

(Press release)

Working Holiday Scheme between Japan and Hong Kong
Announcement of results for the second application period for 2012

19 November 2012

Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong

1. The Working Holiday Scheme between Japan and Hong Kong was launched in January 2010, and the results of the second application period for this year will be announced on 20 November. At that time, the successful applicants' individual application numbers will be posted on our website and displayed at the consulate's Visa Section.
2. The annual quota for the Working Holiday Scheme between Japan and Hong Kong is set at 250 visas for each side. Applications for working holiday visas for Japan were accepted by our consulate during two periods this year, the first in April and the second in October, with 125 visas allocated for each period. The second working holiday visa application period ran from 8 to 19 October, and a total of 231 applications were received in this period.
3. All of the visa applications received by the consulate have been subject to careful examination and 145 (NOTE) applications received during the second 2012 period have been approved. Successful applicants will be able to collect their visas during the period from Wednesday, 21 November, 2012 to Friday, 22 February, 2013 (Saturdays, Sundays and consulate holidays excluded). Working holiday visas are issued free of charge.
4. The 231 working holiday visa applications received during the second 2012 application period represented a 21% increase on the 191 applications received during the first 2012 period. The quota for the second period (145) (NOTE) was exceeded by the number of applications received (231) by a ratio of 1:1.6. And the total of 422 applications received in 2012, i.e. during the first and second periods combined, exceeded the annual quota of 250 by a ratio of 1:1.7.

(NOTE): The number of successful applicants in the second period amounts to 145, rather than 125, because 20 successful applicants from the first period did not collect their visas.

The following is a comparative breakdown of this year's and last year's application figures

(1) The number of working holiday visa applicants & the number of successful applicants

	2011			2012		
	First period	Second period	Total	First period	Second period	Total
No. of Visa applicants	121	178	299	191	231	422
No. of successful applicants	121	145	266	125	145	270

Compared with the number of applications received in 2011, there was a 41% increase in the number received in 2012 (i.e. 123 more applications).

(2) Gender

	2011			2012		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
No. of Visa applicants	103 (34.4%)	196 (65.6%)	299 (100%)	175 (41.5%)	247 (58.5%)	422 (100%)
No. of successful applicants	84 (31.6%)	182 (68.4%)	266 (100%)	87 (32.2%)	183 (67.8%)	270 (100%)

It is clear from the above figures that in 2012, as in 2011, the group of successful applicants included a higher percentage of female, as opposed to male, applicants.

(3) Age group

	2011				2012			
	18-22	23-26	27-30	Total	18-22	23-26	27-30	Total
No. of Visa applicants	45 (15.0%)	112 (37.5%)	142 (47.5%)	299 (100%)	61 (14.4%)	181 (42.9%)	180 (42.7%)	422 (100%)
No. of successful applicants	41 (15.4%)	99 (37.2%)	126 (47.4%)	266 (100%)	33 (12.2%)	119 (44.1%)	118 (43.7%)	270 (100%)

This year, compared with 2011, the proportion of successful applicants in the 23-26 age group was up by approximately 7 percentage points. It was down by approximately 3 percentage points in the 18-22 age group; and by 4 percentage points in the 27-30 age group.

(NOTE) In the first period of 2011, due to the impact of the 11 March earthquake and tsunami on the timing of the application process, we made a special case and accepted one application from an applicant who was 31 years of age. For the purposes of simplicity, this application is included in the 27-30 age group in the above table.

(4) Academic level

	2011			2012		
	University or higher	Others	Total	University or higher	Others	Total
No. of Visa applicants	143 (47.8%)	156 (52.2%)	299 (100%)	216 (51.2%)	206 (48.8%)	422 (100%)
No. of successful applicants	134 (50.4%)	132 (49.6%)	266 (100%)	158 (58.5%)	112 (41.5%)	270 (100%)

In 2011, the percentages of successful applicants in both the “University or higher” & “Others” categories were very similar. But in 2012, there was a significant difference. In fact, the number of successful applicants in the “Others” category (112) was exceeded by the number in the “University or higher” category (158) by a ratio of 1:1.4.

(NOTE) The statistics above include those who are attending but have not yet graduated from their university or school etc.

5. The consulate is very grateful for the interest shown in working holiday visas. We sincerely hope that an even larger number of young Hong Kong people apply for working holiday visas next year.
6. The working holiday visa application schedule for 2013 will be announced on our consulate’s website in December this year.

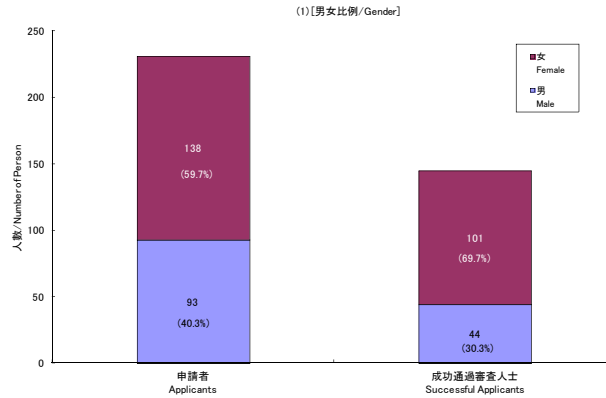
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2012年第2期工作假期申請者概況/Working Holiday Visa Applicants for the Second Period in 2012

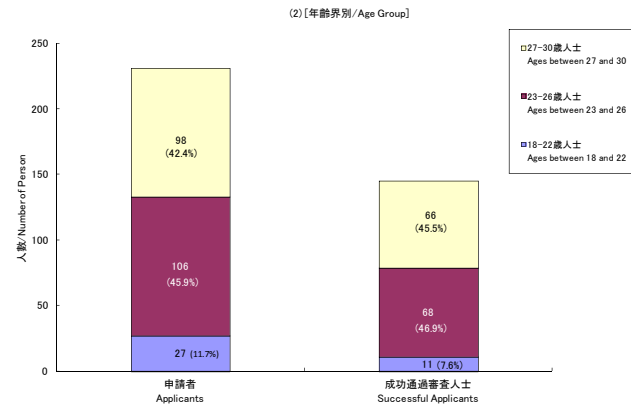
〔人數/Number of Person〕(%)	男 Male	女 Female	總人數 Total
申請者 Applicants	93	138	231
成功通過審查人士 Successful Applicants	44	101	145

〔人數/Number of Person〕(%)	18-22歲人士 Ages between 18 and 22	23-26歲人士 Ages between 23 and 26	27-30歲人士 Ages between 27 and 30
申請者 Applicants	27	106	98
成功通過審查人士 Successful Applicants	11	68	66

〔人數/Number of Person〕(%)	大學或以上程度 University graduated and above	其他學歷 Others
申請者 Applicants	138	93
成功通過審查人士 Successful Applicants	97	48



<申請者男女比例約為 3:7 /
Male-to-female ratio of applicants is approximately 3:7>



<20歲後期申請者占整體近半成 (特別是29及30歲人士近截止前之申請) /
Late-20s applicants account for nearly half of the total number of applicants.
Many included last-minute applications submitted by those aged 29 & 30.>

