

## SOUVENIR FOR ECN4 PARTICIPANTS – BEIGOMA, JAPANESE TRADITIONAL SPINNING TOP TOY

Beigoma is a Japanese traditional spinning top toy. You can check movies on YouTube for example <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ez9QR7Lq3o> to see how you can play with it. It is made of heavy cast iron and can be easily purchased on the web by like a dollar a piece. Beigoma is originally from Kyoto area back to 8th century, originally as a play among aristocrats. To play with it, you need some sense of mechanics and practice. It was a back-up plan for ECN4 last session in case of bad weather to have a bit of demonstration, practice and possibly contest or match of Beigoma. You can take one as souvenir. Enjoy!

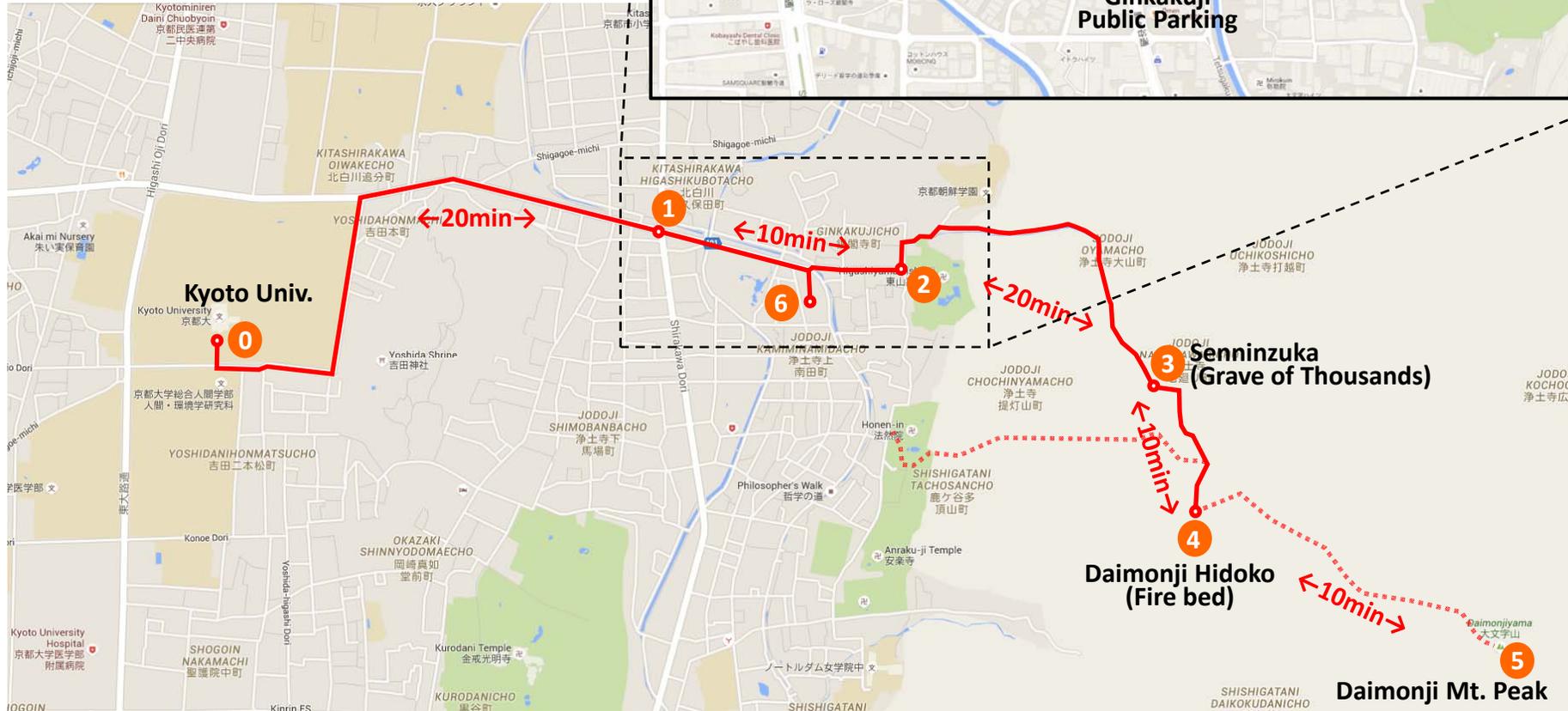
Japanese Local Hosts of ECN4

Beigoma (from Wikipedia) - A small but light pointy shaped toy of approximately 3cm in diameter, it is spun by wrapping a thin 60 cm cord around it, then throwing it while releasing the cord to spin it onto a surface such as matting spread across the top of a barrel. The thrower aims it at another Beigoma that is already spinning to knock it out of the playing area. The loser is the player whose top either stops spinning first or is knocked outside the area. If spun correctly it makes a humming sound. They are often decorated with Kanji (Chinese Character), for example with names of famous baseball players.



# ECN4 Last Session – Hike to Scenic Daimonji Mountain

- Be prepared with water and hat
- Luggage can be kept at the venue or on the ECN4 Bus
- 15:00 Departing from Kyoto Univ. (on foot or by ECN4 Bus to Ginkakuji Public Parking)
- 17:00 ECN4 Bus Departing from Ginkakuji Public Parking 6**
- 17:30 ECN4 Bus Departing from Kyoto Univ**
- 18:00 ECN4 Bus Arriving at Kyoto Station



Gozan no Okuribi, more commonly known as Daimonji, is a festival from ancient in Kyoto, Japan. It is the culmination of the O-Bon festival on August 16, in which five giant bonfires are lit on mountains surrounding the city. It signifies the moment when the spirits of deceased family members, who are said to visit this world during O-Bon, are believed to be returning to the spirit world. Starting at 8 PM on August 16, the giant bonfires are lit, each with a distinctive shape. Three of the fires form giant Chinese characters, and two form familiar shapes. The Daimonji (大), the character meaning "large" or "great", is the first to be lit on the Daimonji Mountain.

