



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
ORD-2023-1083

TO : **SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS**
Division In-Charge SPFL- Nihongo

FROM : **WILFREDO E. CABRAL, CESO III**
Regional Director

SUBJECT : **SPECIAL PROGRAM IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE (SPFL)
JAPANESE CALL FOR THE APPLICATIONS FOR THE
JAPANESE SPEAKERS' FORUM IN THE PHILIPPINES
2024**

DATE : October 16, 2023

This has reference to Memorandum No. DM-CT-2023-328 dated October 4, 2023, signed by Alma Ruby C. Torio, Assistant Secretary for Curriculum and Teaching and Officer-In-Charge, Undersecretary for Curriculum and Teaching, relative to above-captioned activity, scheduled on September 26 to October 22, 2023, for information.

Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

Encls: as stated
CLMD/ACG2023



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR CURRICULUM AND TEACHING

BCD-SCPD-O-2023- 0460

MEMORANDUM

DM-CT-2023- 328

FOR : **REGIONAL DIRECTORS**
Region I, III, IV-A, V, VI, VII, VIII, X, XI, CAR, and NCR

FROM : **ALMA RUBY C. TORIO**
Assistant Secretary
Officer-in-Charge for the Office of the Undersecretary for Curriculum and Teaching

SUBJECT : **SPECIAL PROGRAM IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE (SPFL) JAPANESE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE JAPANESE SPEAKERS' FORUM IN THE PHILIPPINES 2024**

DATE : 04 October 2023

In line with the MATATAG Basic Education Agenda that is to take good care of learners by promoting learner well-being, inclusive learning, and positive learning environment, this Office announces the call for applications for the **Japanese Speakers' Forum in the Philippines 2024**. This activity shall be delivered by the Japan Foundation, Manila, DepEd's program partners for the Special Program in Foreign Language Japanese (SPFL-Japanese), and sponsored by the Kamenori Foundation, a foundation based in Japan.

The Japanese Speakers' Forum is an annual program that aims to bring together Filipino learners and teachers of the Japanese language from all over the Philippines to think and tackle certain issues while using the Nihongo language. This year's forum shall continue the discussion on ecotourism by investigating how environmental conservation, tourism, and local industry coexist in Bohol, an island known for its ecotourism. In this activity, learners will be given the opportunity to think creatively about a sustainable society, work in groups, and express their ideas through a Japanese language skit, communication, and collaboration.

Participation in this activity shall be voluntary. Likewise, the approval of the travel authority of learners and teachers shall be on the discretions of the school heads and the schools division superintendents in accordance with **DepEd Order 1, s. 2023 Revised Designation of Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries to their Strands and Functional Areas of Responsibilities and Revised Signing Authorities**.

Application period shall be from **September 26 to October 22, 2023**. This activity is open for all SPFL Japanese implementing schools throughout the country. Details of the application is found in **Annex A** for your reference.

The schedule for the application and screening process is as follow:

1/F Bonifacio Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Direct Line: (632) 8633-7202/8687-4146 E-mail: ouct@deped.gov.ph





Republic of the Philippines
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OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR CURRICULUM AND TEACHING

BCD-SCPD-O-2023-

September 26, 2023	Call for Applications
October 22, 2023	Application Deadline (11:59 pm)
November 2023	Screening of Applications
December 2023	Announcement of Successful Applicants; Orientation of Teachers
January 25-27, 2024	Japanese Speakers' Forum in the Philippines

Should you have queries or clarifications you may contact the Japanese Speakers' Forum Philippines 2024 Screening Team through email address jsf2023.ph@gmail.com cc: Ms. Kelly Ko, JFM Program Coordinator, Kelly@jpf.go.ph or you may also contact **Ms. Josephine Intino**, SPFL Japanese Focal Person, or **Dr. Mikael Sandino Andrey**, SPFL Focal Person, through these email addresses josephine.intino@deped.gov.ph / bcd.scpd.spfl@deped.gov or this number (02) 8632 0170.

Immediate dissemination of this memorandum is desired.

Copy furnished:

Atty. Revsee A. Escobedo
Undersecretary for Operations



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JAPANESE SPEAKERS' FORUM IN THE PHILIPPINES 2024 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

OVERVIEW

The Japan Foundation, Manila has been supporting Japanese language education in public high schools in the Philippines as one of the Special Program in Foreign Language (SPFL) program partners of the Department of Education. Together with the Kamenori Foundation, the JFM holds the Japanese Speakers' Forum in the Philippines (JSFP) to provide students with opportunities to demonstrate the results of their daily studies, to gain new knowledge, and to interact with each other as Japanese speakers. For teachers, it is a place to network as Japanese language teachers, exchange opinions and information based on each other's experiences, and improve themselves as Japanese language teachers. Specifically, the objectives of the program are as follows:

(1) High school students from the Philippines will gather, eat and sleep together, and through group activities, develop one of the objectives of the Nihongojin Forum: "the ability to learn and grow by oneself, to collaborate with others, to solve problems, to explore, to reason, to think and create by oneself, and to communicate". Specifically, group members will work together to create deliverables based on the theme.

