

390,000 People around the World to Challenge the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test in July

The number of overseas applicants increased by 15,000 people

The Japan Foundation conducts the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) on Sunday, July 3, 2016 in 120 cities of 32 countries and regions outside Japan. JLPT is the largest Japanese-language exam in the world to certify language proficiency of non-native speakers. This year marked the 32st anniversary of the JLPT and more countries and cities are to hold the exam. In comparison with the exam held in July 2015, the number of applicants has increased by 15,000 in overseas and 30,000 in Japan. In the Philippines, Japanese-language learning is booming among students and professionals. One of the reasons is that several Japanese companies have expanded their business in the country. As a result, the exam is now held twice a year. These factors have raised the awareness of the exam and led to its increase rate of 100 %.

Outline of July 2016 JLPT

- <Date> **Sunday, July 3, 2016**
- <Sites> **120 cities in 32 countries and regions abroad and 45 prefectures in Japan**
- <Number of Applicants> **Approximately 390,000 people (270,000 overseas and 120,000 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 268,818. The increase rate is 9.4% in Southeast Asia, and 5.8% in the countries and regions outside Japan.

-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	117,135	1.1%
	2nd	Taiwan	39,055	5.0%
	3rd	Korea	37,824	8.6%
Countries/regions that have a noticeable increase	The Philippines		4,642	100%
	Myanmar		2,513	89.4%
	Vietnam		33,161	24.8%

(Comparison with the number of applicants for the JLPT in July 2015)

Advantages of acquiring a JLPT certificate include:

- To earn points for preferential treatment for immigration to Japan.
- 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, the Philippines, and Vietnam)

[Contact] The Japan Foundation Center for Japanese-Language Testing Ando (Ms.)
 Tel: +81-(0)3-5367-1021 / E-mail: jlptinfo@jpf.go.jp
 [Press Contact] The Japan Foundation Communication Center Kawakubo (Ms.), Mori (Ms.)
 Tel: +81-(0)3-5369-6089 / Fax: +81-(0)3-5369-6044 / E-mail: press@jpf.go.jp