

MEDIA ADVISORY: Consulate General of Japan in collaboration with Marx Layne & Company

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN IN DETROIT
TO HOST 21ST ANNUAL SPEECH CONTEST
AND NEW NETWORKING FAIR**

*Michigan Area High School and University Students to Compete on February 27/
Networking Fair to Focus on Bilingual Opportunities*

WHAT: The annual Michigan Japanese Language Speech Contest, sponsored by the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit along with the Japan Business Society of Detroit, the Japanese Teachers Association of Michigan, and the Japan America Society of Michigan and Southwestern Ontario, will take place on Saturday, February 27. The competition, now in its 21st consecutive year, was established to encourage students to experience the power of foreign language communication, increase the desire for Japanese language students to improve their skills and understanding, and strengthen the bond of friendship between the United States and Japan. This annual speech contest is open to the public.

This year a total of 13 students are scheduled to participate, in high school and university categories, and they will be presenting their speeches in Japanese. Prizes for the event are sponsored by Delta Air Lines, Inc. and the Japan Foundation along with the event co-sponsors.

Currently, there are nearly 5,000 high school and university students in Michigan enrolled in Japanese language courses.

Additionally, the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit, in conjunction with the Japanese Business Society of Detroit and the Japan America Society of Michigan and Southwestern Ontario, will host a networking fair after the event. Employers scheduled to attend include representatives from companies including Deloitte and Hirotec America, among others, to discuss bilingual jobs, internships, and study abroad opportunities, as well as to provide advice to students entering the job market.

Japan's economic investment in Michigan is 491 facilities creating more than 40,000 jobs.

WHEN: Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Novi Civic Center – Council Chamber
45175 West 10 Mile Road
Novi, MI 48375

“The annual Speech Contest is a great venue to showcase the talents of Michigan students and

show their proficiency in another language,” said Mitsuhiro Wada, Consul General of Japan in Detroit. “It is wonderful to see so many students in Michigan learning the Japanese language. With the world now embracing a global economy, it is essential students learn other languages to open doors in both business and culture.”

About the Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit

The Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit was established in 1993 by the Government of Japan to serve in the states of Michigan and Ohio. The Detroit office is one of 14 Japanese Consulates General in the United States. The Consulate strives to promote better understanding of Japan and Japanese culture through educational and cultural programs. The office protects the interests of Japanese citizens and strengthens the Japan-U.S. alliance through furthering relations with local governments, companies, educational institutions, cultural organizations and the general public. For more information, visit www.detroit.us.emb-japan.go.jp/ or call (313) 567-0120.

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