Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION I

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RECORDS SECTION, REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 1
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REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. 1539, s. 2026

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE INTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM IN JAPAN FOR COUNTERPART TEACHERS OF NIHONGO PARTNERS 2027

To: Schools Division Superintendents

1. In reference to Memorandum DM-LS-2026-486, the Department of Education (DepEd), through the Bureau of Curriculum Development–Special Curricular Programs Division, announces the call for applications for the Intensive Training Program in Japan for Counterpart Teachers of Nihongo Partners 2027, scheduled on May 18–28, 2027, exclusive of travel time, at the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa, Saitama, Japan.

2. The training aims to deepen participants' understanding of Japan and enhance their Japanese language proficiency to strengthen their collaboration with Nihongo Partners (NPs) in their respective schools and classrooms. Participation in the program shall be sponsored by the Japan Foundation Manila (JFM), DepEd's partner in the implementation of the Special Program in Foreign Language (SPFL)–Japanese.

3. Applications are open to SPFL-Japanese teachers from schools currently hosting Nihongo Partners or intending to host NPs in the upcoming school year, subject to the eligibility criteria stipulated in Appendix A of the attached Memorandum.

4. Interested and eligible teachers shall submit the required application documents, including a copy of their training completion certificate, to JFM through cih_np@jpf.go.jp, with copies furnished to Ashley@jpf.go.jp and Janelle@jpf.go.jp, not later than November 24, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Applicants shall refer to the attached application instructions for the complete eligibility requirements, application forms, and

5. For the guidance and information of all concerned.

ESTELA P. LEON-CARIÑO, EdD, CESO III
Director IV/Regional Director

Encl.: None
References: As stated
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the subjects:

SCHOLARSHIPS LEARNING SYSTEMS

CLMD/jps/RM_SPFLJapaneseApplication
November 17, 2026

DepEd RO1 Documan
CLMD262027

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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BY: TIME: 10:32

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR LEARNING SYSTEMS

MEMORANDUM
DM-LS-2026- 486

TO : **ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS**

ATTENTION : **REGIONAL SPECIAL PROGRAM IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE (SPFL) SUPERVISORS**
SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
SCHOOL HEADS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

FROM : **CARMELA C. ORACION**
Undersecretary for Learning Systems

SUBJECT : **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE INTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM IN JAPAN FOR COUNTERPART TEACHERS OF NIHONGO PARTNERS 2027**

DATE : November 3, 2026

The Department of Education, through the Bureau of Curriculum Development - Special Curricular Programs Division, announces the **call for applications for the Intensive Training Program in Japan for Counterpart Teachers of Nihongo Partners 2027,** scheduled on **May 18 to 28, 2027** (exclusive of travel time) at the **Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa, Saitama, Japan.**

The training aims to deepen participants' understanding of Japan and enhance their Japanese language proficiency, enabling them to effectively collaborate with Nihongo Partners (NPs) in their schools and classrooms. Participation will be sponsored by the Japan Foundation Manila, the training provider and partner of this Department in the implementation of the Special Program in Foreign Language (SPFL)-Japanese.

Applications are open to all SPFL-Japanese teachers from schools that currently host Nihongo Partners or intend to host NPs in the upcoming school year, provided they meet the eligibility criteria set forth in Appendix A.

Interested and eligible teachers must submit the required application documents and a copy of their training completion certificate to JFM until **November 24, 2026, 11:59 p.m.** via email at cjh_np@jpf.go.jp, with copies furnished to Ashley@jpf.go.jp and Janelle@jpf.go.jp.

Please refer to the attached application instructions for the complete eligibility requirements, application forms, and other program details.

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REC2610154

For inquiries, all concerned may contact Ms. Janinn Almeyda-Mendoza, Supervising Education Program Specialist and SPFL Lead Focal Person, through email at bcd.od@deped.gov.ph, or Ms. Ashley Ilanan and Ms. Janelle Sale, JFM Program Coordinators, through the above email addresses.

Immediate dissemination of this memorandum is directed.

