



Japanese Teachers' Association of NSW (JTAN) Inc.

ABN 94 045 344 808
PO Box 6453, North Sydney 2060
<http://www.jtan.org.au>

JTAN November Newsletter 2015

JTAN BECOMES MEMBER OF WORLDWIDE *NIHONGO SAKURA* NETWORK

By invitation from the Japan Foundation (JF) on 2nd November, JTAN has accepted to become a member of the JF Nihongo Network, also known as the Sakura Network. More information can be found at <http://www.jpf.go.jp/e/project/japanese/education/network/>.

The purpose of Sakura Network is to enhance Japanese language education in Australia, and JTAN's purpose is to provide our members with more benefits. Two benefits are outlined below:

- A. Members will have the opportunity to apply for **in-country training grants** aimed at developing teachers' Japanese language skills. Please refer to the two attached files (*basic.zip* & *pre-advanced.zip*) for further information and application forms. **Grant applications are due on 1st December, 2015.** JF Deputy Manager Mr. Nakajima informs that applicants should be aware that there will be many applications from all over the world.
- B. Members will have the opportunity to apply for the **Sakura Network Grant Program** aimed at providing funding for projects to enhance Japanese language education. Participants of this course will be expected to conduct their project/s between 1st April 2016 ~ 31st March 2017. Please refer to the attached file (*sakura_network_grant.zip*) for the application form.

If you are willing to apply for the grants, please send your application to enquire@jtan.org.au **by 25th November** in order for JTAN to forward it to JF before their cut-off date (1st Dec.).

We hope you will take this great opportunity to apply and enhance your skills as a teacher of Japanese!

The JF Nihongo Network
as the "Sakura Network"





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EXAM WRITING WORKSHOP 28th November 2015

JTAN will hold an annual exam writing workshop for members.

The purpose of this workshop is to share ideas of how to write exams between experienced teachers and new teachers.

We will guide you by providing some useful tips when writing an exam item, including:

- exam specifications
- validity of tasks
- how to interpret marking guidelines
- a checklist for making an exam

JTAN's examination papers are created by members, and we are grateful for your contribution to our Japanese teaching community. JTAN will publish Preliminary Yearly and Trial HSC papers for Beginners and Continuers courses as well as an Extension paper in 2016. During the workshop, we will ask for your help to make the Listening and Reading items for the Trial HSC papers. You will be asked to work in pairs/groups and write a text/s to match the prepared question/s. Every year the participants are full of ideas and their items have been extremely helpful to produce the JTAN papers.

JTAN will provide Bento lunch boxes and the participants will receive honorariums.

We also offer the opportunity to share the resources on that day.

The participants are encouraged to bring **one or more listening item/s of your original transcript with marking guidelines and sample answers**, and the collected items will be recorded in the professional recording studio, spoken by the male and female native speakers.

The resources will be distributed later to the participants only.

If you can't attend the workshop and wish to participate in this resource sharing activity, please email your item/s to enquire@jtan.org.au. All the contributors will receive the Word and Sound files in mid-2016. We look forward to seeing you at the workshop.

Regards,

Examination Convenors



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1 - 2015 Advisory Council Meeting (ACM)

On the 30th October, the ACM was held at the Japan Foundation Sydney, chaired by Mr. Yutaka Nakajima (Deputy Manager of JF). The attendees were the representatives of the government's education department, presidents and leaders of associations and Networks of Japanese language teachers from all the states and territories in Australia. From NSW, Sally Shimada (DE) and Teruko Sharif (JTAN) attended the meeting.

There were also two guest speakers, Dr. Anne de Kretser (Director, Melbourne Centre for Japanese Language Education) and Dr. Robyn Spence-Brown (Professor, Monash University Melbourne, who was a presenter at the 2015 JTAN AGM & Seminar). As you are probably aware, they wrote 'The current state of Japanese language education in Australian schools,' (accessible at <http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/verve/-resources/JapanReport.pdf>) in 2010 and made us aware of some issues and suggested solutions. Their research has been ongoing and their updated research results will be published very soon.

Each of the representatives reported about their main activities and issues. In the email sent to you by Belinda Gerometta on 9th September, JTAN asked you to have 'Your Say' (i.e. what you expect from DE/JTAN, comments on resources/facilities offered by JF). Although only a few teachers responded to it, I have passed your request/comments as follows:

1) More resources should be published on the websites of DE, JTAN and JF websites.

Response: JTAN has many resources available in the 'MEMBERS AREA' of our webpage. After logging in, click 'Teaching and Assessment'. These resources have been provided by our members, and we encourage all members to contribute as much as they can.

