

Name of Applicant: HA, Kwan Tsun

Proposal for the Japanese cultural tour (KAPIC 日本文化體驗計劃)

1. Details of the programme

Nature: Cultural Exploration

Programme Dates: 19 June, 2017 – 30 June, 2017¹

Organizing Unit: Department of Japanese Studies (JAS), CUHK

Destination: Kagoshima Asia-Pacific Intercultural Countryside (KAPIC) Center
(亜洲太平洋農村研修村), Kagoshima, Japan

2. About the KAPIC Center²

The KAPIC Center was established in 1994 to serve as an important base for international exchange and international cooperation in Kagoshima. Tucked away in lush natural surroundings, the Center is widely used by various organizations and educational institutions to carry out training seminars. It organizes various activities and projects that explore both Japanese culture and foreign cultures in order to deepen mutual understanding between people with different cultural background. These include Japanese language Studies, Japanese Culture Studies (experience kimono-fitting, Japanese cuisine, tea ceremony, flower arrangement, Taiko drums, etc.), visits and study trips to famous places and institutions in Kagoshima.

The Center is well equipped for the aforementioned purpose. It provides accommodation facilities (including single rooms, twin rooms and traditional Japanese Tatami rooms) for a maximum of 72 people. Participants can therefore have more time on their cultural exchange activities with the elimination of travelling time. It also provides study and training facilities such as technical training rooms, cooking facilities,

¹ The applicant might stay in Japan for a few more days after the end of the programme. Details are to be confirmed.

² Information is obtained from the KAPIC official website <http://kpic.jp/>

library, etc.

3. Objectives

- I) To boost the confidence in speaking Japanese by using Japanese as a medium of communication throughout the programme, particularly with the homestay family
- II) To experience the way of living of the Japanese people through the short-term homestay in a local family
- III) To know about the learning environment of Japanese students at various levels through school visits at primary schools and universities.
- IV) To have a taste on the Japanese culture through various workshops on "Japanese tea ceremony", "kimono-fitting", etc.

4. About the programme

I) Introduction

This programme is one of the short-term summer exchange programmes offered by the JAS of the CUHK. It is co-organized by the JAS and the KAPIC Center, a company in Japan that provides opportunities for people all around the world to experience the culture of Japan. In recent years, they have been cooperating tightly with the aim to give students a taste of the unique culture of Japan. The programme is designated for students who have been learning Japanese Language for at least a year, so that the participants could directly touch on the Japanese culture with less language barrier.

This year, 15 participants are recruited to join this programme. They are going to

participate in a series of activities in Kagoshima, including visits to Japanese primary schools and universities, exposure to Japanese culture and informal lessons of Japanese language. Details are elaborated in the following section.

II) Programme Content

a) Short-term homestay

Each of the participants would be allocated to a host family and they will be living together for two days within the programme. During the stay, participants would have a chance to experience the way of living of a typical household in Japan and compare it with their own life in Hong Kong. Participants would also have the chance to interact with members of the family in Japanese. As a result, after the homestay, participants should have built up confidence in speaking Japanese, especially in daily contexts. Moreover, through conversations, participants could also know more about Japan, especially the city of Kagoshima, including its cultural, economic and environmental features.

b) Visits to primary schools and universities

Participants would spend about two days within the programme with students from the local primary schools and universities. They would have a chance to visit the school campuses and interact with the students. It is expected that they could appreciate the learning environment of the Japanese students and compare its difference with that in Hong Kong. Through interacting with the students, they could also know about the education system in Japan, as well as the teaching method adopted by different levels of institutes in Japan. Moreover, participants would also

discuss their own cultural background with the students there so that cultural exchange could be done to broaden their horizons.

c) Cultural workshops

Workshops on Japanese culture such as kimono-fitting, flower arrangement, tea ceremony, Taiko drums and Japanese cuisine are included in the programme. The aforementioned items seem to be well-known to the majority of Hong Kong people. However, very few of them has actually studied them. In this programme, participants are given the opportunities to learn about the basics of these cultures from the Japanese experts in these fields. This would be an invaluable opportunity for the participants to learn about the most authentic Japanese culture.

5. Expected outcomes

- I) Be able to have conversations in Japanese in daily contexts
- II) Understand the unique culture of Japan and the way of living of the Japanese people, particularly those in Kagoshima
- III) Observe the advantages on the Japanese education and learning environment and compare them with my experience of learning in Hong Kong

6. Budget

- I) Estimated expenditure of the programme: HKD 8,370

a) Programme Fee

The programme fee would be paid in Japanese Yen (JPY) on arrival at Japan.

b) Round trip transportation

The round-trip air ticket from Hong Kong to Kagoshima (via Tokyo) has been booked by the JAS from the Japan Airlines (JAL). Participants would stay in Tokyo on the first night (19th June), and continue their journey to Kagoshima on the next morning (20th June).

N.B. For details of the price, please see the budget plan attached in the next page.

II) Possible funding:

- a) Global Learning Award
- b) Subsidies from the JAS³ (at least HKD 1500)

³ Subsidies would be given upon completion of the Programme Report required by the JAS. Please refer to the poster of the programme (attached) for further information.

Programme Budget

	Item	Amount (JPY)	Amount (HKD)
1	Programme Fee	¥22,000.00	HKD 1,540.00
2	Round-trip transportation	---	HKD 5,800.00
3	Taxes (for airfare)	---	HKD 830.00
4	Insurance		HKD 200.00
	Total		HKD 8,370.00

N.B. The exchange rate is set as JPY 1 = HKD 0.0700