Copy furnished:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WILFREDO E. CABRAL
Undersecretary for Human Resources and Organizational Development and Infrastructure

MALCOLM S. GARMA
Undersecretary for Governance and Operations

Appendix A

Eligibility for the Intensive Training Program in Japan for Counterpart Teachers of Nihongo Partners 2027

The program is intended for SPFL-Japanese teachers from schools that currently host Nihongo Partners (NPs) or intend to host NPs in the upcoming school year. Applicants must:

- Be currently affiliated with an official JFM-CJH school (DepEd CO-recognized SPFL-Japanese implementing school) and agree to continue working at the same school after completing the program;
- Have at least N5-level proficiency in the JLPT, or A2-1 in the JF Standard, or an equivalent level; and
- Meet the relevant JFM training completion requirements:
    - For CJH 2024 (Batch 7) and CJH 2025 (Batch 8): Completion of the Intensive Training Course and one academic year of the Level Up Speaking Japanese Course, including A2.1; or
    - For Batch 6 and previous batches: Completion of the Summer Intensive Training (E1 and E2) and two academic years of Follow-through Training.
- Have a valid Philippine passport with an expiration date no earlier than November 2027 or be able to obtain a valid Philippine passport by January 2027.

Priority will be given to teachers who have never participated in a Japan Foundation Japanese-language teacher onsite training program in Japan and those who will not participate in another JF onsite training program during the same fiscal year.

For Fiscal 2027

INTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR COUNTERPART TEACHERS OF THE NIHONGO PARTNERS (The Philippines) PROGRAM APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Objectives

This intensive program is designed to provide Japanese language teachers affiliated with secondary education institutions who take in or plan to take in NIHONGO Partners (hereinafter called "NP"). The purpose is to give opportunities to deepen their knowledge of Japan, and to improve their Japanese-language skills so that they can effectively utilize NP in their schools and classes.

※Participation primarily targets teachers at schools currently admitting NP or planning to admit them. However, teachers from secondary education institutions considering future NP admissions may also be permitted to participate.

2. Program Outline

(1) Duration and Number of Participants (tentative)

Duration (tentative)			Number of Participants (scheduled)
Date of arrival in Japan	Beginning date of program	Ending date of program (Date of departure from Japan)	
May 17(Mon), 2027	May 18, 2027 (Tue)	May 28, 2027 (Fri)	16 teachers

(2) Course Venue: The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa* (Saitama City, Saitama Prefecture) (*hereinafter called "JFJLI, Urawa")

3. Description of the Program (Example)

(1) Subjects

- Tokyo orienteering with volunteers (including former NP) living in Japan
- Home visits to local families to deepen understanding of Japanese society and culture
- Presentation practice in Japanese to improve practical skills such as oral interaction and presentations

(2) Cultural Programs

- Visit to a high school

4. Eligibility

Schools in the Philippines that take in NP or plan to take in NP (Applications from individuals will not be accepted).

The following counterpart teachers are eligible to participate in the program:

(1) Teachers who are affiliated with secondary school and who agree to continue working at the aforementioned institution after completing this program. Undergraduates and individuals studying to become Japanese-language teachers at the time of application, as well as private tutors, are **not** eligible.

※Priority will be given to the following candidates:

- Teachers who have never participated in a Japanese-language teacher onsite training program conducted by the Japan Foundation in Japan
- Teachers who have no plans to participate in any Japanese-language teacher onsite training programs conducted by the Japan Foundation in Japan during the same fiscal year (Fiscal 2027-2028)

※ When applying in conjunction with the Fiscal 2027-2028 Open Recruitment Training Program for Teachers of the Japanese Language by JF, please ensure that this is clearly indicated in the relevant section of the application documents and duly declared. The selection process will be conducted based on the portfolios and application materials submitted for each training program. In the event of acceptance, appointments will be granted to only one training program.

(2) Teachers who have a proficiency of N5 Level according to The Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (Level 4 in the old JLPT Level), A2-1 in the JF Standard, or their equivalent at the time of application

※ Regarding the Japanese-language proficiency, please check the following websites.

