

What is Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in FUKUOKA / APCC

The Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in Fukuoka (APCC) was created as a commemorative event of the 1989 Asian-Pacific Exposition, in celebration of Fukuoka City's 100th anniversary. This civic movement, funded by the local government, donations from corporate sponsors and our Supporters' Association has developed from a simple international exchange event into an international educational program involving a number of cities and schools.

APCC aims to nurture global citizens with a spirit of OMOIYARI (respect and understanding) by providing opportunities for direct cross-cultural interaction among children from a young age, eventually achieving a world filled with joyful smiles of children. Each year, children who will shape our world in the 21st century not only gather in Fukuoka, but also scatter around the world from Fukuoka. They participate in homestays and various multicultural exchanges, where children experience firsthand differences in culture and language, as well as learning the importance of respecting and understanding each other.

In 1998, to commemorate the 10th APCC, an international network of former APCC participants, "BRIDGE CLUB" (BC), was founded. BC has branch organizations in a number of our participating countries and regions and they work to promote peace and coexistence between their members and the wider community. When the APCC marked its 20th anniversary in 2008, all the BCs came together and founded the "BRIDGE CLUB International Organization" (BCIO). BCIO has produced APCC Global BRIDGE Leaders who were expected to become the driving force to disseminate the APCC vision and strive to embody it through lively activities as OMOIYARI global citizens. During its 30th anniversary in 2018, APCC announced a reformation plan and a new name for its projects. APCC has taken a step forward to keep building the bridge of OMOIYARI toward 50 and even 100 years from now.

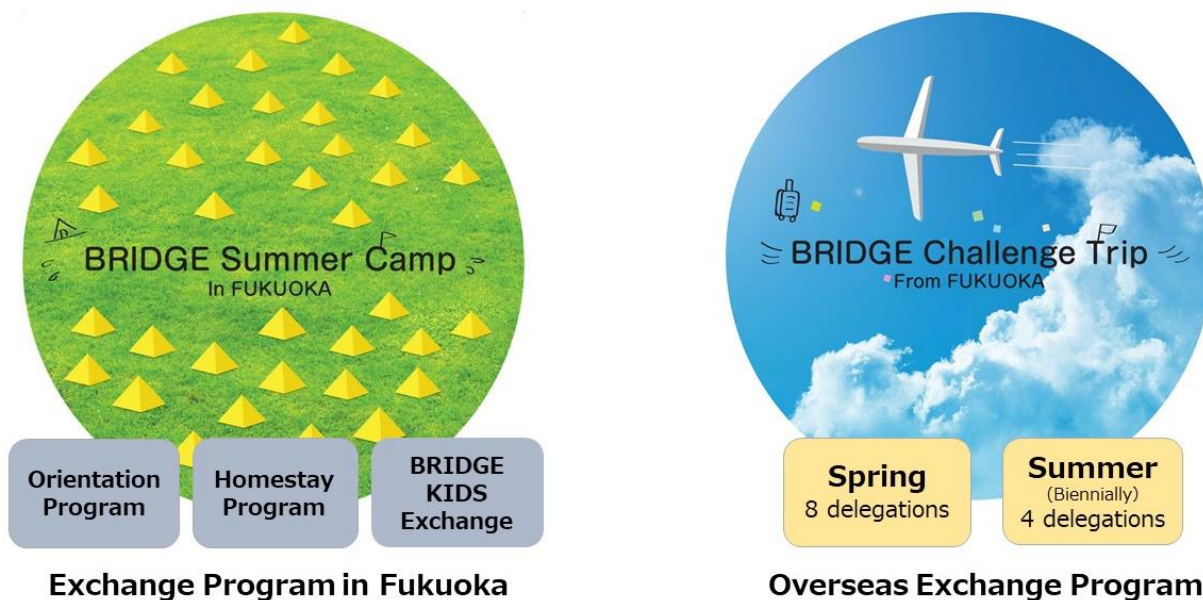
Based on our achievements over the past years, we have expanded the range and aims of this effort. From 2019 we have added new features to our two main programs, "BRIDGE Summer Camp" and "BRIDGE Challenge Trip", and provide even further support for our participants to grow. We promise to create wider opportunities for both children and adults to help them naturally realize the importance and benefits of achieving global competency. Children, with their flexible minds, curiosity and boundless energy, steadily carry our dreams and hopes towards fruition, opening up endless possibilities in the coming era.

Slogan

We are the BRIDGE

APCC Vision We, as members of APCC, will become global citizens with an "OMOIYARI" spirit, creating a more peaceful world where the smiles of children abound.

BRIDGE KIDS PROGRAMS is the newly-adopted name for a set of international exchange programs that NPO Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in FUKUOKA (APCC) provides: the "BRIDGE Summer Camp" and the "BRIDGE Challenge Trip".



BRIDGE Summer Camp is a program implementing every summer, to which over 200 eleven-year-old children from around the globe are invited. The participants in this program take part in various interactions, such as sleeping and eating together under the same roof with hundreds of foreign friends, experiencing Japanese school life, and learning the Japanese way of life at a homestay, in a dynamic intercultural environment that turns all of Fukuoka into one big campsite!

BRIDGE Challenge Trip is a program that dispatches children from Fukuoka to the countries/regions across the world during Japanese spring and summer vacation. The children take on challenges in intercultural communication while experiencing the local lifestyle firsthand.

BRIDGE KIDS PROGRAMS are designed to help us overcome all kinds of differences in cultures, customs and generations by promoting mutual understanding through exchange and communication. BRIDGE KIDS PROGRAMS encourage us to embrace and understand those differences, and broaden our horizons. If we can connect with each other through this OMOIYARI spirit, our future will be alight with abundant smiles.

