

13th Nihongo Summit 2011 “Hope and Peace”

A Gateway for World Scholars of the Japanese Language

Call for Panellists (age: 15 to 27)!!

Let’s Discuss “Hope and Peace” Together in Japanese in Japan

Organised and sponsored by the Japan Return Programme, NPO

The Japan Return Programme (JRP), NPO organises the Nihongo Summit by selecting panellists [Junior Category (age: 15~19), Senior Category (age: 20~27)] from among young foreign people throughout the world who have studied Japanese, and inviting them to Japan. In addition to the presentation of their opinions at the Nihongo Summit, they will participate in various programmes such as discussions with Japanese students, homestays, and experience Japanese traditional culture. We strongly encourage you to apply for the position of panellist for the Nihongo Summit.

I. Duration/Schedule (planned)

15th of June to 19th of July 2011 (35 days) in Tokyo and one other city

*The above schedule is subject to change. The final detailed itinerary will be announced at the end of January 2011 following selection of the panellists.

II. Panellist Qualifications

The panellists shall be those who understand and agree with the objectives of the Nihongo Summit (see our website), are capable of presenting their opinions in Japanese, and meet the following qualifications.

One panellist per country will be selected for both the Junior and Senior Categories, from a total of 16 to 20 countries.

[Junior Category] Age: 15 to 19

- 1) Senior high school/university/college students (as of the date of arrival in Japan), or those who are enrolled at a Japanese language school equivalent to the former (which provides a dedicated instructor and can issue a certificate of enrollment).
- 2) Those whose ages are 15 to 19 as of 30th June 2011.
- 3) Those whose parents are not both Japanese.
- 4) Those who have no plan to visit Japan immediately prior to the Nihongo Summit.
- 5) Those who have sufficient knowledge of Japanese to write the assigned essay in kanji and kana, and to participate in oral discussion with ability equivalent to the third grade of the Japanese Proficiency Test.
- 6) Those who are able to participate in the entire schedule above. (No change is accepted in the arrival and departure dates specified by the Secretariat. Therefore please make sure that you have no examination dates in your country during the above schedule, and allow sufficient time before and after the schedule in anticipation of possible flight changes)
- 7) Those who are both mentally and physically healthy enough to participate in the full schedule in Japanese and keep a daily log.

- 8) Those who understand the objectives of the JRP, which are to improve their Japanese and deepen their understanding of Japan, while observing the rules of the JRP.
- 9) Those who are able to contribute to the creation of an overseas JRP network as an assisting member or old panellist, following their participation.

[Senior Category] Age: 20 to 27

- 1) University/college or postgraduate students (as of the date of arrival in Japan), or those who are enrolled at a Japanese language school equivalent to the former (which provides a dedicated instructor and can issue a certificate of enrollment).
- 2) Those whose ages are 20 to 27 as of 30th June 2011.
- 3) to 9) Same as the Junior Category

*Please be sure to contact the JRP Secretariat, if you have any questions concerning the qualification requirements

III. Expenses (common to both Junior/Senior Categories)

[Expenses born by the JRP Executive Committee]

- 1) Return airfare between the international airport (designated by the Secretariat) of the panellist's country and Japan.
- 2) Airfare within Japan during the period of the schedule made by the Secretariat.
- 3) Expenses for participation in official events and for the home-stay (including breakfast and dinner)

[Expenses born by the panellist]

- 1) Travel expenses from the panellist's residence to the international airport (designated by the Secretariat).
- 2) A participation fee of ¥30,000, which will be collected by the JRP Secretariat upon the panellist's arrival.

In addition, approx. ¥30,000 to cover various additional expenses, required by the panellist during his/her free time, as well as lunches, medical fees, international telephone calls, transportation expenses from the home-stay location to a scheduled programme venue and personal photo developing etc. Fees to purchase souvenirs are not included.

- 3) Traveller's insurance (for sickness and accident) shall be bought prior to departure from the panellist's home country at their own expense. Care regarding sickness and accident should in principle be the responsibility of panellists.
- 4) Expenses for visa application for a visit to Japan and/or for transit (when required).

*A scholarship may be provided depending on the country you are from. Please consult the Secretariat if you are hesitating to apply for the programme because of the expenses to be borne by the panellist.

IV. Application Procedures: Assigned Essay and Deadline

Please be sure to inform the Secretariat prior to your application.

