

RIEHATA Set to Perform in the Philippines!

Special Dance Performance with SB19

Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Japan–Philippines Friendship



The Japan Foundation, Manila (JFM) will present a special performance **STELLA DANCE JAM (SDJ)** to commemorate the **2026 Japan–Philippines Friendship Year**, marking the **70th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations** between Japan and the Philippines.

The long-awaited collaboration between RIEHATA, a globally acclaimed dancer and choreographer who continues to shape the international dance scene, and SB19, one of the Philippines' most celebrated groups, will finally come to life on stage in Manila!

In addition, young dancers selected through auditions in both Japan and the Philippines will also participate in the performance. Bringing together the next generation of **“Stellas”—rising stars**—from across borders, the project offers these emerging dancers the rare opportunity to share the stage with world-class artists.

Philippine auditions will be held in Manila and Davao. For further details on how to participate in the auditions, please refer to the information below.

70 Years of Japan–Philippines Friendship

Under the theme of the 2026 Japan–Philippines Friendship Year, “Weaving the Future Together: Peace, Prosperity, and Possibilities,” the event will bring a world-class stage to audiences through dynamic dance performances featuring artists from both Japan and the Philippines. It is also hoped that this project will serve as an opportunity to further deepen affinity toward Japan among a wide range of generations in the Philippines.

Press Inquiries:

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This project will be implemented as part of the Next Generation Co-Creation Partnership – WA 2.0, a comprehensive people-to-people exchange initiative aimed at promoting exchanges and fostering the next generation of leaders between Japan and ASEAN.

Event Overview:

Philippines x Japan Friendship 2026

STELLA DANCE JAM (SDJ)

Dates: Saturday, June 20 and Sunday, June 21, 2026

*SB19 will appear **on June 20 only.***

Venue: Metro Manila

Admission: Ticketed event (paid admission). Ticket purchase is limited to those aged 18 and above. Further details will be announced at a later date.

Organizer: The Japan Foundation

Co-organizer: Embassy of Japan in the Philippines

Supported by: JTI Philippines, All Nippon Airways (ANA)

In cooperation with: 1Z Entertainment

Production Support: AX-ON Inc.

For Press inquiries, please email: Ralph@jpf.go.jp

Philippine Auditions:

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026

Venue: Davao

Date: Sunday, April 26, 2026

Venue: Manila

Registration for Audition:

Please register via the link below.

<https://bit.ly/StellaDanceJam>

For details, please refer to the application guidelines in the registration form.

Participation in the audition is free of charge.

Registration Period: March 24 (Tue) - April 5 (Sun), 2026

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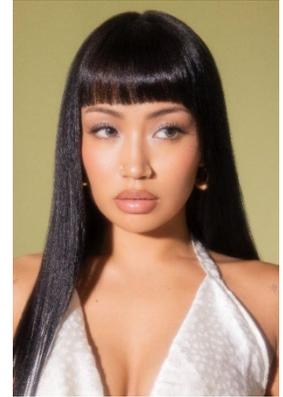
ARTIST PROFILE:**RIEHATA**

Born on August 9, 1990, in Niigata Prefecture, Japan.

RIEHATA is one of Japan's leading dancers, choreographers, and artists. She has choreographed for numerous global artists, including Chris Brown, BTS, G-Dragon, Lisa (from BLACKPINK), TWICE, and PSY, and is widely recognized for her work in the K-pop industry.

In Japan, she has created choreography for major artists such as EXILE, King & Prince, Nissy, and BE:FIRST, contributing to many hit productions.

She also appeared with her team RHTokyo on the popular Korean dance competition program World of Street Woman Fighter and performed alongside G-Dragon at the Melon Music Awards 2025, further expanding her popularity both in Japan and internationally.

**SB19**

SB19 IS A MULTI-AWARDED FIVE-MEMBER GROUP FROM THE PHILIPPINES.

PABLO | JOSH | STELL | KEN | JUSTIN

The "SB" in SB19 stands for "Sound Break," which represents their aspirations of disrupting the music scene and bringing Filipino music and culture into the international spotlight. They debuted in October 2018 with their single 'Tilaluha' and gained popularity with their second single 'Go Up'. Since their debut, SB19 has amassed fans - A'TIN - across the globe and was recognized by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts as Youth and Sentro Rizal Ambassadors since 2021. SB19 broke into the global spotlight as the first Southeast Asian and Filipino act to be nominated in the Billboard Music Awards as Top Social Artist in 2021.



They are also the first Filipino act to land on the international Billboard Social 50, Next Big Sound Charts and #1 on the Billboard Hot Trending Songs in 2021 with 'Bazinga'. Their latest release, 'GENTO', debuted at #8 on the Billboard World Digital Sales Charts. By 2025, SB19 released their long awaited comeback with the EP "Simula at Wakas" starting things strong with "DAM". The track garnered records and chart success both locally and internationally with it reaching the IFPI top 20 spots in the Philippines, Middle East and Hong Kong and No. 1 in the Billboard World Digital Song Sales Charts in its 1st week of release.

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About The Japan Foundation

The Japan Foundation is an incorporated administrative agency that promotes arts and cultural exchange, Japanese-language education, and Japanese studies and global dialogue based on its mission of “cultivating friendship and ties between Japan and the world.”

It will conduct “Partnership to Co-create a Future with the Next Generation: WA Project 2.0,” a comprehensive people-to-people exchange project with ASEAN and other Asian countries to promote the mutual recognition of each country’s values in the fields of Japanese-language education, culture and the arts, Japanese studies, and global partnership programs, over a ten-year period beginning in 2024.

Centered around the NIHONGO Partners program and programs for two-way intellectual and cultural exchange, the project will endeavor to strengthen multifaceted networks of people and build strong, far-reaching relationships of trust between Japan and its Asian partners through sincere and open communication.

◆NIHONGO Partners Program

Teaching assistants and instructors of Japanese culture are dispatched to secondary educational institutions in Asia as partners to local Japanese-language teachers and their students.

◆Programs for Two-Way Intellectual and Cultural Exchange

These programs will cultivate strong bonds between people and foster members of the next generation to serve as bridges between different countries in the world by creating opportunities for collaboration built on mutual understanding.

Please visit the official website of “Partnership to Co-create a Future with the Next Generation: WA Project 2.0” (<https://asiawa.jpj.go.jp/>) for articles and videos about past initiatives.



JAPAN FOUNDATION
国際交流基金

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