

Japanese- Language Education Overseas



Novosibirsk State University



Japanese-Language Education Overseas

We hope to make Japanese-language education familiar and available to as many people as possible and help them to continue studying Japanese for a long time. To this end, we support building the foundation and the environment suitable for Japanese-language education. We also work with overseas national and local governments and educational institutions to develop programs suiting their respective educational environment, policies, and students' objectives.

Japanese-Language Education Programs Overseas

Building Japanese-Language Education Infrastructure Overseas

We build basic infrastructure and environments around the world for more learners to have more Japanese-language education opportunities. It also contributes to help instructors find useful teaching resources.

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Country/Region-Specific Japanese-Language Education

Educational environments may vary from town to town; learners have their own objectives and goals. We tailor Japanese-language education courses and textbooks to suit the respective country or region's needs.

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Promoting the JF Standard

Sending Japanese-Language Specialists Overseas

JF Language Course

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Training for Overseas Teachers and Learners



Building Japanese-Language Education Infrastructure Overseas

Promoting the JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education

For mutual understanding through language communication, two competences are important: one is in accomplishing tasks and the other is in intercultural understanding obtained by broadened views through experiences in diverse cultures.

Based on this principle, the Japan Foundation developed the JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education (JF Standard) as a tool to help think about teaching, learning and assessing in Japanese. To publicize and promote the JF Standard, we have provided information widely and presented possible uses through seminars and workshops at home and abroad.

In fiscal 2014, the first printing of the third edition of the JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education 2010 was published and a pamphlet to widely publicize the JF Standard was also produced.

Also, based on the JF Standard, the "Role Play Test" has been developed to measure the instructor's mastery of verbal communication in the teaching environment. It is available on the JF Standard website. The website also provides manuals, testing procedure videos, model voices, and role-play cards in 13 languages, making it convenient for examinees.

Also, the *Minna no Can-do* website's database was expanded to include 162 new Can-do statements (72 JF Can-do statements and 90 *Marugoto* Can-do statements).

In addition, we provided grants for seminars, workshops, surveys and symposiums, and sent instructors to explain and demonstrate possible uses and practical application examples of the JF Standard.

Publication and sale of *Marugoto: Japanese-language and Culture*

The coursebook *Marugoto: Japanese-language and Culture* based on the JF Standard has the word *Marugoto* to mean "everything about language and culture," "complete and natural communication using the Japanese-language," and "to learn everything about Japanese life and culture."

The two main coursebooks, *Katsudo* and *Rikai*, were published in 2013 for the Starter (A1) level and in 2014 for the Elementary 1 and 2 (A2) levels. A total of six coursebooks in the series have been produced. Seminars for Japanese-language teachers to learn how to use the coursebooks are being conducted in Japan and overseas.

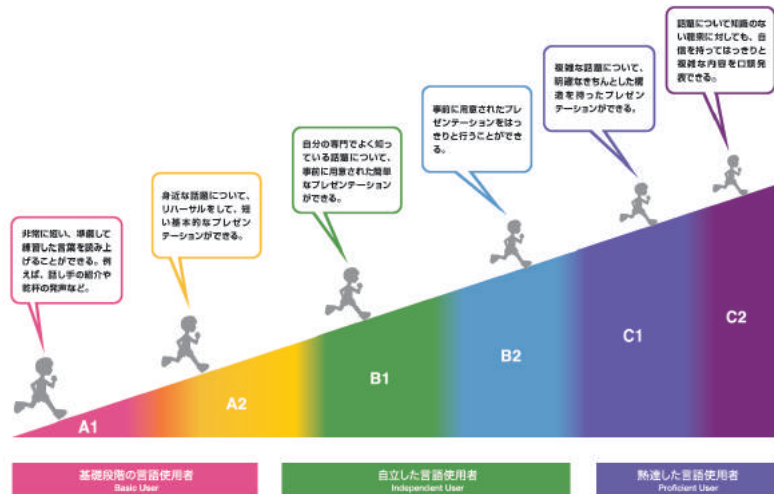
Japanese-language education incorporating the JF Language Course and *Marugoto: Japanese-language and Culture* is spreading around the world. We will continue to develop *Marugoto: Japanese-language and Culture* so we can publish Pre-intermediate (A2/B1) and Intermediate 1 and 2 (B1).



