

470,000 People around the World to Take on the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test in July

The number of overseas applicants increased by 46,000 people

The Japan Foundation conducts the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) on Sunday, July 2, 2017 in 127 cities of 35 countries and regions outside Japan.

The JLPT is the largest-scale Japanese-language test in the world to certify language proficiency of non-native speakers. This year marks the 33rd anniversary of the JLPT, and more and more countries and cities are to hold the test. In comparison with the test held in July 2016, the number of applicants has increased approximately 46,000 overseas and 30,000 in Japan. The number of applicants in Southeast Asia and South Asia has increased drastically (28%). In addition, the number of applicants in East Asia, including China and Korea where the largest number of people apply, has increased by 13% from last year. These increases demonstrate growing high interest overseas in the JLPT.

■Outline of July 2017 JLPT

<Date> Sunday, July 2, 2017

<Sites> 127 cities in 35 countries and regions abroad and 47 prefectures in Japan

<Number of Applicants>

Approximately 466,000 people (314,000 overseas and 152,000 in Japan)

<Levels> N1-N5 (five levels with N1 being the highest)

*Please see the website (<http://www.jlpt.jp/e/>) for the summary of linguistic competence required for each level.

■The number of overseas applicants:

-The number of overseas applicants is 314,159. The increase rate is 13% in East Asia, 28% in Southeast Asia and 17% in the countries and regions outside Japan (In Comparison with the number of applicants for the JLPT in July 2016.)

-Countries and regions with largest number of applicants (top 3) and with high increase-rates are as follows.

	Countries and regions		Number of applicants	Year-on-year rate
Top 3 countries/regions that have a large number of applicants	1st	China※	134,996	15%
	2nd	Korea	43,473	15%
	3rd	Taiwan	41,585	7%
Countries/regions that have a noticeable increase	Myanmar		5,574	122%
	Sri Lanka		2,057	51%
	Philippines		5,739	24%

※including Hong Kong and Macau.

■Advantages of acquiring a JLPT certificate include:

-To earn points for preferential treatment for immigration to Japan.

(In addition to those who have passed N1, successful N2 examinees earn points from April 2017.)

-To satisfy one of requirements to take Japan's national exams for medical practitioners.

-To meet one of requirements for the nurse/caregiver candidates under the EPA. (Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam)

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Reference data: Transitive graph of the number of applicants and test sites of overseas in July test.