- The summary of linguistic competence required for each level of the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) of the official website of the JLPT
  [https://www.jlpt.jp/e/about/levelsummary.html]
- The levels of the JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education (the JF Standard) of the official website of the JF Standard
  [https://www.jfstandard.jpf.go.jp/publicdata/ja/render.do#sec02]

※Candidates who have never taken the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test or the old Japanese-Language Proficiency Test are requested to answer the questions in the Japanese Proficiency Self-Check Test attached to the application form and to write down the test score in the designated column in the application. Please note that applications without the test score filled in may not be accepted.

(3) Priority will be given to teachers who have completed the following training programs conducted by the Japan Foundation Manila.

A. For Batch 7 (CJH2024) and Batch 8 (CJH2025) training participants (Both of the following are required):

- Completion of the Intensive Training Course (both online and in-person)

- Completion of one academic year of Japanese language study in the Level Up Speaking Japanese Course, including completion of the A2-1 course

B. For Batch 6 Training Participants:

- Completion of the Summer Intensive Training (E1, E2) held in 2022 and 2023, and the Follow Through Training (for two academic years)

(4) Teachers who do not have Japanese nationality and did not complete their compulsory education (elementary and junior high school, 9 years) in Japan

(5) Teachers who have no mental or physical conditions that would impede participation in the program

5. Expense Coverage

(1) Accommodations (a single room for each participant*) within JFJLI, Urawa

(2) Meals during the program, partly in the form of cash allowances

(3) Expenses necessary for participation in official curriculum (Distribution of teaching materials and other resources in kind)

(4) Overseas travel insurance with an upper limit on coverage (the insurance will cover the necessary expenses for sickness and injury up to a limit on the policy. The insurance will not cover the expenses for a chronic or preexisting disease or injury contracted before arrival to Japan or dental care etc.).

(5) Round-trip air tickets (discount economy class) to and from the nearest international airport from home residence, airport tax and foreign travel tax are provided to participants

6. Obligations

The participants are required to adhere to the following:

(1) To observe the laws of Japan during their stay in Japan

(2) To devote themselves to the program and not to make use of their stay in Japan for any other purposes, such as religious or political purposes

(3) To understand that they are invited as members of a group, and to attend every activity of the program, under the direction of JFJLI, Urawa

(4) Not to arrive in Japan before the beginning date of the training program

(5) Not to go abroad or return to their home country for the duration of the program.

(6) To return to their home country as soon as the official period of the program expires

(7) Not to be accompanied by their family members

(8) After completing the training, continue studying Japanese for at least one academic year at level A2.2 or higher of the "Level Up Speaking Japanese Course" provided by the Japan Foundation, Manila (hereinafter called "JFM")

(9) Upon returning from Japan, participants in this training program must present at

either a "training content report session" or a "practical report session on lessons conducted based on the training".

7. Application Procedures

There are two (2) types of application documents, (1) and (2). Please submit both to JFM as email attachments by the deadline shown in [Table 1]:

1. Document (1): Print it out, fill it in by hand, scan it, and submit the scanned data as a PDF file
2. Document (2): Fill it in using the Word file and submit it as is in Word format. Submission by mail or fax is **not** permitted

[Table1]

The Philippines	**24 November (Tue), 2026**	**cjh_np@jpf.go.jp**

(1) Documents cannot be returned to the candidate under any circumstances. The original documents must be kept by the candidate for record and reference at least until the completion of this program.

(2) In case of any changes to the information provided in the application materials after the submission, please submit the notification as soon as possible.

(3) The entire Application Form should be filled out in Japanese if there are no specific directions, such as "in English" or "in Native Language". Applicants are strictly requested to fill out the application form alone without assistance from others.

(4) In addition to the application documents, please submit a PDF copy of your training completion certificate as proof of meeting the application requirements listed in section 4. (3) above.

8. Notification of Results

(1) Applications will be screened by JFJLI, Urawa, and decisions will be announced to each applicant through JFM no later than 3 months before the program commencement date.

(2) Please understand that JFJLI, Urawa, cannot answer enquiries in regard to the reasons for its decisions.