Seminar introducing *Marugoto Elementary 1 (A2)* in Tokyo on June 28, 2014



JF Standard pamphlet and Role Playing Test manual



Japanese-language proficiency levels according to the JF Standard



Marugoto: Japanese-language and Culture books (International Fair 2014 in Kita-Urawa.)



Marugoto: Japanese-language and Culture (Elementary 2 (A2) - coursebook for communicative language activities: Katsudo / coursebook for communicative language competences: Rikai)

JF Language Course

The new type of Japanese-language course conforming to the JF Standard is a Japanese-language learning model that makes learning and teaching Japanese easy. We also emphasize comprehensive learning of language and culture and promote mutual understanding through Japanese-language education.

To meet the diverse needs of Japanese-language classes overseas, The Japan Foundation is further developing the JF Language Course for learners. Rather than studying Japanese for a practical purpose such as studying or working in Japan, many students in recent years have been pursuing a personal interest in the language or in Japanese pop culture such as J-pop music, anime, and manga, thus wanting to study the language as well.

Taking this into consideration, the JF Language Course has introduced a new curriculum based on the JF Standard. The course has thus been expanded and revamped. By integrating *Marugoto: Japanese-language and Culture*, the course now emphasizes the understanding of Japanese culture more than ever before.

In fiscal 2014, over 21,000 people took the JF Language Course at the Japan Foundation's 22 overseas branches and eight Japan Centers.



JF Language Course intermediate class in Hanoi during the opening ceremony

■ Cultural Japanese Course

Backed by the Japan Foundation's cultural exchange activities, the JF Language Course offers cultural field trips besides just classroom lessons. Students can see and experience music, movie, art, food, and other Japanese culture. We hold interactive programs on contemporary Japanese culture and provide information about Japan. By having such cultural experiences, students can broaden their views of Japanese culture and attain a deeper understanding of the Japanese-language.

For example in Paris, the Japanese Culture Atelier covered kanji characters, Noh plays, movies, and other specific themes. Also, "NIHONGO Shaberon" was a Japanese conversation event with native Japanese living in Paris. In Madrid, a new Japanese conversation club called "¡Vamos a nihonguar!" was formed to hold games and cultural activities.



Cultural Japanese course's hands-on Japanese cooking event in Budapest

Marugoto expanding at El Liceo Mexicano Japonés, A.C.

From the summer of 2013, The Japan Foundation, Mexico together with El Liceo Mexicano Japonés, A.C. school in Mexico started a pilot program using *Marugoto* as part of the school's Mexico Course high school class. In fiscal 2014, the program was expanded to certain junior high school classes.

El Liceo Mexicano Japonés, A.C. is a unique school that has both a "Japan Course" conducted by a school for Japanese students and a "Mexico Course" mainly for Mexican students. Both schools share the same grounds. Students from both courses regularly have classes and sporting events together for international exchange.

Since the school's establishment, the Mexico Course has required their students to study Japanese. Upon requesting cooperation from El Liceo Mexicano Japonés, A.C., The Japan Foundation, Mexico started introducing *Marugoto*. However, since *Marugoto* was geared for the general public, some

adjustments had to be made for the school. There was a period of trial and error as the school's teachers worked with specialists from The Japan Foundation, Mexico. They repeated training and model classes and repeatedly created and implemented lesson plans.

Thanks to the mutual cooperation of the school and The Japan Foundation, Mexico, the results have exceeded expectations. Classes using *Marugoto* have introduced shodo (calligraphy), picnics, and other diverse Japanese culture. Workshops conducted by artists visiting Mexico for a Japan Foundation project are also held. *Marugoto* has proven to be so good that students who do not use *Marugoto* express envy at students in *Marugoto* classes. Due to such praise, from fiscal 2015, the use of *Marugoto* will be expanded to both the junior high and high school classes (total of 26 classes with 360 students).

Although this program still has many improvements to be made, we are encouraged by the students' eager faces in *Marugoto* classes and determined to improve the lessons.

Online Education Tools

Our website for assisting Japanese-language teachers provides content for making teaching materials and an online forum for knowledge sharing among teachers. We also have a website for learners to compliment whatever they are learning.

■ Marugoto+ (Marugoto Plus) Elementary 1 (A2) published. Marugoto+ (Marugoto Plus) Starter (A1) grammar section added.

