

Quick Estimate of the Number of Japanese-Language Learners Abroad Learners Increase by 9.1% for a Total of 3.98 million Survey Report on Japanese-Language Education Abroad 2012

The Japan Foundation conducts the “Survey on Japanese-Language Education Abroad” every three years to grasp the latest status of Japanese-language education around the world.

The 2012 survey showed that in China, college students were the main force behind the increase due to their interest in Japanese pop culture, together with utility-based motives, such as “future employment.” Indonesia also continued to show a prominent rise, especially in the number of high school students. Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries such as Thailand, the Philippines, and Malaysia have designated Japanese as a foreign language elective in secondary education. In Korea, a change in the education system at high school level led to a decrease. This change affected other language electives as well.

The global trend shows that students at the secondary level are on the rise. The results revealed the need to respond to the interests and expectations of teachers and learners by developing and providing appropriate teaching materials. Maintaining and improving the abilities of Japanese-language teachers is also another issue that should be considered.

Number of learners:	3,984,538	(up 9.1% since the 2009 total of 3,651,232)
Number of institutions:	16,045	(up 7.5% since the 2009 total of 14,925)
Number of teachers:	63,771	(up 28% since the 2009 total of 49,803)

Rank	Country/Region	Number of Learners (2009)	Number of Learners (2012)	Rate of change (%)
1	China	827,171	1,046,490	26.5
2	Indonesia	716,353	872,406	21.8
3	Korea	964,014	840,187	▲ 12.8
4	Australia	275,710	296,672	7.6
5	Taiwan	247,641	232,967	▲ 5.9
6	USA	141,244	155,939	10.4
7	Thailand	78,802	129,616	64.5
8	Vietnam	44,272	46,762	5.6
9	Malaysia	22,856	33,077	44.7
10	Philippines	22,362	32,418	45.0

*For more details, please contact us using the information below.

*The previous “Survey on Japanese-Language Education Abroad 2009” report is available at the Japan Foundation website from the following link. <http://www.jpf.go.jp/e/japanese/survey/result/index.html>

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