

## Investigating the Attitudes of Japanese Learners Residing outside of Japan towards Working in Japan and their Activities towards this Objective.

- Comparing the results between respondents from China, India and Vietnam -

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### Abstract

This paper reports and analyzes the results of a quantitative survey on the willingness of overseas residents studying Japanese to work in Japan and their image of Japanese companies. Foreign labor is being considered as a possible solution to the labor shortage problem in the Japanese labor environment, which is expected to worsen. The purpose of this survey was to clarify trends in the attitudes of relevant talent and to identify issues that need to be addressed when considering future measures to accept foreign workers. This survey focused on the three countries of India, China, and Vietnam, and surveyed those who had studied Japanese in each country. The survey was translated into the language of each country and conducted online using SurveyMonkey. As a result, valid responses were obtained from 100 respondents in India, 104 in China, and 103 in Vietnam.

The survey results show that, on average, about 85% of respondents in each country responded positively to the idea of living in Japan. About 85% of the respondents also had a positive impression about working in Japan. These results differ from a 2015 Japan Association for the Promotion of Internationalization (JAPI) survey of foreigners living in Japan. The results of similar questions in the same survey showed that about 85% of foreigners had a positive impression about living in Japan, while only about 20% felt positive about working in Japan. The survey also found that, in general, the most common means utilized by expatriates to find work in Japan was "applying to job openings found on online job media" or "contacting Japanese companies in their home country". However, an average of less than 20% of all Japanese language learners had actually applied for jobs at Japanese companies. Furthermore, "education" and "tourism" were relatively common among the industries that these Japanese-language learners wanted to work in, with an overall average of around 45% of them choosing these two fields. On the other hand, on average less than 10% of them chose the "nursing care" industry, where labor shortages are a concern throughout Japan.

Furthermore, a relative comparison of the results of the responses from the three countries of India, China, and Vietnam revealed that each country has a different image of Japan. Two factors were considered in this study to be responsible for the differences in image: first, the economic gap, and second, how close the respective countries' relationship with Japan is. With regard to the former, how

attractive working in Japan is may differ depending on the economic development status of each country. With regard to the latter, we hypothesized that the amount of information available to local Japanese language learners in each country would differ depending on the number of foreigners of the same nationality living in Japan for an extended period of time, or in other words, the maturity of the respective countries' communities within Japan, and that this difference would lead to differences in the impressions and interest levels related to working in Japan on the part of overseas Japanese learners.

When considering and discussing the results of this survey and discussion, differences in the attributes, age, and Japanese language ability of each country's respondents should be kept in mind when making comparisons. Also, further investigation into the attitudes of those outside the three surveyed countries should be conducted. When accepting Japanese language learners from overseas, it is important to take into consideration that the amount of information and impressions of Japan among local Japanese language learners differs depending on the economic level of each country and the maturity of each country's community in Japan. These are important factors to consider when providing opportunities for working in Japan and when disseminating information about Japan to Japanese language learners in each country.