Hydra Computers.
Makoto: The company president would like to give you this award for your long service to the company.
(Everyone applauds as Mr. Smith receives the award.)
Mr. Smith: Thank you very much.
Makoto: Since it's your last day at Hydra Computers, we're all wondering what you're going to do tomorrow.
Mr. Smith: Tomorrow, I'll be flying to Hawaii to take a very long vacation.

2. Today's Phrase

First, repeat after your tutor. Then, make a few sentences using Today's phrase.

1. Mother Theresa devoted her life to helping the poor.
2. He devotes his time to finding a cure for cancer.
3. The coach devoted his time to the athletes.

* devote A to B / A（時間など）を B（仕事・目的など）にささげる

3. Your Task

You are retiring today, and your co-workers are holding a ceremony for you. They're asking you to give a speech. Express your appreciation of your co-workers. Tell them how you're feeling at this moment. You should also offer some advice for the young workers in the company.

4. Let's Talk

What do you think of when you hear the word 'retirement'?
What do you say to a retiring person on his last day at work?
In Japan, is it a custom to give a present to a retiring co-worker?
Explain your answer.

5. Today's photo

Describe the photo in your words as precisely as possible.

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