

Guideline of the International Youth Development Exchange Program (INDEX) for 2018

Director General for International Youth Exchange

Cabinet Office

I Background

The International Youth Development Exchange Program (INDEX, the Japanese Youth Goodwill Mission and the Invitation of Foreign Youth to Japan) was commenced in 1994 to commemorate the royal marriage of His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince in 1993, succeeding and expanding the Japanese Youth Goodwill Mission commenced in 1959 as a commemorative program for the royal marriage of His Majesty the Emperor (His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince at that time) and the Invitation of Foreign Youth Program commenced in 1962.

II Purpose

The purpose of the International Youth Development Exchange Program is to promote mutual friendship and understanding between Japanese youth and youth from overseas countries, and to broaden the international perspectives of youths, and to foster the spirit of international cooperation and develop their ability to put into practice. As such, the objectives of the program are to nurture and develop youths who can demonstrate leadership in various fields in a global society, and to facilitate social contribution activities by youths.

III Description

The International Youth Development Exchange Program consists of two programs; the Japanese Youth Goodwill Mission and the Invitation of Foreign Youths to Japan. The counterparts for the 2018 program are three countries for the Japanese Youth Goodwill Mission; Republic of Austria, Lao People's Democratic and Republic of Latvia. For the Invitation of Foreign Youths, six countries in total; Republic of Chile, Dominican Republic and Social Republic of Viet Nam in addition to the above three countries.

1. Invitation of Foreign Youths to Japan

1.1 Countries to be invited

6 countries: Republic of Austria, Republic of Chile, Dominican Republic Lao People's Democratic Republic, Republic of Latvia, and Social Republic of Viet Nam.

1.2 Number of youths

In principle, a delegation of 10 members consisting of 1 Leader and 9 youths will be invited from each of those 3 countries which the Japanese Youth Goodwill Mission visit, while a delegation of 7 members consisting of 1 Leader and 6 youths will be invited from each of the other 3 respective countries.

1.3 Duration

16 days from Tuesday, September 25 to Wednesday, October 10, 2018

1.4 Schedule in Japan

The invitees will participate in the below activities according to the schedule in Japan made by the Cabinet Office of Japan.

a) Tokyo Program

The invitees attend International Youth Conference to discuss and introduce the situation in respective countries including institutional visits based on designated topics with Japanese youths who join the Japanese Youth Goodwill Mission for 2018.

b) Regional Program

The invitees will engage in institutional visits, intensive exchange program with the Japanese local youths as well as homestay.

* There will be opportunities to introduce their cultures of respective countries during the Tokyo and Regional Programs.

1.5 Tasks and qualifications of Youths to be invited

Tasks:

b) The participating youths shall take part in the program in Japan following the instructions of the Leader and orders of the delegation.

c) The participating youths must submit reports on the activities during the program (in English) upon the request from the Cabinet Office of Japan.

Qualifications:

Participating Youths shall:

a) Be 18 to 30 years old as of April 1, 2018 (born on or after April 2, 1987 but on or before April 1, 2000);

b) Be sound in mind and body, cooperative and able to take part orderly in group activities of the program;

- c) Submit a medical certificate for previous or existing disease when requested by the Cabinet Office;
- d) Be interested in Japan and expected to take part for promotion of mutual exchange and friendship between Japan and his/her country;
- e) In principle, be a first-time visitor to Japan, no experience of studying or training in Japan;
- f) Have considerable knowledge about the society, culture, etc. of his/her own country;
- g) Have English proficiency to conduct discussion session;
- h) Be able to participate in all the programs from departure from to back to his/her country;
- i) Be currently engaged in youth activities in youth organization or expected to do so in the future;
- j) For the countries which Japanese Goodwill Mission visit, preferably take an initiative in the exchange program including intensive overnight discussion program to be held in his/her country.

Each country is requested to take a full account of the following conditions in recommending the candidates:

- a) The male-female ratio of the participating youths should be balanced.
- b) Candidates should be nominated from various fields in the country. (It is not preferable if the delegation consists of only government officials or students.)

1.6 Expenses for the Foreign Participants

The Cabinet Office shall in principle bear the following expenses:

- a) Economy class round-trip airfare (including fuel surcharge, airport fee and relevant duties, but excluding excess baggage charge) between Japan and each country (international airports designated by the Cabinet Office);
- b) Expenses of the stay in Japan incurred to participate in the program in Japan (including hotel accommodation fees (except for incidental charges), transportation charges and food expenses);
- c) Travel insurance charges covering medical treatment costs and hospitalization due to sickness or accidents during the program in Japan.

Expenses for the following items shall be borne by the Leader and the participating youths:

- a) Travel expenses between the participant's home and the international airport of his/her country designated by the Cabinet Office;
- b) Charges for issuing passports and visas, etc.;
- c) Expenses for returning home when disqualified according to 2.6 E) (There will be an exception of unavoidable reason of either death or critical condition of the concerned participant's immediate family such as spouse, parents, children, brothers and sisters, or because the member's illness or injury does not allow him/her to continue the program.);
- d) Expenses for illness, injuries and accidents not covered by the insurance policy provided by the Cabinet Office;
- e) Excess baggage charges of the round-trip flights, incidental charges at hotels, personal expenses and other incidental charges.

IV Others

As to the flights of the round-trip for the Leader and participating youths of the countries invited to Japan, the Cabinet Office of Japan will designate them and notify the information to the concerned Ministry of Foreign Affairs and governments in due course. Changing the designated flights is not allowed.