**NIHONGO SPEECH CONTEST 2019** The Japan Foundation, Manila

The Nihongo Speech Contest primarily aims to extend to students and professionals an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to express themselves in

Japanese; thus, promoting cultural exchange - deeper understanding and better appreciation of the culture of Japan and the Philippines.

Since 2008, there have been 3 categories; namely, the **Student Division**, the **Non-student Division**, and the **Open Division.** Therefore, anybody - whether he/she is a new learner, student or non-student, can join in the corresponding/appropriate category; and, speakers with a high level of proficiency in Nihongo can compete in the Open Division.

**Schedule of screening and competitions in Mindanao, Visayas and Luzon:**

1. Initial screening of manuscripts: Deadline is **January 9, 2019 (Wednesday)** for Mindanao and **January 16, 2019 (Wednesday)** for NCR/Luzon applicants.

2. Preliminary competition: **January 18, 2019 (Friday)** at the Mindanao Kokusai Daigaku（MKD Audio-Visual Room） in Davao (for Mindanao applicants); **February 2, 2019 (Saturday)** at The Japan Foundation, Manila (for NCR / Luzon applicants)

3. Preliminary competition: **February 2, 2019(Saturday)** in Cebu (Visayas)

 17th Nihongo Speech Contest in Cebu (SM Conference Room AB, Cebu City)

4. Final competition: **February 23, 2019** **(Saturday)** **Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City**

**Guidelines:**

General conditions

1. Must be a Filipino citizen or a non-Japanese citizen with a “permanent resident” status in the Philippines;
2. Japanese is not the first or the native language (mother tongue);
3. Must be at least 18 years old by June 1, 2019;
4. Must not be a previous winner in a Speech Contest sponsored by the Japan Foundation.
5. Must be able to join the “all-expense-paid week-long study tour” in October 2019 - if selected as the “Champion” (Please refer to Awards section.)

Category-specific conditions

***Category 1：Student Division***

1. Must be a **student** currently enrolled in a university/college or senior high school in the Philippines;
2. Must not have stayed in Japan for more than a total (accumulated) of seven (7) months

***Category 2：Non-student Division***

1. Must **NOT** be a student currently enrolled in a university/college or senior high school in the Philippines;
2. Must not have stayed in Japan for more than a total (accumulated) of seven

 (7) months

***Category 3：Open Division***

1. Those who are not eligible under the conditions of Category 1 or 2 fall under Category 3. However, those who are eligible for Category 1 or 2, but with a high level of Nihongo proficiency, may apply for Category 3.
2. Must not have been a recipient of the “Outstanding Performance Award” or “Grand Champion Award”, in the case of previous winners of Category 1 or 2.

**Rules on the speech：**

1. The maximum time of **speech delivery is five (5) minutes**.

2. The speaker may occasionally glance at the script. However, reading

 continuously will have corresponding demerits.

3. There will be a brief Question & Answer portion after the speech of

 each contestant.

**Entries for the final competition：**

Mindanao area: Total of up to 5 entries from the winners of each category in the Davao Competition to be held on Jan. 19, 2018 (Friday): up to 3 may be included in Category 1; up to 2 in Category 2; up to 2 in Category 3.

Visayas area: Total of up to 3 entries from the winners of each category in the Cebu Speech Contest to be held on Feb. 3, 2018 (Saturday): 0 - 1 may be included in Category 1; 0 - 2 in Category 2; 0 - 1 in Category 3.

Luzon/NCR area: Total of up to 10 entries\* from the winners of each category in the Metro Manila initial competition at the JFM to be held on Feb. 3, 2018 (Saturday): up to 5 may be included in Category 1; 0 - 4 in Category 2; 0 - 4 in Category 3.

**Awards:**

From each category 1st and 2nd prize winners will be selected; however, should there be only 3 contestants or less in any of the categories, there will only be the 1st prize winner;

From among all the contestants, regardless of the category, there will be one Special Jury Award winner.

From among the winners of Categories 1, 2 and 3, the “Grand Champion” and the “Outstanding Performance Awardee” will be selected.

The Grand Champion will take part in an “all-expense-paid week-long study tour” in Japan by autumn.