

Cambodian Student Association in Japan (CSAJ)

Homepage: <http://www.csaj-khmer.org>

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How to prepare yourself for life and study in Japan

Advice from seniors

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Preface

This is the first time CSAJ create a manual for newcomers. It is very probable that there are many mistakes. Should you notice any mistake, please email me. You are welcomed with your idea. I apologize for not making the manual in Khmer. I am locked up with my exams.

Please use the manual together with the book titled LIFE AND STUDY IN JAPAN.

Tokyo, Feb. 5th 2002
Editor
Visal Lim

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1. What should be done before leaving for Japan?

Learn some Japanese and something about your major such as Math etc. Some knowledge about Japan would be helpful so read some about Japan if you have time. Though you are going to take Japanese language course, it's better to have a head start. Keep on studying English because you'll need it in both study and everyday life. Try to get documents related to your field of study (this is highly recommended for students who are going to major in something related to Cambodia because documents about Cambodia are very scarce in Japan).

2. What should be brought to Japan?

- ① Clothes: Don't bring too much clothes. That's my only recommendation since people tends to bring too much clothes especially coats and jackets. You can buy these stuffs here in Japan. It 's a good idea to bring some traditional clothes since you might need it in different occasions such as cultural festival, party etc. A suit is a must for male students.
- ② Study materials: A Japanese-Khmer dictionary is very much needed in the first few weeks before you buy an electronic one (Japanese-English). It 's a must for people who do not intend to buy an electronic one but I'm quite certain that you'll buy it. A Khmer-Japanese dictionary is quite important, if not necessary, in the first few weeks or months. An English dictionary is important, if not necessary. You can choose either to bring it along or to buy it here. As for books, it 's hard to say what exactly you need since different courses require different tools and materials but to put it in general bring what you think would be useful in your course¹. Ex. Students who are going to do economics in undergraduate course might need some Math books (Derivative, Matrix ---) and some documents about Cambodian economy. Don't bring too many books on Japanese language. You'll get it here. You might don't need those books at all.
- ③ Traditional Goods: It 's not necessary to bring these stuffs but I suggest you bring some because it can describe Cambodia as well as, may be more than, your words. After all, it can be good souvenirs. It might include postcards, paintings etc. Bringing a flag with you is highly recommended.
- ④ Foods: Don't bring too much food. I'm pretty sure that you won't eat those processed food for more than one week.

3. Comment on the book called Life and Study in Japan²

- Preparing for departure
- Check list of what you need
- Money (page 7)³

(U.S \$ 1000 equivalent) → \$300~\$400 is usually enough. Don't worry if you cannot afford it. You can borrow some from your seniors (There is no Cambodian senior in some prefectures though).

¹ If you want to know more about the materials related to your study please email me or email all CSAJ members through CSAJ homepage.

² The books are distributed to all Monbushoo students before leaving for Japan. Jice students might get different books in stead.

³ The page number in your book might be different from mine because mine is 1998 edition.

- PHOTOGRAPH (PAGE 9)

DO NOT BRING TOO MUCH. YOU CAN TAKE PHOTO ANYWHERE IN JAPAN AT THE ROADSIDE PHOTO MACHINES. IN JAPAN, PHOTOS SHOULD BE WITHIN 6 MONTHS.

- * (PAGE 13)

THE VOLTAGE OF ELECTRICITY IN JAPAN IS 110V. BE CAREFUL WHEN USING SOME ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES. YOU NEED AN ADAPTOR BECAUSE THE VOLTAGE IN CAMBODIA IS 220V.

- CONTACT THE UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC ADVISOR (PAGE 15)

IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR STUDENTS IN UNDERGRADUATE, COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSES TO CONTACT THEIR UNIVERSITY BEFOREHAND.

- HOUSING (PAGE 25)

DON'T WORRY. YOU WILL BE LIVING IN A DORMITORY FOR THE FIRST YEAR. THE PROBLEM OF HOUSING ONLY OCCURS FROM THE SECOND YEAR.

- PART-TIME WORK (PAGE 41)

IN FACT, YOU MIGHT DO NOT NEED TO INFORM ANYONE ABOUT YOUR PART-TIME JOB BUT AS A SENIOR, I SUGGEST YOU CONCENTRATING ON YOUR STUDY IN THE FIRST YEAR. YOU CAN CHOOSE TO WORK LATER ON. ANYWAY, IT 'S QUITE IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND WORK WHEN YOU DON'T SPEAK JAPANESE. REMEMBER, YOUR STIPEND IS ENOUGH TO COVER ALL EXPENSE.