Information regarding BRIDGE Summer Camp 2020

1. Program Schedule

As of February 2020

July, 2020	Day	JA & Chaperon	Peace Ambassadors
12	Sun	Arrival → Orientation at Marine House	
13	Mon		
14	Tue	Orientation at Marine House	PA Camp at Global Arena
15	Wed	One day School Visit* → (pm) Meet Host Families	
16	Thu	Homestay / Attend school	
17	Fri	Homestay / Attend school	
18	Sat	Homestay / Performance Event	
19	Sun	Homestay	
20	Mon	Homestay	
21	Tue	PM: BRIDGE KIDS Exchange at Global Arena	
22	Wed	BRIDGE KIDS Exchange at Global Arena	
23	Thu	PM: Departure	
24	Fri	Departure	
25	Sat	Departure	

* 30 delegations will join "One day School Visit Program" before meeting host family. Other delegations will spend more time at the camp or visit other sites in Fukuoka

2. Number of Participants

As of February 2020

No	Country/Region Name	JA	Chaperon	PA BCIO	No	Country/Region Name	JA	Chaperon	PA BCIO
1	People's Republic of China	4	1	-	27	Solomon Islands	4	1	-
2	Republic of Korea	4	1	-	28	Republic of Palau	4	1	-
3	Hong Kong	4	1	-	29	Republic of Vanuatu	4	1	-
4	Taiwan	4	1	1	34	Federated States of Micronesia	4	1	-
5	Republic of Singapore	4	1	-	35	The Republic of the Union of Myanmar	4	1	1
6	Republic of the Philippines	4	1	-	36	Russian Federation	-	-	1
7	Kingdom of Thailand	4	1	-	37	New Caledonia	4	1	-
8	Malaysia	4	1	-	38	Tahiti	4	1	-
9	Republic of Indonesia	4	1	1	39	Kingdom of Tonga	4	1	-
10	Socialist Republic of Vietnam	4	1	1	40	Republic of Maldives	4	1	1
11	People's Republic of Bangladesh	4	1	1	41	Tuvalu	4	1	-
12	Kingdom of Bhutan	4	1	-	43	Cook Islands	4	1	1
14	Islamic Republic of Pakistan	4	1	2	46	Kingdom of Cambodia	4	1	1
15	Republic of India	4	1	2	50	Guangzhou	4	1	-
16	Lao People's Democratic Republic	4	1	1	51	Ipoh	4	1	1
17	Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal	4	1	2	52	Oakland	4	1	-
18	Mongolia	4	1	-	53	Busan	4	1	-
19	Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	4	1	1	54	Atlanta	4	1	-
20	Commonwealth of Australia	4	1	1	56	Jiangsu Province	4	1	-
21	New Zealand	4	1	-	57	Dalian	4	1	-
22	Hawaii	4	1	1	58	Bordeaux	4	1	-
23	Republic of the Fiji Islands	4	1	1	59	Republic of Peru	4	1	-
24	Republic of Kiribati	4	1	-	60	Ho Chi Minh	4	1	-
26	The Independent State of Papua New Guinea	4	1	1	61	Kyrgyzstan	4	1	-
Total							188	47	22

3. Request to the Parents of Junior Ambassadors (JAs)

In order to prevent homesickness and to ensure the children's immersion in Japanese culture, JAs are not allowed to contact home at any time during the program. Furthermore, we ask JAs' parents not to get in touch with their children while they are in Japan, let alone accompany them to Fukuoka. We also do not allow the JAs to bring mobile phones or any other communication devices with them. Adding to the obvious problems such as financial responsibility in the case of loss or damage, the past experience has taught us that contact with home leads to feelings of homesickness and prevents the JAs from concentrating on their mission of promoting international friendship and inter-cultural understanding.

In the case of an emergency, parents should contact the liaison office in their country/region or the APCC office. Emergency contact from the APCC will also be made through the liaison office. In such case, we will take any necessary action to ensure that the child remains safe and is not overly

distressed. Please reassure the JAs' parents that they do not need to be anxious about their children during the program. We have many years of experience in running this program and feel that our advice on these matters is sound. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation.

JAs are not allowed to bring the pocket money beyond 10,000 Japanese Yen (approximately US\$100) or Credit Cards. The reason why we made this rule is because there has been a problem that some JAs have brought a large amount of money for their age or Credit Cards, and they asked their host families to take them for shopping many times during the home stay period which is not the purpose of the program. Please make sure that all JAs follow this rule before the departure. If they brought a bigger amount than they should, we will ask the chaperon to keep the money until they get back home.

4. After returning from BRIDGE Summer Camp

All JAs must continue to act with an OMOIYARI spirit as a global citizen and contribute to the activities of the BRIDGE CLUB (BC) after participating in the BRIDGE Summer Camp. As their chaperon or parents, please encourage and support the JAs join the BC activities.

BRIDGE CLUB (BC) / BRIDGE CLUB International Organization (BCIO) is a worldwide network of APCC alumni and their objectives are:

- To foster leaders with a global perspective who will shape the world in the future.
- To build a network of "Global Citizens" free from religious, political and economic restrictions.
- To expand this network across the world, establish a circle of friendship and work towards creating a peaceful society.

In order to achieve these goals, BCs work beyond the APCC to form a human network around the world. Each APCC participating country has a local BC, and they plan their own activities depending on local needs, such as humanitarian assistance, cultural exchange and education. BC also acts as an alumni association for former participants of APCC, enabling them to keep in touch and sustaining their friendships throughout the world.

Please refer to the BCIO website for further information; <http://www.bcio.org/>