

THE 2018 JAPAN EXCHANGE AND TEACHING (JET) PROGRAMME APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme (hereinafter, Programme) seeks to enhance internationalisation in Japan by promoting mutual understanding between the people of Japan and those of other nations. The Programme aims to enhance foreign language education and promote international exchange at the local level through the fostering of ties between Japanese youth and foreign youth alike.

The objectives of the Programme are being achieved by offering JET Programme participants (hereinafter, Participant(s)) the opportunity to serve in local authorities as well as public and private elementary, junior high, and senior high schools in Japan.

The Programme is implemented by local authorities and other organisations (hereinafter, Contracting Organisation(s)) who appoint Participants in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (hereinafter, CLAIR).

The Programme started in 1987 with cooperation from governments of participating countries. In 2017, there were 5,163 participants on the Programme from 44 countries, including 2 participants from India.

As the Programme has achieved an excellent reputation over the last 31 years, it is of great importance that this reputation be maintained. Participants are invited to Japan as honoured representatives of their countries. As such, they are expected to be responsible in all their activities, especially those concerning the promotion of mutual understanding between nations. It is therefore desirable that Participants be adaptable, mentally and physically capable of performing the job duties and have a deep interest in Japan.

Generally, Participants are appointed by prefectures, municipalities, and private schools, etc. as a member of staff for a one-year period. The cost of transportation from the Participant's origin to Japan, as well as remuneration, will be funded by the tax payers of Japan via the Contracting Organisation where the Participant is appointed. Because Participants serve as civil servants and private school staff members of their Contracting Organisations, they are required to observe rules and behave responsibly.

Withdrawal from the Programme after receipt of placement or early termination of appointment should be avoided as it causes numerous problems for Contracting Organisations, in addition to severely impacting the administration of the Programme itself.

1. TYPES OF POSITIONS AND DUTIES

1) Types of Positions

Applicants may apply for the following position:

- Coordinator for International Relations (CIR): 2 (TWO) positions

Participants engaged in internationalisation activities, CIRs are placed in international exchange departments or bureaus of Contracting Organisations.

One of the CIRs is to be placed in Matsue City, Shimane Prefecture, and especially engage in promotion of friendly exchanges between Matsue City and the State of Kerala. (Applicants must be either from the State of Kerala by birth or have lived / be living in the State of Kerala.)

The other CIR is to be placed in Okuizumo Town, Shimane Prefecture. (There is no restriction regarding birthplace or residential state, the only condition being that the applicant must have an Indian Nationality.)

2) Duties

CIR duties are carried out as specified by the supervisor at individual Contracting Organisations. The following is a general outline of duties, though they may vary from one Contracting Organisation to another.

- (1) Assistance in projects related to international activities carried out by the Contracting Organisation (e.g. editing, translating and compiling publications into a foreign language; assisting in planning, designing and implementing international exchange programmes including international economic exchange programmes; assisting in hosting official guests from abroad and interpreting at various events, etc).
- (2) Assistance in language instruction of employees of the Contracting Organisation and local residents (see Note 2).
- (3) Assistance with and participation in activities of local private groups or organisations engaging in international exchange.
- (4) Assistance in exchange activities (including school visits) related to local residents' cross-cultural awareness and understanding, as well as in supporting activities for foreign residents in Japan.
- (5) Other duties as deemed necessary by the supervisor.

2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The terms and conditions of service will be determined by the Contracting Organisation which appoints the Participant. The following is a general outline of the terms and conditions, though they may vary from one Contracting Organisation to another.

(1) Length of Appointment — Working Hours

In principle, appointments are for one year and commence on the day after the designated arrival date. The duration of the appointment will be shorter in cases where Participants are unable

to arrive in Japan on the designated arrival date and arrive at a later date.

If a Participant violates the rules determined by his/her Contracting Organisation, the appointment may be terminated prior to the end of the one-year period.

If the Contracting Organisation deems that the Participant's work performance reaches the required standard, the Contracting Organisation may reappoint the Participant for an additional year, with two reappointments permissible in principle (allowing for a total of three years on the Programme). Also, if after careful consideration the Contracting Organisation deems the Participant's work performance, level of experience and ability to be of an exceptionally high standard, it may choose to reappoint the Participant an additional two times (altogether, five years).

