

2026 TOKUSHIMA PREFECTURE JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST



PURPOSE

As we advance globalization, it is essential for local residents (prefectural citizens) to experience foreign lifestyles and cultures, develop an international perspective, enhance their personal growth, and deepen mutual understanding with people from diverse backgrounds. Ultimately, we believe this will lead to the creation of a society where we can collaborate, coexist, and cooperate as global citizens.

The purpose of this event is to promote cross-cultural understanding and multicultural coexistence by listening to the candid opinions of foreign residents living in the prefecture and providing opportunities for exchanging views.

Additionally, starting this year, we are introducing a “Junior and Senior High School Presentation Category” to provide junior and senior high school students in Tokushima Prefecture with foreign backgrounds an opportunity to present their thoughts and experiences in Japanese. This initiative aims to enhance their self-expression skills and promote understanding of multicultural coexistence. Please note that this category is not primarily intended as a competition, but rather as an opportunity to support and encourage young participants.

DATE & PLACE

July 18th, 2026 (Saturday), 13:00 - 16:30

Awagin Hall (Tokushima Arts Foundation for Culture) Small Hall (5F)

<General Division>

ELIGIBILITY

Only foreign residents whose native language is not Japanese are eligible to apply. (Additionally, foreign residents who have had over three years of compulsory education in Japan, or those who have previously won the Grand Prize or the Tokushima Prefectural Assembly's Chairman of the Federation of International Exchange Assembly Members Award, are not eligible to apply.)

SELECTION

We are recruiting a wide array of foreign residents. All applicants are required to submit a speech manuscript. After screening the submitted manuscripts, approximately 10 applicants will be selected to participate in the contest.

THEME

The topic is left to your discretion, but it should relate to the event's purpose of fostering cross-cultural understanding and multiculturalism.

* Speeches must not include political or religious content, and must not criticize a particular person or group.

* Speeches must be original content that you have not presented on before. If it is discovered that the speech is not original or has already been presented on, awards may be rescinded.

LENGTH

Within 6 minutes

<Junior and Senior High School Division>

ELIGIBILITY

Students enrolled in junior or senior high schools in Tokushima Prefecture who:

- Do not have Japanese as their first language
- Have foreign backgrounds
- Have obtained parental consent

SELECTION

Applications are open to junior and senior high school students in the prefecture with foreign backgrounds. All applicants are required to submit a speech manuscript.

THEME

Free

(Examples)

- Things you are working hard on
- Things you like or enjoy
- Your future dreams
- Your roots
- Your experiences living in Japan

* Content that criticizes politics, religion, or specific individuals or organizations is not permitted.

* Speeches must be original; however, previously presented manuscripts are acceptable.

* Reading from a script during the presentation is permitted.

LENGTH

Within 4 minutes

AWARDS**<General Division>**

- Grand Prize, one person (Prize: 50,000 yen gift certificate)
- The Tokushima Prefectural Assembly's Federation of International Exchange Assembly Members Chairman's Award, one person (Prize: 30,000 yen gift certificate)
- Awa Bank Award, one person (Prize: 30,000 yen gift certificate)
- Tokushima Taisho Bank Award, one person (Prize: 30,000 yen gift certificate)
- Tokushima Chamber of Commerce and Industry Award, one person (Prize: 30,000 yen gift certificate)
- Tokushima City International Association Special Recognition Award, three people (Prize: 10,000 yen gift certificate)
- Special Effort Award, to be decided (Prize: 5,000 yen gift certificate)

<Junior and Senior High School Division>

- Future Challenge Award, three persons (Prize: 5,000 yen gift certificate)
* All participants will receive a participation award.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit your application form, consent form (for junior and senior high school students only), and speech draft by email, fax, or in person (see contact details below). Please prepare your speech using a computer.

You can download the application form from TOPIA's website.

Please contact us by phone after submitting your application form and speech draft to confirm we've received it.

DEADLINE

Applications must be turned in by May 24th, 2026 (Sunday)

**ORGANIZED BY
(TOPIA)**

Tokushima Prefecture & Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association

**SPONSORS
(Planned)**

The Tokushima Prefectural Assembly's Federation of International Exchange Assembly Members, Awa Bank, Tokushima Taisho Bank, Tokushima Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Tokushima International Association (TIA), Otsuka Pharmaceuticals, Nichia Corporation

**WITH THE
SUPPORT OF
(Planned)**

NHK Tokushima, Shikoku Broadcasting, Tokushima Shimbun, Cable TV Tokushima, FM Tokushima, FM Bizan

**WHERE TO
APPLY**

Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA)

Address : 〒770-0831

Tokushima City, Terashima Honcho Nishi, 1-61, Clement Plaza 6F

Website: <https://www.topia.ne.jp/>Tel: 088-656-3303 Fax: 088-652-0616 Email: coordinator1@topia.ne.jp

Person in Charge: Kimura

Speech Contest in 2025