The Marugoto+ (Marugoto Plus) website to assist learners using Marugoto: Japanese-language and Culture has published Elementary 1 (A2) in June 2014 as a followup to last fiscal year's Starter (A1). This was in line with what continuing learners hoped for. The "Life & Culture" section of Elementary 1 (A2), which was originally in Japanese and English alone, now has an Indonesian version for the world's second highest number of Japanese-language learners. Also, the grammar section (Japanese, English, and Spanish versions) was added to Starter (A1) in October 2014.

To make it easier for people around the world to access the Marugoto+ (Marugoto Plus) website, a content delivery network (CDN) server has been employed.



Marugoto+ (Marugoto Plus) website home page



Marugoto+ Elementary 1 (A2) top page



Marugoto+ Elementary 1 (A2) Life & Culture

■ NIHONGO-e-NA Users Increasing

NIHONGO-e-NA is a useful portal for learning Japanese and deepening your understanding of Japanese culture. In fiscal 2014, we continued to provide information through the PC website and iOS and Android apps. As a result, the number of users have been increasing. The PC site has 253 articles, while the apps have 44. Japanese-language learners around the world are using NIHONGO-e-NA.



NIHONGO-e-NA home page

■ Erin's Challenge! I can speak Japanese. website boasts more users around the world

Erin's Challenge! I can speak Japanese. is an e-learning website available in eight languages. In fiscal 2014, the site has been expanded to enable more Japanese-language learners around the world to have fun with Japanese-language and culture with Erin.

■ Minna no Kyozaï Website Enhanced

The Minna no Kyozaï website has been assisting Japanese-language teachers for 12 years. During fiscal 2014, in response to users' demands, more photos, illustrations, and reading comprehension materials were added, making the site even more useful.



Erin's Challenge! I can speak Japanese. website



Minna no Kyozaï website: new reading material, "Nihon dewa Ima"

Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

The Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) is a test for non-native Japanese speakers to gauge their Japanese-language proficiency. Examinees range widely, from young people to company employees. They use the test for measuring their Japanese-language proficiency, job promotions, university admission, etc. The Japan Foundation creates the tests and conducts them overseas. And the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services, the co-organizer of the JLPT, conducts the test in Japan.

The test is offered at five levels from N1 to N5, and examinees can choose the level best suited to their proficiency. The N1 and N2 levels consist of two sections: "Linguistic Knowledge (Characters, Vocabulary, Grammar) & Reading" and "Listening." The N3, N4, and N5 levels consist of three sections: "Linguistic Knowledge (Characters and Vocabulary)", "Linguistic Knowledge (Grammar) & Reading" and "Listening."

■ 590,000 Examinees Worldwide

Test-taking statistics for fiscal 2014 are as follows:

● First Session (July 6)

Overseas: Conducted in 105 cities in 23 countries and regions. Approx. 207,000 examinees from 241,000 applicants.

Japan: Conducted in 45 prefectures. Approx. 66,000 examinees from 71,000 applicants.

● Second Session (December 7)

Overseas: Conducted in 208 cities in 65 countries and regions. Approx. 243,000 examinees from 284,000 applicants.

Japan: Conducted in 45 prefectures. Approx. 79,000 examinees from 86,000 applicants.

■ A Wider reach of JLPT

In fiscal 2014, the JLPT was conducted in more countries and cities than ever before.

First-time countries: South Africa (Johannesburg)

First-time cities: Wonju (Korea), Arwaikheer (Mongolia), Columbus and Boulder (United States), Granada (Spain), Strasbourg (France), and Astrakhan (Russia)

■ Special Measures for Examinees

JLPT provides special measures for handicapped examinees. Based on the test taker's application and a medical certificate from a doctor, a screening is done by a specialist and the required special measures are decided. The special measures can be test questions and answer sheets in braille, enlarged test sheets, a magnifying glass, a longer test-taking time, a hearing aid for the listening test, or a separate room for taking the test. For the First Session, 78 examinees in Japan and overseas opted for a special measure. For the Second Session, 137 did so.

The JLPT official website also provides the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test Official Practice Workbook and other materials in braille.

<http://www.jlpt.jp/tenji.html>

■ Advantages of JLPT Certification

With a 30-year history, the JLPT has been used as a qualifying certification in ever-increasing cases. Universities in Japan and overseas use it to admit and graduate students, and for study-abroad programs. Companies use it

to promote employees.