Early termination of the appointment on the part of the Participant adversely affects school and local government administration in addition to the overall implementation of the Programme itself. All Participants are therefore required to complete their term of appointment.

Participants are expected to be at work approximately thirty-five hours a week, excluding lunch breaks. It is likely that Participants will be required to work during normal Japanese office and/or general school hours, which are from 8:30a.m. to 5:15p.m., Monday through Friday. Generally, Saturdays, Sundays, and Japanese national holidays are days off. However, there are cases in which extra hours are required before/after usual office and/or school hours, or where Participants are required to work on Saturdays, Sundays, and Japanese national holidays. The number of paid holidays per year differs among Contracting Organisations, but all Participants are allowed at least ten days.

(2) Remuneration

Remuneration per annum is approximately ¥3,360,000 in the first year of appointment, ¥3,600,000 in the second year, ¥3,900,000 in the third year, and, in case the Contracting Organisation reappoints a Participant whose work ability is deemed excellent more than two times, ¥3,960,000 in both the fourth year and the fifth year. This remuneration is a sufficient amount to cover average living expenses in Japan. This remuneration amount is for Participants who complete a one-year appointment in full. If the first year appointment is less than one year, the remuneration will be less than the above-stated amounts.

In cases in which income and resident taxes are imposed (see Note 3), first year Participants whose appointment is less than one year will be deemed as "non-residents" and will be subject to approximately 20% income tax under Japan's Income Tax Act.

Remuneration will be made in monthly payments. Participants paying taxes in Japan must pay the remaining portions of resident taxes, etc., for the full year in one lump sum before leaving Japan upon completion of the Programme.

In Japan, joining the national social (health) insurance, contributing to the pension fund programme, and paying employment insurance are mandatory. A part of these costs are borne by the Participant and deducted from the monthly post-tax remuneration each month on payday.

(3) Side-Job Prohibition

As a general rule, Participants are prohibited from taking on any work other than that of this Programme for the duration of their appointment.

(4) Driving

Participants with a driving licence may be required to operate a motor vehicle as part of work duties for their Contracting Organisations. Costs associated with a motor vehicle may be required to be borne by the Participant.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must:

- (1) Be interested in Japan and be willing to deepen their knowledge and appreciation of Japan after their arrival; be motivated to participate in and initiate international exchange activities in the local community; make effort to study or continue studying the Japanese language prior to and after arriving in Japan.
- (2) Be both mentally and physically healthy.
- (3) Be willing and able to adapt to living and working in Japan, and responsibly complete their term of appointment.
- (4) Applicants must hold a Bachelor's degree or higher, or obtain such qualifications by the designated arrival date.
- (5) Be a national (not just a permanent resident) of the country where the recruitment and selection procedures take place by the time they submit their application form. Furthermore, those who possess Japanese nationality must have submitted their applications to renounce their Japanese nationality before submitting their Reply Form. Applicants who possess multiple nationalities with countries other than Japan may only apply as a national of one of those countries.
- (6) Be adept in contemporary standard pronunciation, rhythm and intonation in the designated language (see Note 4) and possess excellent language ability that can be applied accurately and appropriately; have the ability to form sentences in a comprehensive and logical manner.
- (7) Not have participated in the Programme since the 2015-2016 Programme year (inclusive of April 2015 arrivals) or have participated in the Programme for more than five years in total.
- (8) Not have declined a position on the Programme after receiving notification of placement in the last JET Programme year (excluding cases where it is accepted that the Participant had a valid, inevitable reason for withdrawing).
- (9) Not have lived in Japan for six or more years in total since 2008.
- (10) Have a desire to proactively maintain relations with Japan, even after completion of the Programme.
- (11) Concerning entry into Japan for participation in the Programme, agree to reside in Japan under the status of residence stipulated in Article 2-2 of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act.

- (12) Be willing to obey all Japanese laws.
- (13) Applicants with a suspended jail term must have finished their period of probation by the time they submit their application form.

In addition to the above, CIR applicants from India must:

- (14) Have a functional command of English and Japanese language (Japanese Language Proficiency Test N1 or N2 is desirable).

4. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applicants must submit the following documents to the Embassy of Japan under whose jurisdiction Participants' home countries fall, by 12 March 2018. Early submission of applications and documents is encouraged. The submitted documents will not be returned.

Document	Original	Copy
1) Application Form	1	2
2) Programme Applicant Self-Report Medical Condition(s)	1	2
3) Letters of Reference <ul style="list-style-type: none">● from two referees in Japanese or English If you have not graduated yet, one of the referees must be someone related to your university and must contain a reference to your expected date of graduation.	2	2 each
4) Certified Record/Transcript <ul style="list-style-type: none">● of all college/university courses	0	3
5) Essay (Statement of Purpose) <ul style="list-style-type: none">● typed, single-sided, double-spaced on A4 paper (210mm x 297mm) or letter-sized paper (8.5in x 11in), not exceeding two pages. This page limit must be strictly observed. The essay is to be in Japanese or English.	1	2
6) Certification of Graduation <ul style="list-style-type: none">● from college or university. If you have not graduated yet, you must submit a certificate of expected date of graduation.	1	2
7) Document which shows your nationality (passport, etc.)	0	3
8) Teaching or language proficiency qualifications (TEFL/TESL/TESOL/JLPT) (*Only for applicants with these types of qualifications).	0	3
9) Criminal Record (*Only for applicants with a criminal record) In the case the applicant is unable to obtain his/her criminal record by the time of application, a document proving you have applied will be accepted. In	1	0

<p>this instance, the criminal record itself must be submitted <u>by 15 June, 2018</u>. Please see 6.(1) in regards to obtaining a criminal record.</p>		
<p>* In addition to the above 1) through 9), applicants for the CIR in Matsue City must submit the following documents:</p> <p>10) Essay (Statement of the personal relations with the State of Kerala)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Typed, single-sided, double-spaced on A4 paper (210mm x 297mm) or letter-sized paper (8.5in x 11in), not exceeding one page. This page limit must be strictly observed. The essay is to be in Japanese or English. Duration of residence in the State of Kerala should be mentioned in the essay. 	1	2
<p>11) Document which shows your birthplace or residence is in the State of Kerala</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Either of these documents, such as Birth Certificate, Passport, Voter ID, Aadhaar Card, Driving License, etc., is desirable. 	0	3

5. SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

- (1) To determine recommended candidates, the Embassy of Japan, under whose jurisdiction Participants' home countries fall, will conduct the first screening and selection of applicants based on written applications. The second stage of screening (interviews) will be conducted at the Embassy or the Consulate of the same jurisdiction mentioned above.
- (2) The Joint Conference for International Relations, consisting of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and CLAIR, will decide successful candidates out of the recommended candidates selected by the Embassy or Consulate of Japan where interviews were held (hereinafter, Interview Office). Other candidates will be determined to be either alternates or unsuccessful candidates.
- (3) Notification of results will be made to applicants via the Interview Office from May 2018. At this time successful candidates will also be notified of the name of their Contracting Organisation.
- (4) The Contracting Organisation will then initiate direct contact with the successful candidate, sending him or her documents including a notice of appointment, a letter detailing the workplace and working conditions, and/or other materials introducing the Contracting Organisation.
- (5) Alternates will be upgraded to successful candidate status accordingly as openings for alternates become available until the second week of December 2018.

6. SUBMISSION OF CRIMINAL RECORD AND CERTIFICATE OF HEALTH

- (1) In principle, Participants and alternates must obtain and submit their criminal record and Certificate of Health to the Interview Office by 15 June 2018. However, those who stated they have a criminal history at the time of application must submit their criminal record by 1 April 2018 at the

latest (if possible, at the time of application). Alternates upgraded to successful candidates may be required to submit a Certificate of Health again.