- EARTHQUAKES (PAGE 89)

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. THE BIG AND LETHAL ONE OCCURS VERY OCCASIONALLY. THE LAST BIG EARTHQUAKE IN TOKYO WAS IN 1923. IT 'S NOT AS BAD AS IT LOOKS.

- BANK ACCOUNT (PAGE 97)

DON'T WORRY. YOUR SCHOOL WILL HELP YOU MAKE IT. IT 'S SO SIMPLE. (I HAVE 4 ACCOUNTS NOW, NO MONEY THOUGH©)

- TELEPHONE (PAGE 99)

DON'T WORRY. IT 'S VERY EASY TO CONNECT A PHONE LINE. MOST STUDENTS HERE HAVE CELLULAR PHONES.

- TRANSPORTATION (PAGE 105)

TRAVELING IN JAPAN IS VERY CONVENIENT. YOU CAN GO ANYWAY, LITERALLY ANYWHERE, IN JAPAN BESIDES OKINAWA BY TRAIN. YOU WON'T NEED A CAR OR A MOTORBIKE IN METROPOLITAN AREAS SUCH AS TOKYO AND OSAKA. IT 'S RECOMMENDED TO GET AN INTERNATIONAL DRIVING LICENSE IF YOU PLAN TO HAVE A CAR IN JAPAN SINCE IT 'S INCREDIBLY EXPENSIVE TO GO TO DRIVING SCHOOL IN JAPAN.

4. OTHERS

- VISIT FAMILY: DON'T WORRY. YOU CAN VISIT YOUR FAMILY DURING VACATION THOUGH YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR THE AIR TICKET.
- ACCESS TO INTERNET: UNDERGRADUATE, GRADUATE AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING STUDENTS HAVE FREE ACCESS TO INTERNET AT SCHOOL. COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS DO NOT HAVE FREE ACCESS TO INTERNET IN THE FIRST YEAR.

5. ADVICE FROM SENIORS

- GNOV PENG HUY (FUKUI UNIVERSITY)

LEARN JAPANESE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

TRY TO MAKE FRIEND WITH JAPANESE AFTER GETTING HERE TO PRACTICE YOUR JAPANESE AND TO GET INFORMATION.

- LY TONG (UTSUNOMIYA UNIVERSITY)

TRY TO LEARN JAPANESE HARD.

MAKE AS MANY FRIENDS AS POSSIBLE AFTER COMING HERE.

DON'T BRING TOO MUCH STUFF. YOU CAN GET ALMOST EVERYTHING HERE.

- TEP VICHET (OSAKA UNIVERSITY)

GET CLOSER TO THOSE WHO ARE COMING WITH YOU.

BE READY TO LIVE ALONE.

- LIM SOVANNARA (KOBE UNIVERSITY)

LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT JAPAN.

DON'T BRING TOO MUCH CLOTHES. YOU CAN BUY IT HERE. YOU'LL LOOK LIKE STRANGER IN TOWN IF YOU WEAR STUFF FROM CAMBODIA. AFTER ALL, THE STIPEND GIVEN TO YOU IS ENOUGH TO BUY COATS ETC.

- LONG SOPHAT (NAGOYA UNIVERSITY)

TRY TO KNOW AS MANY SENIORS AS POSSIBLE. DON'T TRY TO BE ALONE.

- NGEAN TOLA (WASEDA UNIVERSITY)

THINK ABOUT YOUR HEALTH. DON'T ENJOY TOO MUCH OR WORK TOO HARD.

- HEM VANNDY (INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN)

FOR THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO MAJOR IN ECONOMICS, DEVELOPMENT OR SOME OTHER SIMILAR FIELDS, SOME MACRO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS ARE THOSE IN THE TO-BE-BROUGHT LIST. IT MIGHT INCLUDE:

- Annual Report of NBC (National Bank of Cambodia)
- Monthly Bulletin of Economics (Ministry of Finance)
- Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (Ministry of Finance)
- Economic and Monetary Statistics Review (NBC)
- Cambodia Development Review (CDRI)
- Flash Report on the Cambodian Economy (CDRI)
- Statistical Database of Cambodia, CD-Rom (sold at National Institute of Statistics)
- Economic Blue Print (ADB), or documents from World Bank
- Reports on micro-finance activities in Cambodia (many sources)
- Any relevant law and regulation that discuss the economic issues of Cambodia.

- Lim Visal (University of Tokyo)

Clear up everything before coming, if you know what I mean.☺ Do you think that your course is too long? ☺

Good luck!