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**Language, Culture, and Technology Institute in Japan for Teachers of Japanese  
Fifteen participants (K-12 teachers of Japanese language)**

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Teachers of Japanese who must serve students of widely diverse abilities and backgrounds in the same classroom need resources that can assist them in developing each student's potential to the maximum level possible. At the same time, non-native-speaking teachers need support in attaining their own maximum levels of cultural understanding and language and pedagogy skills. New instructional media promise help for classroom teachers, but without time and training, teachers are not able to take advantage of the opportunities provided by new media.

The Alliance of Associations of Teachers of Japanese will conduct a four-week Language, Culture and Technology Institute in Japan during Summer 2004, with the aim of assisting a group of K-12 teachers to develop their language, cultural, and technical skills.

A competitively selected group of teachers of Japanese in US elementary and secondary schools will receive intermediate and advanced-level Japanese language instruction in an immersion environment as part of a special program for non-native-speaking teachers at Japan's premier Japanese-language institute; visit schools, museums, and other cultural sites; collect authentic materials for classroom use; receive training in the use of new media technologies; and collaborate in creating media-based materials (films, videos, computer programs) for use in their classrooms and for dissemination to colleagues across the U.S. at conferences, workshops, and other venues.

The participants will spend four weeks in Japan, from July 4 to July 30, studying at the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute; visiting schools and other cultural sites; and collecting materials for use in preparing classroom units. In addition, they will spend three days at a pre-departure workshop in Los Angeles, receiving orientation and training in classroom technology, and three days at a post-return workshop developing and completing media-based classroom projects.

Collaborators with the Alliance on the project include the Japan Foundation's Japanese - Language Institute in Urawa, Saitama Prefecture; the National Institute of Multimedia Education (NIME) in Makuhari, Chiba Prefecture; and The Japan Forum, a private Tokyo-based foundation that supports worldwide Japanese language education. Classroom and housing facilities in Japan will be supplied by the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute; pre-departure and post-return workshops will be supported by the Japan Foundation Los Angeles Office and Language Center.