(3) Higher priority will be given to applicants aged 55 or under as of April 1, 2027.

9. Disclosure of Information

(1) Details of projects supported by the Japan Foundation (e.g., the name of the candidate and the organization, project descriptions) will be made public in the *Kokusai Koryu Kikin Jigyo Jisseki* (Detailed Annual Reports of the Japan Foundation), on the Japan Foundation's website, and in other public-relations

materials.

(2) When a request for information based on the "Law Concerning the Disclosure of Information Held by Independent Administrative Institution, etc." (Law No. 140 of 2001), is received, materials such as submitted application forms will be disclosed (unless stipulated by laws as not to be disclosed).

10. Handling of Personal Information

The applying institution shall inform candidates of the following:

(1) Compliance with applicable laws

To the extent applicable, the Japan Foundation will comply with the "**Act on the Protection of Personal Information" (Act No. 57 of 2003) (the "Act")**, relevant cabinet and ministerial orders, various guidelines stipulated by the Personal Information Protection Commission or other organizations to which the Personal Information Protection Commission has delegated authority, the "EU General Data Protection Regulation (the "GDPR")," the Personal Information Protection Law of the People's Republic of China and related laws and regulations (the "Chinese Laws"), and other laws and regulations in relation to protection of personal information in relevant countries and regions, etc., and when handling any personal information, the Japan Foundation will properly collect, use and control the same. For more information on the Japan Foundation's efforts to protect personal information (privacy policy), please visit the following websites:

(Related to the Act): (Japanese) https://www.jpf.go.jp/j/privacy/
(English) https://www.jpf.go.jp/e/privacy/

(Related to the GDPR): https://www.jpf.go.jp/e/privacy/index.html#gdrp

(Related to the Chinese Laws): https://www.jpfbj.cn/jp/personal_information/

(2) Acquisition of personal information

The Japan Foundation may acquire the following personal information (the "Personal Information") from the applicants through the application forms, attachments, project reports, deliverables, etc. (the "Project Materials"). In addition, the Japan Foundation may acquire the applicants' Personal Information through publicly available websites.

[Basic information of applicants]

Name, date of birth, nationality, permanent residence, gender, place of employment, job and work duties, home address, postal code, telephone number (including mobile phone number), fax number, e-mail address, ID number, passport number, photographs taken during or prior to the program, etc.

[Information on applicants' educational background, career history and abilities]

Resume (including educational background and career history), major achievements, foreign language proficiency, overseas residence history, overseas residence plan, contact information during the residence period, etc.

[Sensitive data on applicants]

Personal data such as medical history, medical examination results, other health-related information and bank account information

(3) Purposes of use and period of personal information

a. Based on the consent of the applicant and his/her family members, the Japan Foundation will use the Personal Information acquired from the applicant for screening, notification of screening results, implementation of the project, post-evaluation, communication to successful applicants and for any and all other purposes for management of applicants and successful applicants (the "Purposes of Use").

b. For the proper and smooth operation of the Japan Foundation projects, any information such as the applicants' names, genders, jobs, titles, affiliations, project periods, project content, etc. will be: posted on published materials, such as the Detailed Annual Reports of the Japan Foundation (*Kokusai Koryu Kikin Jigyo Jisseki*), the Annual Report and the Japan Foundation's website; used for preparation of statistics materials; and used for formulation of future Japan Foundation projects.

c. In addition to the information specified in (b) above, the applicants' contact information (i.e., address, e-mail address and phone number) will be used to: request the applicants to answer questionnaires as follow-up to the project after completion thereof; provide a notice regarding other Japan Foundation projects; request the applicants to provide information for formulation of future Japan Foundation projects, and so on.

d. The Japan Foundation will handle the Personal Information of the applicants and their family members for the period necessary to achieve the Purposes of Use stated above.

(4) Provision of personal information

a. The Japan Foundation may provide the Personal Information acquired from the applicants to the following organizations, to the minimum extent necessary. The Japan Foundation will make sure that the recipients take measures to ensure the security of the Personal Information.

