

New JETs readied for Japan

The next group of New South Wales participants on the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program were farewelled at a reception held at the Consul-General's official residence on 16 July 2013.



Consul-General Kohara with new JET participants on the 2013-2014 program

Around 60 people attended the function; among them the 38 NSW participants who left for Japan on 27 July to take up their positions on the 2013-2014 JET Program. They joined two other NSW participants who began the program in April 2013, making a total of 40 new NSW participants on this year's program.

Consul-General Kohara was pleased to see so many people from NSW being sent to Japan this year and said

in his remarks that he thought they would be excellent ambassadors for Australia and for the JET program. He also urged them to take "this wonderful opportunity to experience the best of what Japan can offer."

Mr Jeremy Tan [middle front row] spoke on behalf the departing JETs conveying their excitement and anticipation at the great opportunity the program was promising them all.

Applications for the 2014-2015 JET Program should be available in October 2013.
See www.sydney.au.emb-japan.org.au/english/education.htm for more details.

日本語能力試験 Japanese Language Proficiency Test

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test has been held since 1984 and it is the largest-scale test of Japanese language in the world. The test is widely considered as a benchmark to gauge the Japanese ability of non-native speakers. It not only acts as a reliable guide for government and corporate organisations, it is also a great way for students of Japanese to assess their own proficiency. This year the test will be held on **Sunday 1 December**.

The test is offered by the Japan Foundation and the Japan Educational Exchange and Services. In Australia, it is organised by the Japan Foundation Sydney in cooperation with host institutions around the country.

Studying for the test

An official practice workbook based on past exams is now available online at the JLPT website—www.jlpt.jp/e/samples/sample12.html. The Japan Foundation Sydney Library has study guides and past papers available for loan. They are also available through select bookstores.

From this year, applications will be by online registration only in Australia.
The closing date for applications is 30 September 2013.

For details see: www.jpf.org.au/jlpt/

More Japan-related UNESCO news

Two designated national treasures of Japan were added to the **UNESCO Memory of the World** registry in June this year.

The idea behind the UNESCO Memory of the World registry is that the "world's documentary heritage belongs to all, should be fully preserved and protected for all and ... should be permanently accessible to all without hindrance"*.

The listed works are considered to be of world significance and outstanding universal value.

The first treasure was jointly nominated by the Japanese and Spanish governments—a **collection of materials relating to the 17th century Keicho Mission to the Vatican and Spain**. Date Masamune, a feudal lord based in Sendai, sent the mission to Spain for trade negotiations in 1613. These materials are kept at Sendai City Museum.

The second treasure is much older—the **world's oldest diary in the author's own handwriting**. The diary was written by Fujiwara no Michinaga, a powerful court official of the Heian Period (794-1185) who effectively ruled Japan in the early 11th century. The scrolls that comprise his diary, known as the *Mido Kanpaku Ki*, are a valuable document of court life when the Fujiwara family was pre-eminent. The documents were proposed by the Japanese government and are preserved at Yomei Bunko, a library in Japan's ancient capital, Kyoto.

* UNESCO Memory of the World
www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/flagship-project-activities/memory-of-the-world/about-the-programme/objectives/ Accessed 10/07/2013

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