- (i) A criminal record covering a period of at least five years must be submitted. If, due to institutional restrictions, a five-year criminal record is not obtainable, a criminal record covering as many years as possible must be submitted.
- (ii) In principle, a criminal record issued by the state/provincial government of the applicant's/Participant's current state/province of residence must be submitted. However, in the case where it is easier to obtain a criminal record issued by the central government, a criminal record issued by the central government will be accepted.
- (iii) If an applicant/Participant submits a criminal record issued by the state/provincial government of the state/province in which he/she lives, that only contains criminal history information of that particular state/province, and the applicant/Participant has lived in another state/province of the same country for more than twelve consecutive months during the preceding five years, the applicant/Participant must additionally submit a criminal record from the other state/province as well. If a criminal record issued by the state/provincial government where the applicant/Participant lives contains criminal history information of the country as a whole, including other states/provinces, submission of additional criminal records issued by other state/provincial governments is not necessary.
- (iv) Applicants/Participants who have lived in another country for at least twelve consecutive months during the preceding five years must submit a criminal record from that country as well.
- (v) Applicants/Participants who have lived in Japan in the preceding five years are not required to obtain a criminal record issued by the Japanese government.

Additionally, any changes to an applicant's/Participant's physical or mental health or to his/her criminal history after application, that may affect his/her suitability for the Programme, must be promptly notified to the Interview Office.

7. DISQUALIFICATION

Participants and alternates may be disqualified without warning for any of the following reasons:

- 1) When they have committed an inappropriate act or there is substantial reason to believe that they are likely to commit an inappropriate act.
- 2) When their application documents contain false statements.
- 3) When they do not inform the Embassy or Consulate of Japan of any changes in the application documents immediately.
- 4) When it is determined that their criminal history renders them unsuitable for participation in the Programme (e.g. DUI (driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs), drug or sex crimes, crimes against children, etc.) (inclusive of crimes committed after submission of the application

form).

- 5) When the Reply Form, Certificate of Health, or other required forms are not submitted by the designated deadlines.
- 6) When those who possess multiple nationalities with Japan do not submit their applications to renounce their Japanese nationality before the Reply Form submission deadline (excludes alternates. However, when alternates become successful candidates, they will be required to submit their applications to renounce their Japanese nationality as soon as possible).
- 7) If it becomes clear at a later date that they do not meet the eligibility criteria due to some reason attributable to themselves.

8. ASSIGNMENT OF CONTRACTING ORGANISATION

Participants must sign terms and conditions with the Contracting Organisation assigned by CLAIR. Contracting Organisations are located all throughout Japan, and amongst them are regions that are not sufficiently equipped with health care facilities and/or public transportation, etc. Participants with special circumstances such as those listed below will be given special consideration. However, the assigned Contracting Organisation may differ from that requested. Only requests for special consideration indicated on the application form will be taken into consideration. Changes to requests after application, even in special circumstances, are not possible.

Special requests may be considered for instances in which:

- 1) A spouse applies to the Programme at the same time.
- 2) A spouse or other immediate family member(s) already reside in Japan, and a move would be impossible or cause great hardship.

9. ORIENTATION AND TRAINING

(1) Pre-Departure Orientation

Prior to departure for Japan, Participants will be provided with written materials about the Programme along with Japanese language textbooks. A Pre-Departure Orientation will take place prior to departure for Japan, at the Interview Office under whose jurisdiction candidates' home countries fall. All Participants must participate in the Pre-Departure Orientation.

Please note that there will be no Pre-Departure Orientation for those participating from within Japan.

(2) Post-Arrival Orientation

Participation in the Post-Arrival Orientation is mandatory for all Participants. Post-Arrival Orientation will provide training necessary for Participants to carry out their work duties in Japan.

(3) Training

After arriving in Japan, Participants can enroll in the Japanese language courses offered by CLAIR to improve their Japanese abilities, as well as to promote understanding of Japan through

Japanese, after returning home.

Participants are also required to participate in any training during their term of appointment designated as mandatory by the Contracting Organisation and CLAIR.

10. ACCOMMODATION

In principle, the Participant will be responsible for any or all accommodation arrangements and, as such, will subsequently be responsible for all associated costs incurred. The Participant may be required to pay the equivalent of two to six months' rent immediately after arriving in Japan in order to move into housing. Also, the Contracting Organisation may designate the Participant's housing arrangements and therefore, Participants should consult with their Contracting Organisation in advance.

11. TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM JAPAN

(1) Travel and Other Expenses Related to Coming to Japan

Participants must arrive in Japan on the designated date (Note 5) and flight, except for candidates who already reside in Japan defined in Paragraph (2). Participants who do not board the designated flight without a justifiable reason will be disqualified from the Programme.

The cost of domestic transportation to the designated airport(s) in the Participants' home countries will be the responsibility of the Participants.

Participants' Contracting Organisations will provide airline tickets from the airport designated in their home countries to Narita International Airport or Tokyo International Airport (Haneda Airport). Transportation costs from these international airports to the Post-Arrival Orientation venue, accommodation costs during the Post-Arrival Orientation, and transportation costs from the Post-Arrival Orientation venue to the Contracting Organisation, will be borne by the Contracting Organisation according to their travel expense regulations. Furthermore, travel expense regulations are based on the most logical route and means of travel.

It is for these reasons that in the case a Participant withdraws his/her intent to participate in the Programme, or is disqualified after receipt of placement, except in exceptional cases, such as on humanitarian grounds, he/she must pay any related cancellation fees accrued (including fees for travel within Japan and for housing in cases in which the Contracting Organisation has already made arrangements).

Cancellation fees for airline tickets will differ depending on the date that the cancellation of the ticket has been confirmed; the cancellation fee will be half the price of the airline ticket for a cancellation confirmed 15 to 30 days or more prior to the designated departure date and will be the full price of the airline ticket for a cancellation confirmed 14 days or less prior to the designated departure date. Participants may be required to submit documents accordingly to prove "exceptional cases, such as on humanitarian grounds".

(2) Candidates Who Already Reside in Japan

Only Participants residing in Japan prior to participation in the Programme, who already hold a status of residence other than “Temporary Visitor” and are able to change their status prior to the designated arrival date, are permitted to participate from within Japan. It is the responsibility of the Participants to change their status of residence by confirming with the relevant Immigration Bureau of Japan office whether a change will be permitted. If permitted, Participants must complete their Reply Form and send it back to the Interview Office.

Furthermore, those residing in Japan with a “Temporary Visitor” status are not permitted to change their status of residence within Japan, and therefore must return to their home country, carry out procedures to obtain a proper visa from the Embassy or Consulate of Japan, under whose jurisdiction Participants’ home country falls, and enter Japan on the designated flight in order to participate in the Programme.

For Participants who already reside in Japan, transportation costs from the designated airport or railway station to the Post-Arrival Orientation venue will be borne by their Contracting Organisations only in cases where costs are for transportation, etc., on the designated arrival date. However, expenses incurred from the Participant’s home to the designated airport or train station will be borne by the Participant. Participants who live within 100 kilometres of the Post-Arrival Orientation venue will be responsible for all transportation costs, etc. to the Post-Arrival Orientation venue.

With regard to transportation from the Post-Arrival Orientation venue to the Contracting Organisation, Participants must travel in a group with other Participants who will be working in the same host prefecture or designated city. Travelling separately is not allowed. These costs will be borne by the Contracting Organisation according to their travel expense regulations.

(3) Return Travel Expenses

All Participants not seeking further appointment with their Contracting Organisations or employment with a third party in Japan after the conclusion of their appointment will have their return travel expenses from their Contracting Organisation to an international airport in Japan to the airport designated in their home country from which they originally departed, and the associated costs for necessary travel within Japan, paid for by their Contracting Organisation according to their travel expense regulations if they depart within one month from the day after completing their term of appointment.

Participants residing in Japan prior to participation in the Programme will also be eligible for their return travel expenses from their Contracting Organisation to the airport designated in their home country paid for by their Contracting Organisation if they meet the conditions above.

(4) Repayment of Travel Expenses

Participants who violate terms and conditions, such as returning to their home country without due reason, or being disqualified through committing inappropriate acts, etc., after arriving

in Japan, will bear the full cost of return travel to their home country and must reimburse any travel costs that the Contracting Organization or CLAIR have already borne. In addition, there may be cases where other expenses will have to be repaid.

