

MEDIA RELEASE

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Nihongo Roadshow Bringing Japan to school students in WA



The Japan Foundation, Sydney's touring cultural workshop for school students, titled *Nihongo Roadshow* (lit., 'Japanese Roadshow'), travels to Western Australia, following its successful debut last year. This initiative is supported by the Department of Education WA and the Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre. The Roadshow was designed to ensure that over 400 Japanese learners in Years 3-12 from 13 schools will experience Japanese culture and language through a variety of fun activities in Bunbury and Albany over 25 February – 2 March 2016.

The *Nihongo Roadshow* comes on the back of the Australian Curriculum's aim to improve Asia literacy, in which Japanese is recognised as a priority language by the Australian government. It supports this aim by stimulating students' interest in Japanese culture using games, quizzes and films, and encouraging them to continue studying Japanese language as an elective throughout their school years.

The Japan Foundation, Sydney Language Consultant **Tomoko Semba** says, “Some students find Japanese challenging to learn and give up after several years of study. The Roadshow shows them that a whole world of fun exists alongside language education by immersing them in Japanese culture and raising awareness of WA-Japanese connections”.

The Japan Foundation, Sydney’s Director **Nao Endo** says, “Albany and Bunbury have fostered strong ties with their sister cities in Japan owing to exchanges such as community-led activities through to official delegations. We support local school communities by offering grassroots workshops like the Nihongo Roadshow, in the hope that they continue building on their relationships and lead to new and exciting opportunities between Japanese and Australian cultures.”

As part of the program, networking events for teachers and professionals in the Japanese language education field will also be held during the Roadshow.

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ABOUT HYOGO PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT CULTURAL CENTRE

Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre was established in 1992 by the Hyogo Prefectural Government to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the sister state relationship between Western Australia and Hyogo Prefecture. The centre aims to promote exchange between the two states by running various business, tourism, educational, and social events from cultural workshops to educational programs. Its library offers books, periodicals and videos for people of all ages.

ABOUT THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, SYDNEY

The Japan Foundation, Sydney is the Australian arm of the Japan Foundation, which was established by the Japanese government to promote cultural and intellectual exchange between Japan and other nations. It runs a diverse range of programs and events, including exhibitions, talk events, grant programs and Japanese language courses for all levels from beginner to advanced. The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 with a global network of 22 offices in 21 countries. The Australian office was founded in 1977.



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