

Japanese Language Contest 2026

1. **Date and Time** 21st March 2026 (Saturday), 12:00 hrs-15:00 hrs

2. **Venue** Embassy of Japan in Zambia, Multipurpose Hall
(Address: No.5218, Haile Selassie Avenue, Lusaka)

3. **Organiser** Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Zambia

4. **Entry Categories** Choose only one of (1) or (2) below.

LEVEL (1) Reading of Assigned Texts

Read out the whole texts of the following poem in Japanese.

“KOJO”, Author: Chuya Nakahara

(* For the texts, please refer to section 10 on the next page.)

Reading time: 2 minutes or less

Judging criteria: pronunciation and expression

*It is not necessary to memorize the text.

LEVEL (2) Reading of Free Theme Texts

Choose a text from a Japanese poem, novel, folktale, fairy tale, anime, manga, etc. of your choice, and read it out in Japanese. After the reading, explain in your own words in English why you chose the work. *There will be no Q&A session.

Reading time: 2 minutes or less

Explanation time: 1 minute or less

Judging criteria: pronunciation, expression, and ability to compose sentences.

*It is not necessary to memorize the text.

5. **Application Procedure**

Access the following website to apply. After entering the required information, upload the audio file of your reading. The deadline for application is **27th February 2026**.

👉 <https://forms.gle/n85aAVXySKArJ3sy9>



6. Eligibility

- (1) Applicants must be non-native speakers of Japanese language and must reside in Zambia.
- (2) Applicants must not have experience of residing in Japan for more than 5 years.

7. Prize Giveaway

Winners will be selected for the 1st to 3rd place in each category. Winners will receive a prize giveaway.

8. Number of Contestants to be invited

Up to 15 applicants in each category.

If we receive an overwhelming number of applications, a preliminary screening will take place on the basis of the audio files submitted.

9. Terms and Conditions

Apply only if you agree to all of the following:

- (1) Participants who submit voice data by someone other than themselves or who are found to have made false statements on the application form will be disqualified.
- (2) Participants may not apply for both entry categories of the LEVEL (1) “Reading of Assigned Texts” and LEVEL (2) the “Reading of Free Theme Texts”.
- (3) Participants’ names, nationalities, photos, and comments of participants may be published on the organiser’s website and social media including live streaming.
- (4) The press may cover the contest.
- (5) The organiser reserves the right to alter the event schedule and programme, or to cancel the event itself, should there be insufficient applicants or other circumstances.

10. Reference Information of the LEVEL (1) assigned texts for preparation

Sample readings, texts, and English translations can be found on the following websites:

(The original Japanese text is written in the old kana orthography. For the modern kana orthography and romanisation, please refer to the next page.)

“KOJO”, Author: Chuya Nakahara

Sample reading

<https://aozoraroudoku.jp/voice/rdp/rd785.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCL1vJ-knF8>

https://youtu.be/A0V3_KiiayQ?si=4SJU1dLKM0_5ala

Texts and English Translation

<https://lyricstranslate.com/en/koj%C5%8D-upon-lake.html> (Upon the lake)

『湖上』 作者 中原中也	“KOJO” Author Chuya Nakahara
「こじょう」	「KOJO」
<p>ぽっかり つきが でましたら、 ふねを うかべて でかけましょう。 なみは ひたひた うつでしょう、 かぜも すこしは あるでしょう。</p> <p>おきに でたらば くらいでしょう、 かいから したたる みずのねは ちかしい ものに きこえましょう、 ——あなたの ことばの とぎれまを。</p> <p>つきは ききみみ たてるでしょう、 すこしは おりても くるでしょう、 われら くちづけ するときに つきは ずじょうに あるでしょう。</p> <p>あなたは なおも、 かたるでしょう、 よしない ことや すねごとや、 もらさず わたしは きくでしょう、 ——けれど こぐては やめないで。</p> <p>ぽっかり つきが でましたら、 ふねを うかべて でかけましょう、 なみは ひたひた うつでしょう、 かぜも すこしは あるでしょう。</p>	<p>POKKARI TSUKIGA DEMASHITARA, FUNEKO UKABETE DEKAKEMASHO. NAMIWA HITAHITA UTSUDESHO, KAZEMO SUKOSHIWA ARUDESHO.</p> <p>OKINI DETARABA KURAIDESHO, KAIKARA SHITATARU MIZUNONEWA CHIKASHII MONONI KIKOEMASHO, ——ANATANO KOTOBANO TOGIREMAO.</p> <p>TSUKIWA KIKIMIMI TATERUDESHO, SUKOSHIWA ORITEMO KURUDESHO, WARERA KUCHIZUKE SURUTOKINI TSUKIWA ZUJONI ARUDESHO.</p> <p>ANATAWA NAOMO, KATARUDESHO, YOSHINAI KOTOYA SUNEGOTOYA, MORASAZU WATASHIWA KIKUDESHO, ——KEREDO KOGUTEWA YAMENAIDE.</p> <p>POKKARI TSUKIGA DEMASHITARA, FUNEKO UKABETE DEKAKEMASHO, NAMIWA HITAHITA UTSUDESHO, KAZEMO SUKOSHIWA ARUDESHO.</p>

12. Inquiries

Should you have any questions, please contact us by email.

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