

NIHONGO SPEECH CONTEST 2020

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 8, 2020 (Wednesday)** for Mindanao and **January 15, 2020 (Wednesday)** for NCR/Luzon applicants.
2. Preliminary competition: **January 17, 2020 (Friday)** at the Mindanao Kokusai Daigaku (MKD Audio-Visual Room) in Davao (for Mindanao applicants); **February 1, 2020 (Saturday)** at The Japan Foundation, Manila (for NCR / Luzon applicants)
3. Preliminary competition: **February 1, 2020 (Saturday)** in Cebu (Visayas) 18th Nihongo Speech Contest in Cebu (SM Conference Room AB, Cebu City)
4. Final competition: **February 22, 2020 (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, 2020;
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 2020 - 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. 17, 2020 (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. 1, 2020 (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. 1, 2020 (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.