

May 10, 2021
AEON 1% Club Foundation

Hosting a Virtual Japan Study Tour for the
"AEON Cup" Japanese Speech Contest

Online Participation by 29 Students from Six "AEON Scholarship"

Partner Universities in China

The AEON 1% Club Foundation will host a virtual Japan Study Tour for the "AEON Cup" Japanese Speech Contest online over three days, May 15 (Saturday), 22 (Saturday) and 29 (Saturday).

The "AEON Cup" Japanese Speech Contest is held as part of the AEON Scholarship, an allowance-based scholarship system for self-funded university students from various Asian nations, including those who are studying in Japan, in the hope that they may play a role in forming connections between Japan and their home nations. The program has been implemented since 2015 with the aim of providing students who are studying Japanese in China with the opportunity to give speeches in Japanese, and to deepen mutual understanding between Japan and China, thereby promoting friendship between the two nations. In addition, by inviting the higher prize-winning entrants to experience Japanese society, history, culture and technology, the program aims to cultivate further enhanced understanding.

During this year's hosting of the program, due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, implementation of the annual Study Tour to Japan will be suspended. Instead, 29 students who were high-ranked prize-winners at the fiscal year 2020 "AEON Cup" Japanese Speech Contest held at six universities, Peking University, Tsinghua University, Wuhan University, Ocean University of China, Qingdao University, and Shenzhen University, will participate in the program online from China. Furthermore, starting with a keynote lecture by Ken Inoue, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo, the program will lay a focus on the recovery of the Tohoku region in this ten-year anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake. On the final day, after learning about Japanese history and culture through lectures and participation, the students of each respective Chinese university will give a presentation summarizing their experiences over the three days of the program.

■Program Overview (Online)

May 15 (Saturday) 10:00~17:00

- Keynote Lecture by Ken Inoue, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo:
"Opening the Potential of Cultural Translation: Encouragement of Hybrid Culture Theory and Triangulation"
- Japanese Culture Experiences: "Wearing Yukata" and "Rickshaw Tour of Asakusa"
- Social Interaction between Japanese and Chinese Students

May 22 (Saturday) 09:45~17:00

- Symposium by Ichiro Fujisaki, Former Ambassador of Japan to the United States (AEON 1% Club Foundation Councilor)
- Virtual Trip to Tohoku: Jodogahama Beach, Sanriku Railway, Tono City (Iwate Prefecture)
- History and Culture Experience: Zazen Mediation (Taizo-in, Myoushin-ji Temple)
- Consideration of Earthquakes and Disaster Prevention: Virtual Tour of the Great East Japan Earthquake Affected Regions
- Listening to Minamisanriku Town's Post-Earthquake Initiatives: "A Future of Coexistence with Nature"

May 29 (Saturday) 09:40~17:30

- Virtual Tour of AEON Museum
- Interaction with AEON Scholarship Alumni
- Summary Presentation by Participants