



Asian Pacific Children's Convention in FUKUOKA (APCC) (www.apcc.gr.jp)

The APCC was created as one of the commemorative events of the 1989 Asian-Pacific Exposition to celebrate the 100th year since the founding of Fukuoka City. It is a civic movement funded by local governments as well as donations from corporate sponsors and the Supporters' Association. By holding this Children's Convention, the APCC hopes to foster "Global Citizens" who are able to think of others beyond various differences with OMOIYARI spirit, while encouraging the desire for world peace. The vision is for each and every one of the participants to become "global citizens of an 'OMOIYARI' (compassionate) spirit, creating a more peaceful world abounds with the smiles of our children" and has the theme: "We are the BRIDGE: We connect dreams around the world."

The vision embraces the idea of modern cultural interaction, through the creation of a place where children can experience first-hand our differences and similarities, fostering friendships and peace between participating countries and regions of the Asia-Pacific. It is their hope that children who participate in this exchange program will make long-lasting, "OMOIYARI" friendships with their fellow peers coming from various cultures and backgrounds.

Over the past 31 years, the APCC has hosted over 11,200 Junior Ambassadors with 6900 host families in Fukuoka and 3500 children and youth from Fukuoka have participated in the APCC Bridge Challenge Trip in partnering countries/regions. All of these activities have helped to develop everyone involved to become global citizens with the 'OMOIYARI' spirit.

To help realize the vision, APCC understands the importance of developing long-term activities from this exchange program; for instance, the enhancement of our "Fostering Program" to deepen our children's desire to learn more about cultural exchange through youth activities, and the "BRIDGE Project", giving past participants further opportunities to put their experiences to use toward creating a more peaceful world.

The three objectives of the APCC are:

- to generate appreciation for a variety of cultures through exchanges between children from all over the Asia-Pacific region.
- to promote mutual understanding throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
- to raise young people with a global perspective who will work to increase international awareness in their local community.

Due to the pandemic, this year's program – BRIDGE (Virtual) Summer Camp will be held online over 5 sessions with participants coming from most of the countries listed below:

China	Korea	Bangladesh	Singapore	Thailand	Vietnam
Philippines	Indonesia	Sri Lanka	Laos	Bhutan	Fiji
Micronesia	Cambodia	Nepal	Maldives	Kiribati	Vanuatu
Palau	Tonga	Papua New Guinea	Dalian	Russia	Myanmar
New Caledonia	Tuvalu	India	Mongolia	Pakistan	Australia
Hawaii	New Zealand	Hong Kong	Taiwan	Malaysia	Tahiti
Malaysia	Cook Islands	Jiangsu Provence*	Ipoh*	Guangzhou*	Atlanta USA*
Oakland USA*	Busan*	Ho Chi Minh City*	Bordeaux (France)*	Republic of Peru*	

*Special Invitation as Sister/Friendship City of Fukuoka

You can read more information about the program at the APCC website (www.apcc.gr.jp) or even check out wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_Pacific_Children's_Convention. Check out the Bridge Club Australia pages on the Australia Japan Society of Victoria website: <https://ajs victoria.org.au/student-exchange> or find them on Facebook or Instagram!

Participation in APCC is not just a single experience, there is an expectation that children will remain involved in the program being run in Japan as well as by Australia's Bridge Club and aim to become an APCC Global Bridge Leader:

- contributing to a better society with an understanding of the local and global issues;
- find solutions to complex issues through open dialogue, sharing individual opinions
- support and involve one another, respecting different opinions and diversity with 'OMOIYARI' spirit

They are looking for children who display the 3 core qualities of APCC Global Bridge Leaders – CARE – Communication, Action and Respect and to this end, we will be looking for such children during our selection of the 2021 Junior Ambassadors.

