

[The 26th] (Total) Japanese Language Essay Contest for Learners and Researchers of the Japanese Language

We are pleased to announce the "The 26th Japanese Language Essay Contest for Learners and Researchers of the World's Japanese Language," the last contest organized by Kazuo and Hiroko Omori (Institute of International Exchange Japan). Over the 34 years since 1989, the program has been held a total of 25 times for "international students," "Chinese university students," and "students of Japanese around the world," with a total of 51,099 applicants. From 2024, Mr. Koji Oikawa (resident of Hirono Town, Fukushima Prefecture. He is the director of the Hirono Mirai Speech Club and a Japanese language teacher.) will host the event in a new format.

=====

- 一. **Eligibility:** Any "foreign national" who is studying or researching the Japanese language is eligible to apply.
- 二. **Theme** = Please choose one of the following. (You may apply for two themes).

1. Japanese language and me

Why did you decide to study Japanese? How difficult or enjoyable is it to learn Japanese, and how will you use Japanese in the future?
Favorite Japanese sayings and proverbs. Anything related to the Japanese language.

2. What kind of country is 'Japan' for your country?

What is the relationship between your country and Japan? What does your country expect from Japan?

Reference Materials E-book "Japanese Language Teaching Material [The Country Called [Japan]] (HP: <http://www.nihonwosiru.jp/>)

- 三. **Number of characters** = Between 800 and 1,500 characters for the text alone.
- 四. **How to apply** = Only attach the application by e-mail to yuraumi@yahoo.co.jp (International Institute of Japan)
In the application essay, please include your nationality, name, age, gender, school name or occupation, and contact information/email address. Participants may apply individually, or universities, Japanese language schools, and Japanese language classes may apply together in a file.
- 五. **Application Period** = Must arrive no later than Sunday, April 30, 2023 (from December 2022 to April 30, 2023)
- 六. **Prizes**
 - ☆ First prize = 2 winners (Certificate + "One week in Japan" or cash prize of 200,000 yen = 1 winner for each theme)
 - ☆ Second prize = 5 winners (Certificate + prize money of 100,000 yen)
 - ☆ Third prize = 20 winners (Certificate + prize money of 30,000 yen)
 - ☆ Third Prize: 20 winners (Certificate and prize money of 30,000 yen)
 - ☆ Effort Award: 40 winners (Certificate and prize money of 10,000 yen)

The award ceremony has not yet been decided, but a collection of winning essays will be published.

- 七. **Judges** [Preliminary judging] Kazuo Omori, Hiroko Omori (select about 100 essays as "prize-winning candidates").

[Secondary judges] Koji Oikawa (Director of Hirono Mirai Speech Club. Japanese language teacher).

Kazuo Omori and Hiroko Omori.

Kiyomasa Habara (former head of the political department of the Asahi Shimbun).

Koichi Furuya (Editorial Writer, Asahi Shimbun).

- 八. **Announcement of Winners** The winners will be announced on the Institute of International Exchange Japan website in July 2023 (2023). <http://www.nihonwosiru.jp/>

=====

organized by Kazuo Omori and Hiroko Omori (2-71-1-C621 Sunagawa-cho, Tachikawa, Tokyo 190-0031).

(Director and Editor-in-Chief, Institute for International Exchange Japan)

Secretariat = Hirono Future Speech Club, Fukushima Prefecture (Director, Koji Oikawa).

Supported by: The Japan Foundation / JICA (Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers)/ Asahi Shimbun newspaper.

Co-organizers: Three A Corporation.