

(Press release)

**Announcement of the Working Holiday Scheme between Japan and Hong Kong for 2011
(Visa application procedure for Japan)**

26 November 2010

There was an overwhelming response from the young people of Hong Kong to the Working Holiday Scheme between Japan and Hong Kong, which was launched this year. The number of applications we received was almost three times this year's annual quota and, following the full-quota issue of 250 visas, a large number of successful applicants have already left for Japan.

The Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong is therefore pleased to announce the working holiday visa application procedure for 2011. The detailed application guidelines are now available on our consulate website.

1. Visa application schedule in 2011

In 2011, working holiday visa applications for Japan will only be accepted during two limited periods, one in April and one in October, and 125 visas will be issued in each period.

[First period for visa applications in 2011]

Application period: Monday, 4 April 2011 – Friday, 15 April 2011
Result announcement day: Tuesday, 17 May 2011
Visa issue period for successful applicants: Wednesday, 18 May 2011 – Friday, 19 August 2011

[Second period for visa applications in 2011]

Application period: Monday, 3 October 2011 – Friday, 14 October 2011
Result announcement day: Tuesday, 15 November 2011
Visa issue period for successful applicants: Wednesday, 16 November 2011 – Friday, 17 February 2012

2. About the conditions

(1) Eligibility

To be eligible to take part in the scheme, applicants must be HKSAR or BNO (British National Overseas) passport holders aged between eighteen (18) and thirty (30) years, who are ordinarily resident in the HKSAR and also residing in the HKSAR at the time that they apply for a working holiday visa. (Please see the application guidelines for details.)

(2) Required documents

One completed Visa Application Form, a résumé, a statement detailing both the reasons why you are applying for a working holiday visa and an outline of your planned activities in Japan (written in Japanese or English), and any other documents that support your application. (Please see the application guidelines for details.)

(Reference) What is the Working Holiday Scheme between Japan and Hong Kong?

The Working Holiday Scheme gives young people an opportunity to understand each other's culture and lifestyle. It allows successful applicants, who meet the required conditions, to stay on holiday in Japan for up to one year and, secondarily, to take up employment there in order to supplement their travel funds. The Scheme promotes people-to-people exchange between the young people of Japan and Hong Kong, allowing them to gain a deeper understanding of each other's culture and society. Through this scheme, we hope to further strengthen the relationship between Japan and Hong Kong.

(Our consulate's working holiday related web pages)

Japanese http://www.hk.emb-japan.go.jp/jp/working_holiday.html

Chinese http://www.hk.emb-japan.go.jp/chi/working_holiday.html

English http://www.hk.emb-japan.go.jp/eng/working_holiday.html