

## **The Hakuho Scheme for a Global Children's Japanese Language Network 3rd Training Program in Japan for Overseas Teachers Application Period Begins**

May 11, 2009—The Hakuho Foundation (Michitaka Kondo, Chairman) is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for participation in the 3rd Training Program in Japan for Overseas Teachers.

The Hakuho Foundation was established in 1970 under approval of the then Ministry of Education. From presenting the Hakuho Award to organizations and individuals that have made outstanding contributions to the education of elementary and middle-school children, the Foundation has broadened and extended its activities since its founding, with the aim of providing multifaceted support in line with the times.

In 2007, we commenced the Hakuho Scheme for a Global Children's Japanese Language Network, an initiative comprised of 4 distinct programs (see Appendix 1 below).

With the goal of fostering the growth of Japanese children into healthy international people with a sure understanding of Japanese language and culture in this age of increasing globalization, the Scheme pivots on providing opportunities to Japanese and overseas children to experience each other's cultures and interact with one another in the Japanese language.

From today, applications are being accepted for the Training Program in Japan for Overseas Teachers (see Appendix 2 below), the first program of the Scheme, which we are offering this year for the third time.

- Main qualifications/conditions for application
  - Instructors teaching the Japanese language in a school setting to 12–15 year-olds (the equivalent of junior high school age in Japan).  
Note: In consideration of differing schooling systems in various countries, instructors of children of ages around this range will also be considered
  - Those who can demonstrate they hold a middle school teacher credential/qualification or other qualification deemed to be equivalent
  - Those who have passed Level 3 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test or higher, or who have the equivalent level of Japanese proficiency
  - Non-Japanese nationals

- Content of assistance (to be finalized)
  - Return travel, accommodation, meals, activity expenses, etc. for the duration of stay in Japan
- Schedule (to be finalized)
  - Application period: May 11–June 12, 2009
  - Selection notification: Early August 2009
  - Implementation period: October 25–November 11, 2009

For further details of the application process, please see the Hakuho Scheme for a Global Children's Japanese Language Network *Guidelines for the 3rd Training Program in Japan for Overseas Teachers*.

**Contact**

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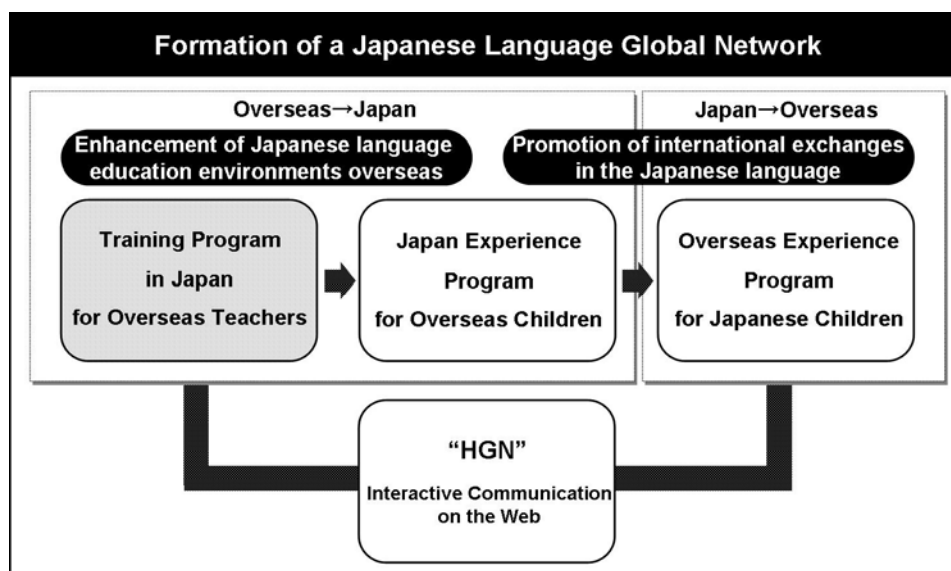
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## About the Hakuho Scheme for a Global Children's Japanese Language Network

- ◆ Scheme objectives
  - To facilitate intercultural exchanges between Japanese and overseas children in the Japanese language so as to contribute to their understanding and reevaluation of the language, and their growth into healthy international people.
  - To help revitalize Japanese language lessons and improve classroom environments in overseas schools, promoting understanding of and interest in Japanese language and culture.
  - To build a global network for Japanese language instruction by continuing and developing the Scheme over time.
  
- ◆ Scheme structure

The Scheme is comprised of 4 programs that offer a regular cycle of opportunities for interaction between Japanese children and overseas children studying the Japanese language, as well as activities to support the enhancement of Japanese language classroom environments overseas, as well as a website.



***(1) Training Program in Japan for Overseas Teachers (support for improving overseas Japanese classroom environments)***

Supports the enhancement of Japanese language learning environments overseas by inviting (non-Japanese-national) Japanese language teachers from international elementary and middle school-level learning institutions abroad to Japan for training and other activities.

***(2) Japan Experience Program for Overseas Children (support for cultural interactions between Japanese and overseas children)***

Fosters understanding of and interest in the language and culture of Japan by inviting children studying the Japanese language at elementary and middle school-level learning institutions overseas to Japan to experience traditional and modern Japanese culture and technology, and to experience everyday life, visit Japanese schools, etc.

***(3) Overseas Experience Program for Japanese Children (support for overseas cultural experiences for Japanese children)***

Supports visits to other countries by Japanese children, promoting their renewed understanding of Japanese language and culture and awareness of themselves as international people through interactions in the Japanese language with their overseas counterparts and the experience of another culture.

***(4) HGN Web Program (interactive communication on the web)***

A community site for Japanese language instructors and children studying the Japanese language overseas. Introduces the content of previously held interaction and experience programs, provides information on the Japanese language and Japanese culture, and serves as a forum for further interaction.

Through this setup, the Scheme ultimately aims to form a global Japanese language network.

## Appendix 2

### **About the Training Program in Japan for Overseas Teachers**

The Training Program in Japan for Overseas Teachers is the lead activity of the Hakuho Scheme for a Global Children's Japanese Language Network, preceding the Japan Experience Program for Overseas Children and the Overseas Experience Program for Japanese Children, which are scheduled for the near future.

- Objectives
  - (1) Acquisition of fresh perspectives and skills in Japanese language instruction
  - (2) Gathering of teaching materials for classroom use (existing teaching materials & original “living” teaching materials\*)
    - \* Living teaching materials: Pamphlets, product packaging, everyday items and similar items other than those sold as regular teaching materials that can be put to use in teaching Japanese culture and everyday life
  - (3) Promotion of understanding of Japan through experiences of Japanese culture, traditions and everyday life
  - (4) Sharing of information between Japanese language instructors around the world
  
- Experiences and training during stay in Japan (to be finalized)
  - Training in Japanese and Japanese language instruction methods
  - Experiential learning of Japanese traditional culture and everyday life
  - Visits to Japanese middle schools and interaction with students
  - Consultation on the use of living teaching materials
  - Exchange of opinions between participants from various countries and specialists, and sharing of results