

HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION
HAWAII FEDERATION OF BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

**2017 STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM
FACT SHEET**

PURPOSE

To send two female delegates to Japan as "exchange students" in compliance with a resolution adopted during the Third World Buddhist Women's Convention held in Honolulu in June 1967 "as means of nurturing future leaders for Jodo Shinshu women's activities through exposure to Buddhist culture in Japan, oriental culture and youth movement and as a mission of good will."

REQUIREMENTS

1. To participate in all activities scheduled by the host organization.
2. To submit a written/multimedia report upon return.
3. To accept invitations to speak of experiences.
4. To capitalize on experiences for Buddhist movement upon return.

PUBLICITY

All temples are requested to give wide publicity to this project in order to draw forth the greatest possible number of student candidates and to inform HFBWA members as well as the general temple membership of the progress of the student exchange program.

QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES

1. Jodo Shinshu Buddhist
2. Ages 17-23 (age 17 and age 23 as of December 31 of the year of final selection by the HFBWA judges.) A high school, university, community college, business school student or a recent graduate (within a year)
3. Good health – ability to withstand the strenuous program in a foreign country.
4. Active participation in temple or affiliated organization – Dharma School, Jr. or Senior YBA, youth groups, etc.
5. Interest in Buddhist movement and potential leadership quality.
6. Two references including one from a minister.

ESSAY

Applicant is required to submit a three page, double-spaced, typewritten essay. Essay should describe herself and what being a Shin Buddhist means to her. It should also include what she hopes to gain from this trip and how she believes she can apply this to her life and her involvement in Buddhist women's activities.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

1. Temple Activities: The applicant should be an active participant in her respective temple or affiliated organizations) and have a wide variety of interests and commitments to her temple's activities. Substantial activity is essential in at least a few areas. It should be a person who can be counted upon, and not merely the one who joins everything without accomplishing anything.
2. Involvement in Buddhist movement: Service to or involvement with Buddhist movements/church-related activities outside of her respective temple: e.g., district or state level Jr. YBA, YESS Camp, YBICSE, etc.
3. Leadership Qualiities: Assumes leadership positions and expresses thoughts well and clearly.
4. Work/Volunteer Experiences: Insights of valuable experiences in work/volunteer activities.

5. Benefits of Student Exchange Program: Shows an understanding of BWA's mission and the purpose of the Student Exchange Program. Exhibits a willingness to learn about the Japanese culture and Buddhism.
6. Exhibits a Pleasing Personality and Appearance: Applicant will be given a personal interview, in which she must show ability to converse clearly and to present a pleasing personality.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

- Each United will set its own deadline for submission of applications.
 - Each United president or Student Exchange Committee member will submit the candidates' application forms by **October 31, 2016:** Student Exchange Committee Chair
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations
1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu HI 96813
1. Final judging will be held in November with a personal interview or a conference call.
 2. The judges will be one representative from each United Buddhist Women's Association (Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, Oahu, and Honolulu).
 3. Criteria for judging will include the following: temple activities; leadership positions; involvement in Buddhist movement; work experience; ability to express thoughts clearly; personality and appearance.

AWARDS

1. First and second place winners will have a trip to Japan.
2. Consolation awards to be given to the remaining contestants

DETAILS OF THE TRIP

1. Traveling time: Approximately 14 days (additional days will be at the expense and the responsibility of the delegate)
2. Itinerary: To be the host's responsibility
3. Program: To be planned by the hosts. For a more meaningful trip for the student travelers, the following suggestions are made:
 - a. Preferably, delegates to be housed with private families for more than one night.
 - b. Delegates should have visitations with various youth groups in Japan.

EXPENSES

1. Plane fare to be paid by the HHMHFBWA. Any additional days from that provided by Japan will be at the expense and responsibility of the delegate. A waiver is available.
2. The host group will be responsible for lodging and meals.
3. Ground transportation or any other expense aside from host's jurisdiction will be the delegate's responsibility.

POST-TRIP REPORT

A report will be submitted within 45 days upon returning, reflecting the participant's impressions on how the trip met the purpose of the Student Exchange Program, "to nurture future leaders of Jodo Shinshu women's activities through exposure to Buddhist culture in Japan, oriental culture and youth movement and as a mission of good will". It should comment on how the trip met or exceeded the expectations that she cited in her essay and give supporting examples and evidences from her experiences. It should also reflect on what she has achieved from the trip including what Jodo Shinshu now means to her, how her experiences will guide her in the future, and how she plans to inspire other young women to participate. The format of the report is the choice of the participant such as a multimedia presentation, a hard copy report, or any other that the participant feels will best allow her to share her insights.