



Hokkaido International Foundation (HIF)

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April 10, 2020

Dear all,

It is with deepest regret that we must announce the cancellation of the 35<sup>th</sup> Japanese Language and Japanese Culture Program in Summer 2020.

Our mission is to provide students with opportunities to learn Japanese language and culture, spend valuable time together with host families, and communicate with local people in Hakodate, in safe and secure environments. We had been working with a number of relevant people and organizations to find solutions; however, in the face of the ongoing novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the government regulations such as entry bans or travel restrictions, but most of all thinking about the health and safety of everyone involved in the program, we have reluctantly decided to cancel this year's program.

#### **Possibility of Online Courses**

The HIF program consists of the three major components: "Homestay", "Japanese Language Class" and "Independent Study", and none of the three can be downgraded or lost. That being said, under the current worldwide situation, we had no choice but to discuss possibilities of executing at least the "Japanese Language Class" online. If our summer program were to be offered online with only one of the three components, that would be primarily for those who need to take a summer intensive course for their graduation/major/minor requirement. However, since HIF is a private non-profit organization that is not affiliated with nor sponsored by a university, offering online courses is technically, financially, and academically challenging, especially with only two months left before the program. Even if we somehow managed to offer online courses, we are not sure if we maintain educational quality and effectiveness at the same level as before, and if the HIF online courses are approved by students' home universities. Those are what we need to figure out with time and care. Therefore, after careful consideration, we concluded that HIF does not offer online courses.



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Again, we sincerely apologize for not being able to execute our summer program and any unfulfilled expectations that this may cause. We deeply appreciate your patience and understanding until today.

We hope you and your loved ones are keeping safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Kohji Iida Ph.D.

Director General

Hokkaido International Foundation