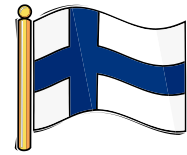


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Press Release

MIRAI Program Launched: Two Finnish Students Participate

15 Dec 2015

From December 15th to 22nd, the Government of Japan is inviting 150 promising graduate/undergraduate students to Japan through the MIRAI Program. The invitees, including 2 students from Finland, will come from Europe, Russia, Central Asia and the Caucasus.

The MIRAI (Mutual-understanding, Intellectual Relations and Academic Exchange Initiative) Program is inspired by the Japanese word “mirai” meaning “future”, and is being launched for the very first time. It is a short-term youth exchange program, aimed at (i) promoting mutual-understanding, (ii) enhancing intellectual discussions and (iii) building strong networks among future leaders of Japan and the world, thereby fostering a solid foundation for future relations between Japan and countries from Europe, Russia, Central Asia and the Caucasus.

The program will include visits to and meetings with people from various high-tech and traditional industries, leading companies, scientific and cultural sites, and governmental institutions of Japan. The participating students will also visit the prestigious Keio University, attending lectures on Japanese politics, economy, society, history, culture and/or diplomatic policy from eminent professors followed by discussions with Japanese students. The program will be completed by a short home-stay program in regional towns and cities outside of Tokyo. In a short space of time, the program provides a unique opportunity for the future leaders of the world to gain an in-depth understanding of Japan and to network with like-minded Japanese students and amongst each other.

The Embassy of Japan welcomes the launch of the MIRAI Program and the participation of two Finnish students, and looks forward to sending more Finns to the program in the future.

For further information regarding the MIRAI Program, please contact Yukiko Nakahari, Head of Public Relations & Cultural Affairs, Embassy of Japan (090-686 0200 / culture@hk.mofa.go.jp).

The MIRAI Program will be implemented by AFS Japan: <http://www.afs.or.jp>

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