

## Working Holiday Scheme between Japan and Hong Kong Announcement of results for the second application period for 2010

1. The Working Holiday Scheme between Japan and Hong Kong was launched in January 2010. The results of the second application period for this year will be announced on 15 June, and with that all successful applications for the working holiday visa for Japan for 2010 will have been approved.
2. The annual quota of working holiday visas issued by Japan and Hong Kong is set at 250 for each side.

Applications for working holiday visas for Japan were accepted by our consulate in two periods this year, the first in January and the second in May, with 125 visas issued in each period. The second working holiday visa application period ran from 4 to 13 May, and a total of 325 applications were received in this period.

Note: The first visa application period ran from 13 to 22 January and 333 applications were submitted. The results (successful applicants) for the first period were announced on 23 February.
3. The visa applications accepted by the consulate have been subject to careful examination, following which 140 successful applicants for the second period of this year have been approved. The results will be posted on our homepage and on the noticeboard of our Visa Section by Tuesday, 15 June.

Successful applicants will be able to collect their visas from Thursday, 17 June to Friday, 16 July (Saturdays, Sundays and consulate holidays excluded). Visas are issued free of charge.

Note: The number of successful applicants in the second period amounts to 140, as it includes the number of people (15) from the first period who have not collected their visas.
4. Several features and trends can be distinguished with regard to the applicants and the successful applicants in the second period, some of which are set out below. (For more details, please refer to the attached statistics.)
  - (1) Approximately 70% of applicants and nearly 3/4 of successful applicants were women. In comparison, women made up approximately 60% of applicants and over 70% of successful applicants in the first period, meaning there was a slight increase in the number of women applicants in the second period.
  - (2) Approximately 50% of applicants and successful applicants were aged between 27 and 30 years old. This breakdown of applicants according to age was very similar in the first period.

- (3) With regard to the academic background of applicants, approximately 50% of applicants and over 40% of successful applicants were technical school or high school graduates. In comparison, technical and high school graduates made up over 35% of applicants and over 20% of successful applicants in the first period. The proportion of applicants with this academic background thus increased in the second period.
5. The application period for working holiday visas for Japan in 2010 is now closed. The visa application periods for 2011 have not yet been decided but will be announced on the consulate's homepage in due course.
6. The consulate is very pleased with the enthusiastic response to the Working Holiday Scheme between Japan and Hong Kong. We greatly appreciate the time and effort that all the applicants have invested in the application process, and we are looking forward to seeing more promising Hong Kong youths take up the challenge of acquiring a working holiday visa for Japan in the coming year.