(2) Through this activity, students will be made aware of the fact that they are "Nihongojin". For teachers, to think about the significance of being a Japanese language teacher. And promote the significance and results of its Japanese language education support under the Special Program in Foreign Language to the Philippine Department of Education and each school.

(3) The theme of the JSFP is "Let's Think About Ecology, Tourism, and Regional Promotion! Tana! Discover, Promote, Sustain! フィリピンをまもろう!"

JSF2024 will continue the discussion on ecotourism that was also tackled in 2023. By investigating how environmental conservation, tourism, and local industry coexist in Bohol, an island known for its ecotourism, students will think creatively about a sustainable society, work in groups, and express their ideas through a Japanese language skit, communication, and collaboration.

FORUM DURATION AND VENUE

Date: January 25, 2024 (Thursday) to January 27, 2024 (Saturday)

*All students and teachers are required to participate in all activities.

Venue: Bohol Bee Farm in Panglao, Bohol

*Airfare to and from Bohol, as well as accommodation during the program will be shouldered by The Japan Foundation, Manila and The Kamenori Foundation.



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***Date and venue may change.*

INVITED PARTICIPANTS

A maximum of two (2) applicants per school will be allowed. Should the number of applications per school exceed the allowed number, the first two applications received by the JFM will be accepted. The student team must then be accompanied by one (1) Japanese language teacher from the same school.

Although the participants will take part in the JSFP 2023 as a team, student applications must still be done individually via the application link. The accompanying teacher must also accomplish the application link for teachers. If a student team is selected but their teacher did not accomplish the form, the participation of the school’s student team will be canceled.

PARTICIPANT	STUDENTS	TEACHERS
Max No. of Participants	14 students (7 teams or schools)	7

**If the number of applicants exceeds 14 students and 7 teachers, screening will be conducted by the Japanese language advisers of the JFM. Gender balance may be considered for accommodation planning.*

ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATION OF PARTICIPANTS

Eligible and qualified to apply for this program are those who:

- a. hold nationality or permanent residency in the Philippines;
- b. are currently Grade 8 to 10 students and studying Japanese language at a SPFL-Nihongo class as of October 8, 2023;
- c. are non-native speakers of Japanese;
- d. has never stayed in Japan for over 10 months continuously in the past 5 years as of October 2023;
- e. has never been to Japan through any of the programs by the Japan Foundation and/or any other agency of the Japanese government (e.g. JENESYS);
- f. has not participated the Japanese Speakers Forum 2022 and 2023;
- f. is in good physical and mental health;
- g. can travel to Bohol Island through any means of transportation specified by the JFM;
- h. has the consent of a parent/guardian;
- i. meets the following qualifications:

- 1. A student who is very eager to learn Nihongo;
- 2. A student who actively participates in Japanese-language classes and related activities such as club activities in school;
- 3. A student who is willing to explore and experience different cultures using English and Japanese.;
- 4. A student who is good at working collaboratively;
- 5. A student who is open to the views and opinions of others;



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6. *A student who exerts efforts to express one's thoughts and opinions;*
7. *A student who has sufficient internet to work on the assignment and participate in the program;*
8. *A student who has a Facebook account to participate in the activity on a private FB page.*

***Students who want to participate must be accompanied by a teacher from their school. Similarly, the teachers who join the forum must participate in all program activities.**

*Teachers who will join the JS Forum for the first time or those who had the least chance of participating in the previous JS Forum will be given priority.

The teacher who will accompany the student participants must be able to meet the following qualifications:

1. *A teacher who is able to participate in all activities;*
2. *A teacher who will take responsibility to escort the participating students;*
3. *A teacher who is able to handle a pre-task for teachers;*
4. *A teacher who is able to monitor the pre-task of students and timely submissions;*
5. *A teacher who is willing to participate in a teacher's program;*
6. *A teacher who has sufficient internet to work on the pre-assignment and participate program;*
7. *A teacher who can travel to Bohol Island through any means of transportation specified by the JFM.*

APPLICATION FORMS

Both the student-participant teams and the teacher **MUST** accomplish the application form completely. Should it be found that the teacher of a selected student team did not submit an application, the selection of the student team will be **forfeited**.

For Students: <https://forms.gle/HzMZZjg7Pg3k65p8>

For Teachers: <https://forms.gle/n9pE6Fq7HsmUb1dv5>

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS ON 22 OCTOBER 2023, SUNDAY, 11:59 PM.

Due to limited very slots, application rules shall be strictly implemented. Only on-time and duly accomplished application forms, including essays will be accepted. **Late applications will automatically be disqualified. Similarly, applications of ineligible applicants (e.g. team with a Grade 7 member) will also be disqualified without notice.**



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CONTACT INFORMATION

For any questions or concerns that are not specified in this Guideline, interested applicants may direct their inquiries to:

JSFP 2024 SCREENING TEAM

Email: jsf2023.ph@gmail.com, cc: Kelly Ko, Program Coordinator (Kelly@jpf.go.jp)