[Junior Category]

1. 1st Selection: Assigned essay and other required materials

The following must be received by the Secretariat no later than: 30th October 2010

- 1) Assigned essay in Japanese, based on the theme "Hope and Peace", in your own handwriting.
 - Length: 1,600 to 2,000 characters
 - Express your opinions and ideas based on your experiences.
 - Specify sources of citations, if any.
 - Indicate references, if any.
- 2) Use the application form specified by JRP [Form A (for those who have never visited Japan) or Form B (for those who have previously visited Japan or plan to visit before June 2011)]. Please download the form from our website or request it from the Secretariat.
 - The application should be completed in your own handwriting.
- 3) Your self-introduction in your own handwriting (approx. 400 to 600 characters)
- 4) Copy of a few pages of the Japanese language textbook which you are currently using (the cover, and the page(s) you are now studying).
- 5) Six photographs [three copies of your full-face photo (5 cm x 4 cm), one with all of your family members and two snapshots of you in your home environment e.g. with friends]. Indicate on the back of each photograph the occasion and with whom it was taken.)

*Please send 1) to 3) by fax or e-mail attachment first.

2. Announcement of the 1st selection results:

19th November 2010 (planned)

3. 2nd Selection:

The following must be received by the Secretariat no later than: 10th December 2010

- 1) A three-minute summary of your presentation of the essay, which has passed the 1st selection, with sound and images using videotape (VHS), Mini DV or CDR format.
(*See the notes concerning audio/visual material submission, below.)
- 2) A question/answer sheet regarding your "Japanese language proficiency level" to be filled out by the instructor who has provided you with assistance in writing an essay in Japanese. Send this together with the above.

* There might be cases in which an interview is conducted by telephone.

4. Final Selection by Special Committee Members:

Beginning of January 2011 (planned)

5. Announcement of the names of panellists:

End of January 2011 (planned)

[Senior Category]

1. 1st Selection: Assigned essay and other required materials

The following must be received by the Secretariat no later than: 30th October 2010

- 1) Assigned essay in Japanese, based on the theme "Hope and Peace", in your own handwriting.
 - Length: 2,000 to 2,400 characters
 - Express your opinions and ideas based on your experiences.
 - Specify sources of citations, if any.
 - Indicate references, if any.
- 2) Your self-introduction (approx. 400 to 600 characters in your own handwriting)
- 3) Use the application form specified by JRP [Form A (for those who have never visited Japan) or Form B (for those who have previously visited Japan or plan to visit before June 2011)]. Please download the form from our website or request it from the Secretariat.
 - The application should be completed in your own handwriting.
- 4) Copy of a few pages of the Japanese language textbook which you are currently using (the cover, and the page(s) you are now studying).
- 6) Six photographs [three copies of your full-face photo (5 cm x 4 cm), one with all of your family members and two snapshots of you in your home environment e.g. with friends]. Indicate on the back of each photograph the occasion and with whom it was taken.)

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5. Announcement of the names of panellists:

End of January 2011 (planned)

*All dates mentioned above may change, so please visit our website occasionally to confirm.

[Notes concerning audio/visual material submission]

1. Do not read from a written manuscript as the video is meant to test the proficiency of the applicant's spoken Japanese.
2. Sound should be recorded simultaneously with images. (No editing or post-synchronizing with the image is allowed.)
3. Make an oral presentation, not recitation, as naturally as possible.
4. Include a self-introduction.
5. Make sure that the image and sound qualities are good before sending.
6. Make a duplicate tape for yourself before sending.

**Your personal information stated in the submitted materials shall be used for the selection only.*

V. Notes upon Application

1. Please inform the Secretariat promptly of any changes regarding your application conditions which occur after the application, e.g. a sudden visit to Japan.
2. Please be aware that those who apply for any other activities taking place in Japan during the same period as the Nihongo Summit, and/or those who plan or are under application to study in Japan immediately before the Nihongo Summit, do not qualify.
3. Please do not fail to inform the Secretariat if a friend or your instructor helped you to write the essay.
4. In the case that an applicant fails to abide by the rule that they must write their essay based on their own idea and handwriting, all expenses incurred in the invitations will be charged to them, and invitations to their countries will not be considered in the future.
5. Panellists are expected to practise proper manners and behaviour as representatives of their countries during the Programme, as many events are planned including meetings with Japanese political and business leaders, government officials and Diet members, as well as media interviews. Formal wear will be required for courtesy visits and other Japanese traditional cultural events.
6. Please confirm with our website concerning possible changes in the schedule.
7. Please be aware that the panellist will have to bear some expenses for participation.

VI. Co-Organiser

Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Inc.

VII. Supporters/Sponsors (tentative)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Agency of Cultural Affairs, Japan International Cooperation Agency, NHK Japan Broadcasting Corporation, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, etc.

VIII. Organiser/Contact

The Japan Return Programme (JRP), NPO

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