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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
 OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR LEARNING SYSTEMS

MEMORANDUM
 DM-LS-2026-089

TO : ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS

ATTENTION : REGIONAL SPECIAL PROGRAM IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE (SPFL) SUPERVISORS
 SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
 SCHOOL HEADS
 ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

FROM : *Carmela C. Oracion*
CARMELA C. ORACION
 Assistant Secretary
 Officer-in-Charge
 Office of the Undersecretary for Learning Systems

SUBJECT : CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2026 ASEAN-JAPAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

DATE : February 24, 2026

RECEIVED
 3-5-26
 BY: [Signature]
 RECORDS SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 RECEIVED
 Date: 11 MAR 2026
 Time: 11:34
 BY: [Signature]
 DIVISION OF NUEVA VIZCAYA

The Department of Education, through the Bureau of Curriculum Development - Special Curricular Programs Division, announces the **call for applications for the 2026 ASEAN-Japan Exchange Program for Secondary School Principals**, scheduled on **June 7-14, 2026** in **Tokyo and Sendai, Japan**.

The exchange program is under the **Partnership to Co-create a Future with the Next Generation: WA Project 2.0**, a comprehensive people-to-people exchange initiative aimed at promoting exchange activities and fostering human resources in Japan and ASEAN countries. Participation will be sponsored by the Japan Foundation Manila, the training provider and partner of this Department in the implementation of the Special Program in Foreign Language (SPFL)-Japanese.

Applications are open to all school heads from schools implementing SPFL-Japanese across the country and who meet the eligibility criteria provided in Appendix A.

Interested school heads must respond to the application form until **March 9, 2026** via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2026ASEAN-JapanEPforPrincipals>.

For inquiries, all concerned may contact Ms. Janinn Almeyda-Mendoza, Supervising Education Program Specialist and SPFL Lead Focal Person, through email at





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bcd.od@deped.gov.ph and bcd.scpd.spfl@deped.gov.ph, or Ms. Kelly Ko, JFM Program Officer, through email at Kelly@jpf.go.jp.

Immediate dissemination of this memorandum is requested.

March 10, 2026

To: **Schools Division Superintendents**
School Heads
All other concerned

For information, dissemination, and appropriate action. Participation is open to all secondary school heads from school implementing Special Program in Foreign Language (SPFL. Kindly furnish copy of application documents to hrdd.region2@deped.gov.ph

BENJAMIN D. PARAGAS PhD, CESO III
 Director IV/Regional Director

For the Regional Director:

ATTY. JOSE MARIO M. MACARILAY
 Chief, Administrative Office *H*

hrdd/rbc/cbc



MEMORANDUM		Date: 3/11/26	Released (Records): <i>hcb</i>
To:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PSDS/DICs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elem/Sec School Heads	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Schools	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Others	
For:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissemination	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Guidance	<input type="checkbox"/> Strict Compliance	
ORLANDO E. MANUEL PhD., CESO V Schools Division Superintendent			
By:	<input type="checkbox"/> ASDS	<input type="checkbox"/> CID Chief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SGOD Chief
	<input type="checkbox"/> AO	<input type="checkbox"/> Atty	<i>[Signature]</i>



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Appendix A

**Eligibility Criteria for the 2026 ASEAN-Japan Exchange Program
for Secondary School Principals**

1. SPFL-Japanese school heads/principals who are not scheduled to resign, leave their position, or retire (due to mandatory age-related retirement or other reasons) within one year from **June 30, 2026**.
2. Individuals who are willing to continue teaching and giving lectures about Japan at their schools, utilizing the experiences and knowledge gained through the program. Alternatively, individuals who wish to continue engaging with Japanese schools after returning to their home country.
3. Individuals who fully understand the aims and objectives of the program and are committed to participating in the entire program schedule. Note that extensions or changes to the itinerary for personal reasons, or being accompanied by family members, are not permitted.
4. Individuals who are able to communicate effectively in English.
5. Individuals who are in good physical and mental health and will not experience difficulty participating in the full duration of the program independently.
6. Individuals who can set up a PC and Wi-Fi environment and participate in program briefings using online meeting tools (i.e., Zoom).
7. Individuals who are eager to contribute to the promotion of a better understanding of Japanese culture in their home country upon returning, in collaboration with the Japan Foundation office and/or the Japanese Embassy.
8. Individuals who already possess a valid passport at the time of application or who can obtain a valid passport by the time of application.