

Invitation to Enter NIKKEICHO 50th Anniversary Commemorative Essay Contest

Theme: Now Is The Time to Ask The Big Questions About Japan's Future Path

Outline

- The Japan Economic Research Institute (NIKKEICHO) was founded in March 1962 as a voluntary association with the backing of Japan's four peak business bodies, Keidanren, Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Keizai Doyukai and Japan Foreign Trade Council, with a view to contributing to Japan's economic development by conducting neutral non-governmental research. It was incorporated in September 1967. Since its founding, NIKKEICHO has been releasing quality research results based on its independent research efforts, with numerous forward-thinking recommendations also made. As part of the celebration of its 50th anniversary of founding in March 2012, NIKKEICHO plans to hold a commemorative essay contest, as well as hosting a commemorative symposium.
- As developing countries enjoy spectacular economic growth, Japan is struggling with prolonged deflation as a legacy of its so-called lost two decades, from which it is yet to emerge. The much vaunted change of government has so far fallen short of expectations in terms of, among other things, economic measures aimed at putting Japan back on a growth path, employment creation, and foreign policy. There is a dearth of policy initiatives designed to assist businesses as the main driving force of growth, resulting in sluggish business investment amid an ongoing exodus of home-grown companies. Meanwhile, recovery from the devastating damage of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake requires a recovery philosophy based on a long-term perspective. So, it is about time to deliberate, adopt and implement a future vision for Japan.

It's been 144 years since the Meiji Restoration and 67 years since the end of WWII, and the need to mull over Japan's future path is greater than ever.

Entry Guidelines

- **Main Theme "Now Is The Time to Ask The Big Questions About Japan's Future Path"**

Set a subtitle of your choice that will answer the question posed in the main theme on the basis of your own experiences and interests.

* If you are applying under the Foreign Students division, be sure to incorporate the relationship between your country and Japan in your essay.
- **Eligibility**
 1. General Entry Division: There are no conditions with regard to occupation, gender, nationality, age, or any other personal attribute, so any one can enter.
 2. Foreign Students Division: Foreign students enrolled in a Japanese educational institution, typically a university at undergraduate or postgraduate level, only.

* Please note that you cannot simultaneously enter under the General Entry division as well.
- **Entry Rules**
 1. Only essays written in Japanese and not previously published will be accepted. In the case of foreign students, English may be used in place of Japanese. The copyright of prize-winning essays will belong to NIKKEICHO.
 2. Use A4 sheets in portrait format (horizontal writing, 36 characters by 30 lines). Your essay should be 10 to 12 pages (or 5000 to 5500 English words) long. Make use of word processing software and submit a print out. The submitted copy will not be returned. For prize-winning essays, resubmission in electronic format will also be required later.

* Create a contents page, tables, graphs, notes, a bibliography, etc. separately from the main body of text.
 3. Prepare an abstract up to 1000 characters (or approx. 500 English words) long. An entry without an abstract will not be accepted.
 4. Mail your essay to the address specified below, accompanied by an application, which should include the division of your choice, your name, address, age, workplace or school, and weekday contact phone number.

■ Prizes and Prize Money

NIKKEICHO Grand Prize 1 million yen

(a single work judged to be the best among all entries made under the two divisions)

General Entry Division First Prize 300,000 yen / Second Prize 200,000 yen / Third Prize 100,000 yen

Foreign Students Division First Prize 300,000 yen / Second Prize 200,000 yen / Third Prize 100,000 yen

■ Entry Timeframe and Announcement

- **Entry Deadline: September 30, 2011 for General Entry Division and October 17, 2011 for Foreign Students Division (accepted if postmarked on or before the date specified for your division)**
- **Address: NIKKEICHO 50th Anniversary Commemorative Project Office (see below for detailed information)**
- **Announcement of prize-winning essays: Late January 2012 (as planned)**
 - Entrants of prize-winning essays will be notified privately and receive their prizes at a gala reception following the NIKKEICHO 50th Anniversary Commemorative Symposium, to be held in Tokyo on February 3, 2012
 - Prize-winning essays will be posted on the NIKKEICHO website. It is also planned to have the Grand Prize winner published in the "Voice" opinion magazine.

Judging Committee

Chairman:

ITOH, Motoshige Professor
Graduate School of Economics and Faculty of Economics
The University of Tokyo

Members:

IIO, Jun, Ph.D. Professor of Government
National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies

OKABE, Naoaki Columnist
Nikkei Inc.

SIMON, Fumi Graphic novel artist and essayist

NAKAMURA, Keiko, Ph.D. Director General
JT Biohistory Research Hall

YAMAOKA, Yuji Editor-in-Chief
Voice Magazine

* All personal information revealed in your essay will only be used for judging purposes.

Detailed Address and Inquiry Information

NIKKEICHO 50th Anniversary Commemorative Project Office
Japan Economic Research Institute
Floor 6, Kowa Hiroo Building, 5-2-32, Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0047

Tel. 03-3442-9400

Homepage: www.nikkeicho.or.jp