(5) Obtaining a Visa

Participants must obtain a working visa from the Embassy or Consulate of Japan, under whose jurisdiction Participants' home country falls, before the date of travel to Japan, and must enter Japan under the said status of residence that permits work. Family members accompanying Participants (spouse or children) must submit official documents which prove legal marriage or parent-child relationship, and apply for and obtain a Dependent's Visa from the Embassy or Consulate of Japan. Please note that only legal spouses and children are eligible for Dependent's Visas. A fiancé(e) or common-law spouse, etc., are not eligible.

12. AFTER COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAMME

Participants are strongly expected to play a role as a bridge between Japan, their place of appointment, and their home countries after their participation in the Programme. Former Participants have founded alumni associations in their home countries/areas and in Japan, named JET Alumni Associations (JETAA). JETAA carries out various activities at grass-root levels to promote friendships between Japan and the home countries of Participants. JETAA members are involved in activities such as exchanging information about Japan, welcoming Participants back to their home countries after completion of their term of appointment on the Programme, introducing Japanese culture, and providing educational information about Japan. Before completion of their term of appointment on the Programme, Participants are expected to refer to the Terms of Consent Related to Personal Information requested by CLAIR. After completion of their term of appointment on the Programme, Participants are expected to share their post-Programme contact information with their nearest Embassy or Consulate of Japan to where they are living (CLAIR for those in Japan), join a JETAA chapter, and be actively involved in introducing Japan and promoting education.

13. USE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

The use of personal information submitted by applicants during the application period is limited to necessary use by the Embassy or Consulate of Japan, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), CLAIR, Contracting Organisations including host prefectures/designated cities (see Note 6) and private contracting companies in charge of services related to the management of the Programme. Personal information will be used for such matters as assignments, orientations, etc. It will also be used after the arrival of Participants in Japan for any of the administrative matters (*) in cases of emergency or early termination of appointment.

(*) Specific details about administrative matters are listed below:

- (1) Replacement of Participant in the case of early termination of appointment

- (2) Settlement of insurance matters and financial discrepancies
- (3) JET Accident Insurance contract and management-related matters
- (4) Amendment of the list of Participants
- (5) Response to an emergency situation
- (6) Other procedures necessary for the smooth management of the Programme

14. SCHEDULE FROM APPLICATON TO DEPARTURE

2018

12 March	Application deadline
March	First stage of screening process (written applications)
April	Second stage of screening process (interviews)
May	Notification of selection and assignment of Contracting Organisation
June - July	Pre-Departure Orientation, preparation, etc.
5 August	Arrival in Japan and start of term of appointment (6 August)

15. COURT JURISDICTION AND GOVERNING LAW

With regard to the recruitment and application procedures, the Tokyo District Court has exclusive jurisdiction for all legal matters. The governing law will be Japanese law.

NOTES:

1. Extra-curricular Activities

“Class activities or homeroom”, “student council activities”, “club activities” (only in elementary schools), “school events”.

2. Language Instruction

Language instruction of local residents refers to foreign language lessons and foreign culture classes for local resident children and/or adults.

3. Tax Exemption

Participants exempt from taxes in Japan based on a tax treaty between Japan and the Participant’s home country are not necessarily exempt from tax obligations in their home countries. It is the responsibility of individual Participants to clarify such obligations prior to their departure for Japan. Each Participant is responsible for the payment of any obligatory home country taxes.

4. Designated Languages

In the case of English-speaking countries (United States, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Ireland, South Africa, Singapore, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, etc.) it is English, for France it is French, for Germany it is German, for China it is Chinese, for Korea it is Korean, and for other non-English speaking countries, it is the principal language spoken in that

country. However, there may be cases where English is required as well. (This time for India, it is English and either Hindi or Malayalam).

5. Designated Departure Points & Dates

Points of Departure: Designated airports in India (Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai and Bengaluru)

Date of Departure: 5 August 2018

6. Designated Cities

These are cities designated by the government with populations of 500,000 people or more. At present, there are twenty designated cities which consist of: Sapporo, Sendai, Niigata, Saitama, Chiba, Yokohama, Kawasaki, Sagamihara, Shizuoka, Hamamatsu, Nagoya, Kyōto, Ōsaka, Sakai, Kōbe, Okayama, Hiroshima, Kita-Kyūshū, Fukuoka, and Kumamoto.