

General Information

Passport and Visa

To visit Japan, you must have a valid passport. A visa is required for citizens of countries that do not have visa-exempt agreements with Japan. Please contact the nearest Japanese Embassy or Consulate for visa requirements.

Duty Free Import

Personal effects and professional equipment can be brought into Japan duty free as long as their contents and quantities are deemed reasonable by the customs officer. You can also bring in 400 cigarettes, 500 grams of tobacco or 100 cigars; 3 bottles of alcoholic beverages; 2 ounces of perfume; and gifts and souvenirs whose total market price is less than 200,000 yen or its equivalent. There is no allowance for tobacco or alcoholic beverages for persons aged 19 years or younger. Strictly prohibited are firearms and other types of weapons, and narcotics.

Insurance

The organizer cannot accept responsibility for accidents that might occur. Delegates are encouraged to purchase travel insurance before leaving your home country. Insurance plans typically cover accidental loss of belongings, medical costs in case of injury or illness, and other possible risks of international travel.

Climate

The temperature in Tokyo during the period of the Congress ranges between 8-16 degrees Celsius.

Currency Exchange

Only Japanese yen (¥) is acceptable at regular stores and restaurants. Certain foreign currencies may be accepted at a limited number of hotels, restaurants and souvenir shops. You can buy yen at foreign exchange banks and other authorized money exchangers on presentation of your passport.

Traveler's Checks and Credit Cards

Traveler's checks are accepted only by leading banks and major hotels in principal cities, and the use of traveler's checks in Japan is not as popular as in some other countries. VISA, MasterCard, Diners Club, and American Express are widely accepted at hotels, department stores, shops, restaurants and nightclubs.

Tipping

In Japan, tips are not necessary anywhere, even at hotels and restaurants.

Electricity

Electric current is uniformly 100 volts, AC, throughout Japan, but with two different cycles: 50 in eastern Japan including Tokyo and 60 in western Japan including Kyoto and Osaka. Leading hotels in major cities have two outlets of 100 and 220 volts but their sockets usually accept a two-leg plug only.

Shopping

Shops and other sales outlets in Japan are generally open on Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays as well as weekdays from 10:00 to 20:00. Department stores, however, are closed during one weekday, differing by store, and certain specialty shops may not open on Sundays and national holidays.

Information for Overseas Participants

Useful web site for travel in Japan: <http://www.jnto.go.jp>

GAC 2004 Websites

Official website of the GAC 2004: <http://park3.wakwak.com/~gac2004/en/>

Website of the official travel agent (JTB): <http://act.jtb.co.jp/itd/scripts/gac2004.asp>