

**480,000 People around the World to Challenge the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test in December**  
**The number of overseas applicants increased by 35,000 people**

The Japan Foundation conducts the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) on Sunday, December 4, 2016 in 217 cities of 69 countries and regions outside Japan. JLPT is the largest Japanese-language test in the world to certify language proficiency of non-native speakers. This year marks the 32nd anniversary of the establishment of the JLPT. In comparison with the test held in December 2015, the number of applicants has increased by 35,000 overseas and 36,000 in Japan. In Southeast Asia, it has increased remarkably (23%), and in East Asia, including China and Korea which have the largest number of applicants in the world, it has increased by 7% compared with the previous year. These increases demonstrate growing interest in JLPT overseas.

**Outline of December 2016 JLPT**

**Date:** Sunday, December 4, 2016  
**Sites :** 217 cities in 69 countries and regions abroad and 45 prefectures in Japan  
**Number of Applicants:** Approximately 480,000 people (330,000 overseas and 150,000 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 331,445. The increase rate is 23% in Southeast Asia, and 12% 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	106,836	7%
	2nd	Korea	41,120	11%
	3rd	Taiwan	41,113	2%
Countries/regions that have a noticeable increase	Philippines		6,982	62%
	India		8,743	61%
	Myanmar		10,586	47%

(Comparison with the number of applicants for the JLPT in December 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 of Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam under the EPA.

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