

Dear Educators:

On behalf of The Japan-America Society of Georgia (JASG), I hope this letter finds you enjoying the holiday season and anticipating the start of another beautiful year in the State of Georgia. The purpose of this letter is to share with you a unique opportunity for those of your students who were born between September 1, 1998 and August 31, 1999 (10 and 11 year old children), to travel to Japan for the **22nd Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Conference (APCC) in Fukuoka.**



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As you may know, the JASG is a non-profit organization, founded in 1980, with the mission to promote the mutual understanding of the people of Japan and Georgia. The JASG has been given the unique opportunity to participate in the *22nd Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Conference*. **As Georgia's liaison office, we are able to share the culture of Japan with four students (two boys and two girls) from the State of Georgia through this fully funded exchange program.**

**What is the 22nd Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Conference?**

The APCC has been held every year since 1989 with the objectives of: 1) generating appreciation for the culture of other nations and regions; 2) promoting mutual understanding and friendship; and 3) nurturing international awareness in the region through the young people. The conference will take place from **Friday, July 16, 2010 to Tuesday, July 27, 2010** in Fukuoka, Japan. The APCC's vision is for "each and every one of us to be global citizens of an 'OMOIYARI' (compassionate) spirit, creating a more peaceful world abounds with the smiles of children. Thus they upheld the theme of the conference is **"We are the BRIDGE: We connect dreams around the world."** Georgia's four students will join more than 300 other "Junior Ambassadors" (JAs) from around the world for two weeks of culture and language exchange, home stays, sightseeing, and sporting events. Georgia will also send a chaperone to facilitate between the students and the conference. This person will be able to supervise and provide assistance for the Junior Ambassadors during the entire schedule.

**How can my teacher participate as a Chaperone?**

Please encourage your teachers to apply to join Georgia's delegation as a chaperon. Just as with the JAs, the Chaperone's travel and accommodations for the duration of the program are fully funded. The JASG requests that any teacher interested in chaperoning Georgia's group of four JAs submit a cover letter describing why they should be considered. The candidate should also submit a resume outlining pertinent experience. (Please be sure to include proper contact information.) **The deadline for submission is January 29, 2010.** Any applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

**How can my student participate as a Junior Ambassador?**

The JASG requests that any student who meets the participation criteria and eligibility requirements detailed in this letter submit an essay, no more than two pages (either handwritten or typed), on why they would make a good Junior Ambassador and representative of Georgia. The student should also submit a single drawing on an 8 1/2" x 11" piece of white paper that represents the theme of the conference. In addition, the student should provide a CONFIDENTIAL letter of recommendation (meaning that the letter was written and placed in a sealed envelope before being given to the student for submission) from the student's teacher or another adult who is not the student's parent and/or guardian. Lastly, the student should complete and submit an application form, which is available on the APCC page of the JASG's website at [www.jasgeorgia.org](http://www.jasgeorgia.org). **The deadline for submission is February 3, 2010.** Any applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

For more specific information about the APCC and for detailed information from last year's conference, please refer to the official conference web site at [www.apcc.gr.jp](http://www.apcc.gr.jp) or the JASG web site at [www.jasgeorgia.org](http://www.jasgeorgia.org) for application and other document support.

*Please read the following participation criteria from the APCC, before considering whether to have your students submit their application, essay, and drawing.*



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To be eligible for the conference, Junior Ambassadors must:

- 1) have been born **between September 1, 1998 and August 31, 1999;**
- 2) **Be fully aware of our Vision, and continue to act in an "OMOIYARI" spirit as a global citizen and contribute to the activities of BRIDGE CLUB even after the participation in APCC;**
- 3) be **willing to participate in the APCC** and have a sincere interest in international exchange. Also, be curious about the Japanese way of life and culture and be willing to actively experience it;
- 4) not be of family relation to either the chaperon or liaison officer;
- 5) be of sound mind and body;
- 6) be independent enough to stay alone with a host family;
- 7) be able to introduce aspects of their own culture while they are in Japan; and
- 8) adhere to the **RULES** below:
  - Do not pester the host family to take them sightseeing or shopping unless the family is willing to do so.
  - Parents/Relatives should not accompany their child to Fukuoka.
  - **Do not bring a mobile phone. Parents/relatives should NOT call their child during his/her Home stay. Participants should NOT call their parents/relatives, unless in an emergency situation.**
    - \* Not allowing participants to contact their parents/relatives is not only costly, but there have been many cases in the past in which children become homesick after talking with their parents/relatives on the phone. APCC wishes to encourage participants to be independent and to concentrate on cultural exchange and making friends with their Host Family during their stay in Japan. In case of an emergency, contact should be made through the Liaison Office and the APCC office.
  - Do not leave your delegation during your journey to and from Fukuoka and while staying in Fukuoka.
  - **Adhere to the host family's rules and schedule during the home stay. The host families are all volunteers. Try always to keep the feeling of gratitude in mind**
  - Do not take part in activities outside those designated by the APCC office, (ex. commercial transactions, religious missions, etc.)
  - **Do not bring more than US \$100 pocket money.**

We hope you are as excited about this opportunity as we are and hope that you will share this information with any teacher who may wish to be considered as a chaperon and any child who may be interested and eligible to participate as a JA. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the JASG office at (404) 842-1400.

Sincerely,

Kazuyoshi Domoto  
Executive Director