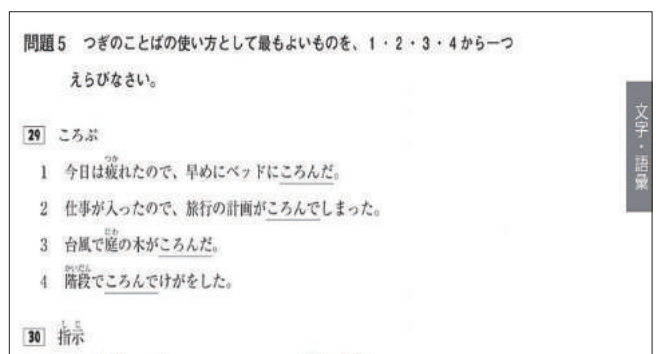
In accordance with Japan's Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA), nurse and care-worker candidates from Indonesia and the Philippines are required to attain the N5 level. Those from Vietnam need the N3 level. N1 certification holders are awarded 15 points by the Immigration Bureau of Japan in accordance with the *Points-based System for Highly Skilled Foreign Professionals*. The N1 certification is also a prerequisite for taking the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's National Medical Practitioners Qualifying Examination and practical nurse exam.



Waiting for the test to start in Budapest



Test taker using a CCTV to magnify the test sheet



A JLPT N3-level sample test question

Country/Region-Specific Japanese-Language Education

Sending Japanese-Language Specialists Overseas

■ 126 Japanese-language specialists in 40 countries

Japanese-language specialists have been sent to many countries to help establish a solid and sustainable base for Japanese-language education.

In fiscal 2014, 126 Japanese-language specialists were sent to 40 countries. They work to conduct and improve Japanese-language education in their respective countries and institutions. They train local teachers, help develop the curriculum and teaching materials, help teachers to establish a network, and teach Japanese classes.

For example, in Jakarta and Vietnam, specialists conducted workshops on creating teaching materials for a new curriculum. In Bangkok, intensive training co-sponsored by Thailand's education department was held for Japanese-language teachers who were to be hired for public service. And in Cologne, practical training was held for undergraduate students enrolled in a program to soon become the country's first non-native Japanese-language teachers in public education.

Japanese-Language Education Support Projects

■ Sakura Network with 127 Institutions Worldwide

The JF Nihongo Network (also known as Sakura Network) connects Japanese-language education institutions overseas. It aims to spread the Japanese-language and improve Japanese-language education overseas. Network members include overseas Japan Foundation offices as well as institutions (universities) and organizations (Japanese-language teacher associations, etc.) pivotal to spreading the Japanese-language locally. The network started in 2008 with 39 institutions in 31 countries. It has grown to 127 institutions in 47 countries by the end of fiscal 2014.

Members can apply for Sakura Core Project subsidies to implement and support events that spread or develop the Japanese-language in their local area. There is also the grant program for Japanese-language education activities for countries where there is no Japan Foundation office. Subsidies are provided for purchasing teaching materials, paying teachers, and holding events like speech contests, conferences, and symposiums. Japanese-language education support is thereby tailored to match the needs of the respective country or region.

Japanese-Language Education for Healthcare Worker Candidates under EPAs

In accordance with Japan's EPAs (Economic Partnership Agreements) with Indonesia and the Philippines, we held a

six-month Japanese-language pre-training program in both countries. The 378 trainees were nurse and care-worker candidates planning to work in Japan.

The pre-training program taught Japanese-language (basic grammar, vocabulary, and conversation) and the basics about Japanese society and customs. After the trainees arrived in Japan and started working at hospitals and nursing facilities, they had to continue studying to pass the national examination in their respective fields. Therefore, effective self-study habits were essential for them. The pre-training program helped them study on their own with limited time. Participants learned how to plan, review, and evaluate their own course of self-study in the program.



Indonesia University of Education



International training camp at Jagiellonian University

Training for Overseas Teachers and Learners

■ Training for Overseas Teachers (The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa)

In fiscal 2014, our Japanese-Language Institute in Urawa conducted 16 training programs for 498 participants from 53

Cooperation in Japan to Support Japanese-Language Education

Since fiscal 2009, the Japan Foundation has joined hands with Japanese universities that have Japanese-language teacher training programs. University students majoring in Japanese-language education are sent overseas as interns.

