

Free Bird Institute Limited

Fiji Islands

9 December 2019

MARKET ANNOUNCEMENT

- FBL to commence Japanese Language School

The Board is pleased to announce that it will commence its Japanese Language School (JLS) from 13 January 2020. This initiative is in response to the Japanese government's introduction of a "Specified Skilled Worker" visa aimed at addressing the serious labour shortage in Japan by accepting experienced foreign human resources with specific expertise and skills.

As a result, FBL through its Employment Agency has partnered up with Japanese companies such as Narita Airport Business Co Ltd, JAL Ground Services Co Ltd, Swissport Japan Ltd amongst others to recruit Fijians under this new visa. FBL has also negotiated with these Companies to advance tuition in the form of a student loan for their respective candidates for the JLS programme which would be repaid once these candidates commence employment.

Executive Chairman, Hiroshi Taniguchi said, "This new visa opens up a great opportunity for the Fijian people and will address the unemployment issues here in Fiji. Candidates who have been chosen by the Japanese companies that we have partnered up with will have the opportunity to work in Japan for a maximum of 5 years under this new visa."

Interviews were conducted by FBL and its partnered Companies late last month where 65 candidates were chosen by the Japanese Companies and 25 candidates were chosen by FBL as standby candidates for future recruitments in 2020. Around 40% of the candidates are our high school students who just completed Year 12, 13 and Vocational studies at Ba Provincial Free Bird Institute this year.

These 90 Fijians will undertake a 12 month Japanese Language & Culture training at FBL in order to successfully pass the Japanese Language Proficiency Test – (N4) required under the new visa. Candidates who successfully pass the exams required will be scheduled to depart Fiji at the end of 2020 or early 2021 and join their respective employers.

FBL will continue to work with our various partners in Japan to capitalise on this new visa and hopefully open up more opportunities for more Fijians in the coming years.

Yours sincerely



Waisale Iowane
Executive Director



Roqiqi Korodrau
Company Secretary





Representatives from FBL and the various Japanese Companies.



FBL Representatives with some of the candidates chosen by the Japanese Companies.