2) DE and JTAN should provide more workshops for teachers.

Response: The new JTAN Committee is programming workshops for teachers in 2016. The same request was passed to Janelle Byrne (DE) on the 3rd November.

3) Participation fees should be lowered for non-government teachers and students for the NSW Japanese Teachers' Conference and Nihongo Tanken Centre.

Response: This would not be considered by DE as the conference is a government school teachers' event and the Tanken Centre is a DE-operated facility.

4) JF's resources cannot be used as they are too far to visit.

Response: JF offers mail services. Please communicate through the Online Contact Form (<http://www.jpj.org.au/contactform.html>).

5) JF's resources are not enough.

Response: JF has limited cultural realia for loan. However, JF's Cultural Tour members have visited some schools in country areas, which JF will continue to do.



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6) JTAN has been asked to offer financial support for school trips to Japan, teacher relief fees for teachers to attend professional learning and expenses for students to travel in Japan.

Response: The main aim of JTAN is to support the Japanese teaching community, not individual schools/teachers/students.

2 - 2015 Japanese Language Teachers Associations (JLTA) Workshop

On the 31st October, the JLTA workshop was also held at JF, chaired by Dr. Anne de Kretser and Mr. Yutaka Nakajima. Some states and territories, where no JLTA exist, were represented by MLTA of the state or teachers' network. The representatives of each state and territory reported about overall structures of their organisations, events, issues and the needs of advocacy.

Regarding the needs of advocacy for NSW teachers, I explained about difficulties in becoming a Quality Teaching Council (QTC) -endorsed Professional Development (PD) provider. I'd like to ask for members' opinions and suggestions, as NSW teachers, about the problems listed below. Your comments to enquire@jtan.org.au will be very welcomed.

Teachers at Proficient Teacher level need to attend 50 hours of QTC-endorsed workshops in a 5 year cycle. JTAN is thus applying for becoming a QTC-endorsed PD provider. However, the application process and requirements are problematic, because:

- 1) it takes at least three months to get QTC endorsement for a workshop as our application will go through the BOSTES Professional Learning secretariat, then considered by the Professional Learning Endorsement and Advisory Committee (PLEAC), and then the QTC,
- 2) application dates are not frequent, so applications cannot be submitted at all times,
- 3) the length of a blank application form is 15 pages,
- 4) the PD must be based on research, and
- 5) the endorsement criteria requires detailed evidence; detailed explanations and samples of how the nominated Australian Professional Standards (APS) are met. Furthermore, detailed explanations of workshop structure, materials and background are required.

The first hurdle for JTAN is finding a presenter/s, who will be willing to prepare for research-based workshop content and materials several months before the workshop is held. Otherwise, we won't be able to advertise the workshop with the QTC logo.



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3 - DE & JTAN meeting

On 3rd November, Janelle Byrne (Japanese Language Officer, Department of Education) and Teruko Sharif (President, JTAN) had a meeting at the DE office. I passed our members' requests of providing more workshops face to face and online. I also passed a suggestion brought up in the ACM, which is creating videos for methodologies/pedagogies and placing them on the DE website. Janelle and I also talked about 21st Century teaching skills, and Janelle kindly sent us the video links below.

These videos discuss: **Does the use of ICT increase student learning outcomes in Languages?**

<http://tinyurl.com/o2s9yn2>

Connecting to a sister school in Japan video (for teachers to view about creating films and using wiki – shows collaborative, real world learning.

<http://tinyurl.com/pgtfbxp>

Using Web 2.0 technologies with Year 10 Japanese - Will the use of ICT resources in the classroom engage students more effectively in the senior years? ICT explored in this Digi Story are Vokis, Podcasts, iPod touches, creating comics and a Wiki.

<http://tinyurl.com/o85jwo9>

The J Boys and the Green screen – Creating a Virtual Indonesia through the use of green screen video-making, focusing on intercultural knowledge.

<http://tinyurl.com/qchfsrs>

Japan by iPad - Students created an intercultural/linguistic trip to Japan captured through their iPads, blogging their experiences to the school community.

<http://tinyurl.com/ohrqaa7>

Using iPads and iPod touches in Japanese.

<http://tinyurl.com/qdkvfks>

How can we make students take control of their own learning? (Chinese)

Regards,

Teruko Sharif
President JTAN

JTAN Members Checklist:

- *Apply for Sakura Network Grants (due 25th Nov. 2015)*
- *Apply for Exam Writing Workshop (28th Nov. 2015)*
- *Apply for Extension Workshop (16th Feb. 2016)*