In fiscal 2014, 260 interns from 51 universities in Japan were sent abroad.

Also, in a related program, undergraduate students from

overseas universities that had accepted interns from Japanese universities are invited to be trained at the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai in Osaka. The Institute provides the invited students a chance to study Japan and the Japanese-language. At the same time, it aims to strengthen ties between universities in Japan and overseas. In fiscal 2014, a training session was held in summer and in autumn. A total of 73 undergraduate students from 24 countries joined the sessions.

countries and regions.

The Long-Term Training Program for Foreign Teachers of the Japanese-Language is a six-month training program for young, non-Japanese teachers. In fiscal 2014, 57 teachers from 29 countries and regions participated in this program. Besides learning the Japanese-language and teaching methods, participants also experienced Japanese culture such as shodo calligraphy, tea ceremony, wearing a yukata, and school visitations. They also trained in Nikko and the Kansai Region to learn about the Japanese culture behind the language. Even after completing the training program, the participants have kept in touch with each other through social media to seek advice about Japanese-language education. An international network of Japanese-language teachers is thereby in place.

Many of the Japanese-language teachers who have trained at The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa are working in schools and taking leadership roles in teachers' associations around the world. The Institute is thus highly evaluated overseas as a training center.

■ The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa's 25th Anniversary

Since its establishment in 1989 in the city of Saitama (formerly Urawa), The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa has trained over 10,000 Japanese-language teachers and developed diverse studying and teaching materials in tune with the times.

For its 25th anniversary in 2014, the Institute held events for local people who have supported and helped us. Japanese-language education symposiums were also held to reflect on our past projects and think about future projects.

On November 29, 2014, together with the Saitama International Association, the Institute held an open house for the public called *International Fair @Kita-Urawa 2014*. The Institute's activities were explained, and long-term and advanced Japanese-language teacher trainees from overseas talked about their native countries, and sang and danced. They also explained about their training projects and Japanese-language teaching materials used in their countries. About 600 people, mostly from Saitama Prefecture and the city of Saitama, attended and enjoyed the fair.

In September 2014, a symposium titled *Preparing Students for the 21st Century: The Front Line of Education in ASEAN Member States –The Role of Foreign Language Education in Secondary Education–* with education officials from five ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam) was held. It was a discussion and exchange of opinions on a number of topics: One's country's foreign-language education policies to train global personnel who will lead the 21st century, and the status of Japanese-language learning and education in one's country.

In February 2015, a symposium called *Language Learning Design Starting from Task Performance –A Challenge of the Coursebook Series, Marugoto: Japanese Language and Culture–* saw a lively debate with over 180 attendees, most of them involved in Japanese-language education.

Lectures and other activities were also held in this 25th year, a time for us to look back on the past 25 years and to think about how to support Japanese-language education in the years to come.

The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa shall continue conducting training programs and developing teaching materials to help advance and expand Japanese-

language education.

■ Training for Overseas Learners (The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai)

Established in 1997 in Osaka, The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai provides program for specialist in cultural and academic fields to overseas whose jobs require professional Japanese-language proficiency as well as high school and university students learning Japanese overseas. In fiscal 2014, the institute trained 548 people from 97 countries and regions.

The Lee Soo-Hyun Youth Exchange Program was held for the 14th time. For the JET Memorial Invitation Program for U.S. High School Students, started in 2011 after the Great East Japan Earthquake, 32 high school students were selected from all over the U.S. They visited places like Ishinomaki where two JET Program teachers from the U.S. died in the 2011 disaster. With the support of the survivors and friends of the two JET Program teachers, the students met with the local people.

We also held a preparatory training session for 140 people who were to be sent to ASEAN countries under The Japan Foundation Asia Center's "NIHONGO Partners" program.

The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai is also expanding training programs conducted on consignment. One example was the training session in fiscal 2014 for students from King Saud University in Saudi Arabia. A Japanese-language training session for King Saud University students visiting Japan was held for the first time. This training session was sponsored by Mitsubishi Corporation's donation to the university.



Japanese-Language Institute's 25th anniversary symposium *Preparing Students for the 21st Century: The Front Line of Education in ASEAN Member States*



Japanese-language trainees from King Saud University visiting Asakusa