(a) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Embassies or Consulates-General of Japan, etc. (for arrangement of visas, handling of security control and support for project implementation)

(b) Airlines, insurance companies and the agencies thereof, etc. (for procurement of overseas travel accident insurance, etc.)

(c) Evaluators such as outside experts, etc. (for screening, post-evaluation, etc.)

(d) News media and other organizations (for public relations for Japan Foundation projects)

(e) Other organizations and individuals who receive the information as

needed for the projects

b. The applicant's medical examination results and health information may be provided to medical institutions, medical professionals, insurance companies, organizations or individuals who provide cooperation for training (including host families) and relevant government agencies for immigration procedures, procurement of overseas travel insurance and claims therefor, and health care and safety control after entry into or departure from Japan.

c. The Personal Information acquired from the applicants may be used or provided for purposes other than those specified in the Purposes of Use, in accordance with Article 69, Paragraph 2 of the Act, such as providing such Personal Information for administrative organs, other incorporated administrative agencies, local public entities or local incorporated administrative agencies (the "Administrative Organs") as long as the Administrative Organs use the same within the scope necessary to conduct the affairs or services prescribed by applicable laws and regulations and where there is a reasonable ground for such use.

(5) Cross-border transfer of personal information

a. The Japan Foundation may handle the Personal Information acquired from the applicants by transferring the same to the base located in Japan (including the Japan Foundation headquarters) or other countries or regions for the Purposes of Use specified above. The Japan Foundation shall appropriately control the Personal Information in such countries or regions.

b. In addition to the case specified in the preceding paragraph, the Japan Foundation may provide the Personal Information acquired from the applicants to necessary organizations or individuals in Japan or other countries or regions for the Purposes of Use specified above as needed for the projects, only when the conditions stipulated in laws and regulations are satisfied.

(6) Security control of personal information

The Japan Foundation shall endeavor to prevent unauthorized access and leakage of the Personal Information of the applicants by way of taking appropriate security control measures and control means.

(7) Rights pertaining to personal information of applicant

The applicant has the right to access his/her Personal Information, correct inaccurate Personal Information, suspend the use of the Personal Information, etc., to the extent that the Act, the GDPR, the Chinese Laws and other laws pertaining to protection of the Personal Information in the relevant country or region apply.

(8) Filing of objections against handling of personal information

In the case where the applicant is dissatisfied with the handling of the Personal Information in the Japan Foundation, such applicant may state his/her objections to the Japan Foundation to the extent permitted by the applicable laws and regulations. In accordance with the applicable laws and regulations, the applicant may also file

objections to the authority that has jurisdiction over protection of the Personal Information in the country to which the applicant belongs.

(9) Personal information of persons involved in the project

The Personal Information of persons involved in the project other than the applicant, which is submitted by the applicant to the Japan Foundation, shall also be handled in the same manner as stipulated in (1) to (8) above, and therefore, the applicants should provide explanations in advance to the persons involved in the project and obtain their consent.

(10) Contact information

Please use the contact details below for any opinions, questions, etc. regarding any matters specified in this "Handling of personal information" section.

JFJLI, Urawa email address: urawakenshu@jpf.go.jp

(11) Revocation of consent

The applicant has the right to revoke his/her consent to any matters specified in this "Handling of personal information" section at any time. The revocation of consent does not affect the legality of the handling of the Personal Information prior to the revocation. In addition, when the applicant does not provide his/her consent or revokes his/her consent, such applicant may not be able to receive necessary information and/or services from the Japan Foundation.

(12) Applicants are requested to inform all individuals whose personal information appears on the application materials that the above-mentioned policy shall also apply to those individuals' personal information.

(13) By applying to the program, applicants will be deemed to have agreed to these statements above.

11. Response to the Spread of infectious diseases

Depending on the state of the spread of infectious diseases, appropriate measures may be required when implementing the project in accordance with the regulations and instructions of the relevant authorities. These programs may be cancelled depending on the situation of infectious diseases, even after the selection. The contents and the participation requirements of the programs may be changed due to the same reason, even if the programs are duly implemented.